

I problemi della macellazione rituale: un'etica utilitarista per le istanze animaliste

FRANCESCO FERRARO

The Problems of Ritual Slaughter: A Utilitarian Ethics for Animal Issues

Abstract: In many legal systems ritual slaughtering is regarded as an exception to laws seeking to minimize the suffering of non-human animals. A spreading concern for animal welfare is gradually leading to the ban of this exception. This concern for animal welfare can be normatively grounded in a hedonistic form of utilitarianism, which commands the minimization of suffering for all sentient beings. Such a theory would take into account both human and non-human suffering and would not overlook the interests of those affected by the impossibility to eat religiously-compliant meat. Since human health would not be put at risk by deprivation of meat, in case of a complete ban on ritual slaughtering the suffering for humans involved would only come from feelings of injustice and religious discrimination. A utilitarian solution would probably be that of taxing the meat of ritually slaughtered animals, at least when it comes from industrial livestock farming.

Keywords: Ritual slaughtering, Animal welfare, Utilitarianism, Religious freedom.

notizie di POLITEIA, XXX, 114, 2014. ISSN 1128-2401 pp. 126-141.