

The Glimpse is Worth it



ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

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Definition

- The Environment

The conglomeration of things that exists outside and interact with our 'self', both living, non-living, physical and mental

- The Ethics and its goal

“...to provide us with language, with effective arguments, whereby we can claim that some kinds of actions are right or wrong, or at least better or worse, independently of their cultural or legal context.” (6)

The Basis for my environmental ethic construct is

1. Leopold's Land Ethic
2. Evolution
3. Individual Rights of Sentient Beings

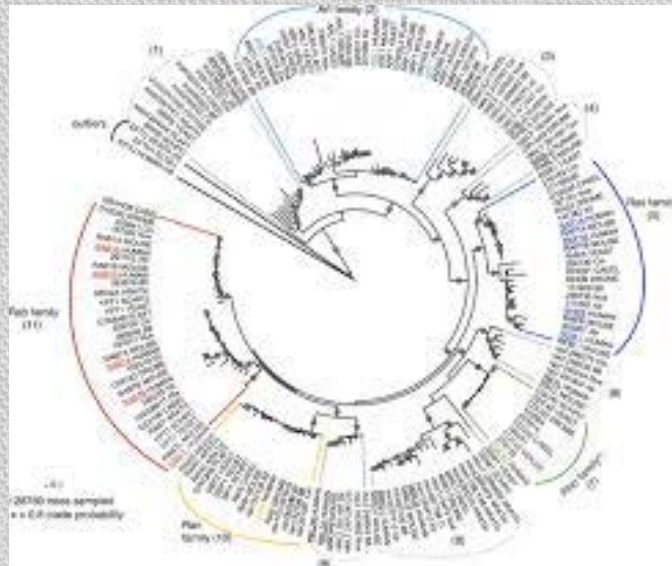
Leopold's Land Ethic

“A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong if it tends otherwise” (46)



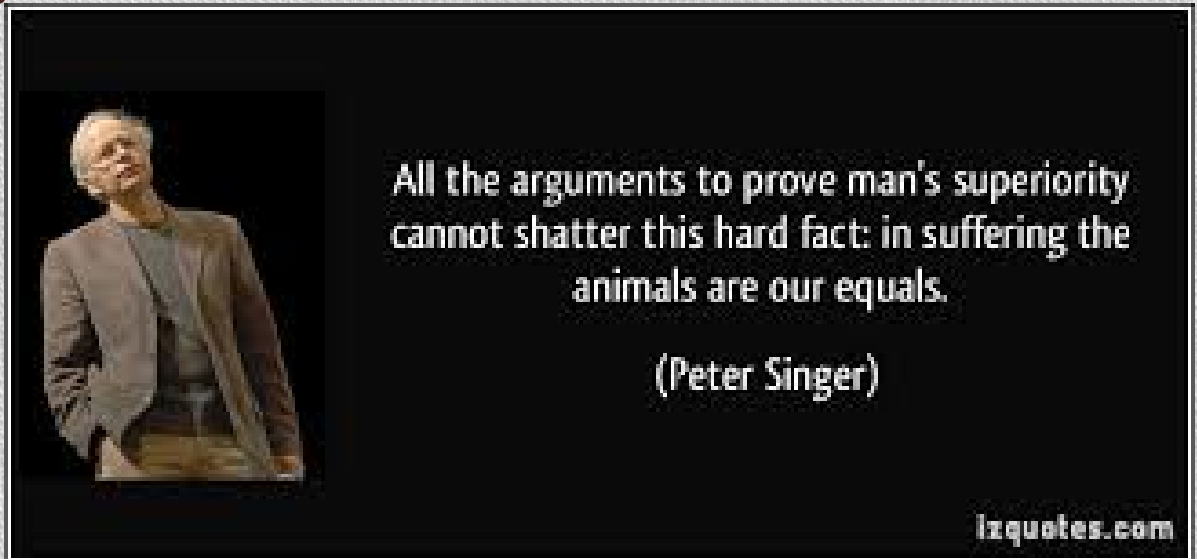
Evolution

- The Process of Gradual Change
 1. In *The Origin of Species*, Darwin defines Natural Selection as the “...preservation of favorable variations and the rejection of injurious variations...” (112)
 2. Heredity, the passing on of characteristics from parents to offspring



Individual Rights of Sentient Beings

- A sentient being is any living creature that can feel
- All sentient beings have some natural rights, though it may vary
- Because of this understanding, humans have the responsibility to respect the autonomy of other sentient beings



Conclusion

- The best approach is to leave nature and biotic communities to their own devices
- However, humans are a part of the biotic community and our actions have an effect
- Our perception of perfection is an intangible human construct
- Things that are further from our influence are more valuable (i.e. Cow vs. Snow leopard)
- Conservation, setting aside land not to be touched



Bibliography

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