

THE LETTERS, TEACHING AND PEDAGOGY OF THE ENVIRONMENT: HOW TO THINK HARMONIOUSLY THE HUMAN-ANIMAL-NATURE RELATIONSHIP

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ABSTRACT

The present paper is part of a discursive study in the field of human sciences to rethink the devastating practice of bird depenage in the contemporary world. Our intention is to conduct a research focusing on the large area of Letters, to observe how some practices constitute weight for the regeneration of the environment. Therefore, in what we call the pedagogy of the environment, we propose to discuss what large electronic portals have evidenced about the human action of bird depenage, alerting to the consequences of excessive practice. This manuscript allows dialogue between the fields of knowledge of languages and nature sciences, from data devilgados by the PORTAL ANDA. We focus on critical looks to discuss the depenage of live birds for the human consumption of feathers. All work involves processes of animal suffering and human satisfaction, being possible to reflect, through ecocriticism, how to deal harmoniously with the environment.

Keywords: Letters. Environment. Bird depenage. Animal suffering. Harmony.

INTRODUCTION

Logo in the summary of the article *Aspectos ambientais do Abate de Aves: uma revisão*, of Uningá magazine, we are exposed that

The Brazilian poultry industry is responsible for an annual production of more than 106 million tons, being the largest producer in the world in this segment. Based on the values achieved with regard to the commercialization and production of birds it is possible to establish a directly proportional relationship with the impacts generated by this production chain. In this context, the slaughter and processing of birds can generate significant impacts on the environment...(PINTOet. al, 2015)¹.

Therefore, it is not surprising that Brazil has one of the highest rates of animal and bird morphide in the world. The slaughter of birds, for the production of artistic-cultural environment, is presented as an activity of great economic and social relevance for Brazil. However, it cannot be disregarded that this activity generates effluents and Residues of great polluting potential.

In this article we propose to analyze the devastating human action of bird depenage demonstrated on the portal ANDA (National News Agency on Animals in the World), according to the site <http://www.anda.jor.br/10/02/2014/aves-sao-plucked-live-consumption-human-feathers>. According to Article 1 of Resolution 001/86 of the National Council of the Environment (CONAMA), Environmental Impact is:

Any change in the physical, chemical, biological properties of the environment,

¹ A indústria avícola brasileira é responsável por uma produção anual superior a 106 milhões toneladas, figurando como maior produtor na escala mundial neste segmento. Com base nos valores alcançados no que tange a comercialização e produção de aves é possível estabelecer uma relação diretamente proporcional com os impactos gerados por essa cadeia produtiva. Neste contexto, o abate e processamento de aves podem gerar impactos significativos ao meio ambiente...

caused by any form of matter or energy resulting from human activities that directly or indirectly affect: The health, safety, and well-being of the population; social and economic activities; the biota; environmental and sanitary conditions; the quality of environmental resources. (Art. 1, roll. 001/86, CONAMA) ².

By virtue of understanding "the exacerbated killing for profit" and the "depenage of birds" as harmful and pathological points of contemporary human action, the study also aims to identify the main environmental impacts that occurred in the various stages of the activities carried out in the brazilian birds, which often precedes the public slaughterhouse. Therefore, we identify illegal poultry depenage as a human act of high environmental impact in the negative sense, hurting ethical principles and altering the ecological system itself.

The theoretical basis is made up of the subject documented in the ANDA portal, bringing information from resolutions issued by CONAMA, by notes from the Center for Technical Productions (CPT, 2014) and by the reasons of articles *on Environmental Aspects*. In view of these circumstances, this work points out, as propositions, the acts of depenage as "black, pathological, ferrenha and antiecológica sphere". In view of the complexity and scope of the current problems raised, we propose to prevent this drastically sinful attitude towards birds, not only Brazilian, but of a planet that should be based on sustainability and respect for nature.

1_ PORTAL ANDA³ ALSO IN DEFENSE OF BIRDS: BIRDS ARE PLUCKED ALIVE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION OF FEATHERS

Imagem 1: ANDA PORTAL



Retirada de <http://www.anda.jor.br/sobre/apresentacao>

No for nothing, we listed this image. The pictorial construction brings us to suffering, a wolf howling, screaming for help for human mistreatment. The ANDA portal, as an enlightening press and media, aims not only to inform, but modify ideas, to promote social changes in favor of ecology and

² Any change in the physical, chemical, biological properties of the environment, caused by any form of matter or energy resulting from human activities that directly or indirectly affect: The health, safety, and well-being of the population; social and economic activities; the biota; aesthetic and environmental health conditions; the quality of environmental resources. (Art. 1, rol. 001/86, CONAMA).

socio-environmental values.

Imagem 2: Foto: Occupy for Animals



Imagem 2: Foto: Occupy for Animals

With bibliographic survey carried out through scientific articles and journals that comprised the theoretical body.

This is precisely the goal of ANDA - Animal Rights News Agency: to inform to transform. ANDA disseminates in the media the values of a new culture, more ethical, fairer and concerned with the defense and guarantee of animal rights. It is the first and largest journalistic portal in the world that fights social violence and the destruction of the environment from the defense of animal rights, always under the focus of their rights. ANDA was created by journalist, Vegan and animal rights activist Silvana Andrade, who has 29 years of experience in the Brazilian press. (<http://www.anda.jor.br/sobre/apresentacao>).

From what is contained in the *electronic newsroom Aves are plucked alive for human consumption of feathers* (February 2014), of the PORTAL ANDA, and from what we can perceive from the imagery exposure, the suffering is (super)exposed by birds.

"Down" is the name of the soft layer of feathers closest to the skin of birds, mainly in the chest region. The feathers of this region are highly valued by the industry that exploits these animals. **Many geese** in breeding flocks and those bred for the cruel meat and foie gras industry have their feathers ripped out **while they are still alive**. The information is from *Occupy for Animals*. (Re. <http://www.anda.jor.br/10/02/2014/aves-sao-depenadas-live-consumption-human-feathers>). (Our griffins)³.

According to information from the Center for Technical Productions (CPT, 2014),⁴ the

³"Down" is the name of the soft layer of feathers closest to the skin of birds, mainly in the chest region. The feathers of this region are highly valued by the industry that exploits these animals. **Many geese** in breeding flocks and those bred for the cruel meat and foie gras industry have their feathers ripped out while they are still **alive**. The information is from *Occupy for Animals*. (Re. <http://www.anda.jor.br/10/02/2014/aves-sao-depenadas-live-consumption-human-feathers>). (Our griffins).

⁴Center for Technical Productions. Steps on chicken slaughter. Viçosa, MG. 2014. [access on

slaughter consists of several stages, which begin with the arrival of birds at the place where they will be slaughtered, until the dispatch of the final product. In general, the process is divided into seven stages: Reception, Hangs, Stunning, Sangria, Scalding, Depenage, and Evisceration.

2 THE ACT OF PLUCKING THE FEATHERS OF THE GEESE

According to the PORTAL ANDA, "Plucking the feathers of geese causes them pain and anguish." A study, according to this Agency, revealed that blood glucose levels of some geese nearly doubled (a symptom of severe stress) during plucking.

First and second stage of the slaughter process, according to the CTP (2014 apud PINTO et. al, 2015):

1_ Reception: The reception of birds should be done as quickly as possible so that pre-slaughter stress is reduced. The environment should be shaded and ventilated, seeking to create a favorable microclimate. In addition, the humidity should be natural, thus preventing birds from dying from suffocation.

2_ Hangs: **At this stage, the chickens are hung by the legs on supports attached to the nod.** However, to avoid injuries to the thighs, the handling of birds should be firm, but careful, so that the animal does not debate and gets hurt. Stress and injury decrease carcass quality, while leaks and debates impair the income of receiving work and hangs.⁵

As for the aspect of the hangs, the writing of the PORTAL ANDA helps us understand how the process takes place. According to the Agency, **"Usually, ducks and geese are lifted by the neck, have their legs tied, and then their feathers are torn off. Birds fighting at that time often suffer injuries"** (<http://www.anda.jor.br/002/2014/birds-are-depented-live-consumption-human-feathers>). (Our griffins). *After moments, they are placed back in the cages until the momento de estarem prontas para ter as penas arrancadas novamente.*

This procedure "begins when the animals are 10 weeks old and is repeated at intervals of four to six weeks until exhaustion, when the birds are killed or are forced for the foie gras industry" (Idem, 2014). Another nomenclature for this harmful and horrendous (dis)human manifestation is what

Apr. 4 2014]. Available in: <http://www.cpt.com.br/cursos-avicultura/artigos/etapas-do-a-chicken-beat>.

⁵ 1_ Reception: The reception of birds should be done as quickly as possible so that pre-slaughter stress is reduced. The environment should be shaded and ventilated, seeking to create a favorable microclimate. In addition, the humidity should be natural, thus preventing birds from dying from suffocation.

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is called zipper technique⁶, which consists of deforming the animal, removing the feathers until they have exposed their first layers of skin, as revealed to us in the image:

Image: Plucked geese



Imagem 3, retirada de: <http://cdn.naoacredito.com.br/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/483ca71bb8da70619ae67c88a96241c2.jpg>

Let's see how the *naoacredito.com.br* site demonstrates to us the process of extracting feathers from birds, through techniques such as the zipper:

they are lifted by the neck, their legs tied and then their feathers are torn off. This process causes pain, suffering and leaves them exposed to the sun and serious infections. The struggle of animals during this process even causes fractures. Ostriches, who live for approximately 40 years, suffer from this brutality every year. It is that the feathers of these animals are a real gold mine: a single pheasant feather, for example, can cost R \$ 100⁷!

In addition, this process in which ducks "are lifted by the neck and have their legs tied to the plucking of their feathers is called "ripping", by the industry" (idem, ibidem). According to the ANDA portal, "Ducks fight and panic, often fracturing limbs in an attempt to escape."

3 STUNNING, BLEED AND SCALDING: A DARK PROCESS

Also according to the CPT (2014), there are three steps in the process called: Stunning, Bleeding and Scalding.

The Stun procedure is performed by means of electronarcosis. The bird's head is dipped in a tank

⁶ http://www.naoacredito.com.br/elas-sao-levantadas-pelo-pescoco-com-as-pernas-amarradas-depois-e-aplicada-a-terrivel-tecnica-do-ziper/2_13/

⁷ Pesquisa em: http://www.naoacredito.com.br/elas-sao-levantadas-pelo-pescoco-com-as-pernas-amarradas-depois-e-aplicada-a-terrivel-tecnica-do-ziper/?fbcomment_id=1102748243090684_1103391119693063#f1865cb9e2e46cc.

containing saline and electric current. Thus, the birds reduce their muscle contractions and enter a state of insensitivity, starting to no longer feel pain and can be referred to the cut and bleed. (CTP 2014 apud PINTO et. al, 2015):

Electronarcosis⁸ is a process in which electrical currents pass through the brains of birds, often promoting epilepsy, which will result in their unconsciousness, "preventing" the brain from being translated into the stimulus of pain.

As for Sangria, it is required that the animal is still alive, justifying this in an ease in the bleeding process.

Image 4: Eletrocarnose



Imagem 4. Pesquisa em: <http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-C85eFJbz0T4/T7MhZjwEdGI/AAAAAAAAABI/Ek1oyZAsNGU/s320/aves-3.jpg>

At this stage, the cutting of the trachea should be avoided so that the animal continues to breathe and thus facilitates bleeding. The bleeding lasts around three minutes. In the first 40 seconds, 80% of the blood is released and, in the interval between one and two and a half minutes, all bleeding is complete. (Idem, 2015).

As for effluents, CONAMA Resolution 430/2011 (apud PINTO et. al, p. 48, 2015) *defines liquid effluent* as "liquid dumps from various activities or processes". Thus, since the production of these carried out in the processing of slaughter of broilers, they have higher water consumption in the stages of bleeding, depenage, evisceration and preparation of carcasses.

This effluent is characterized by containing large amounts of blood, fat, excrement, substances of the digestive tract of animals, etc. Therefore, it is considered potentially

⁸ About 5 and 15 seconds, in this period, the bird presents some symptoms, which we can list: a) it is in a state of unconsciousness sequenced by a collapse that happens immediately. b) contract the musculature, with the head raised, and debate of the limbs. c) Rhythmic breathing is greatly compromised, and pupil dilation often occurs. d) Does not present sensitivity reflected in pain stimuli.

polluting due to its large dispersal capacity and because it contains residues with high concentration of organic matter. CONAMA 430/201 apud PINTO et. al, p. 48, 2015)

After the Sangria, we arrived at Scalding/Scalding. In an estimated time of 2 minutes at a temperature of 52°C, it is the professional intention that the feathers loosen. The water is continuously renewed and the temperature controlled.

Scalding: At this stage, the birds are dipped in a hot water tank under agitation. When more yellowish skin pigmentation is desired, scalding is done softly, using temperatures around 52°C for two and a half minutes. Higher temperatures can cause shrinkage and hardening of meat. (CTP 2014 apud PINTO et. al, 2015).

After scalding, since we are not just talking about an industrialized and mechanized process, we reached the procedural nucleus: the Depenagem.

Depenage often occurs without the precedence of the previous steps (from *reception to bleeding*), and it is exactly to this process that is being focused: a clandestine depenage procedure⁹.

According to ANDA, Sweden's television programme *Kalla Fakta* produced a two-part documentary on the subject in Hungary in 2009, which revealed:

... Tied birds screaming and struggling to free themselves as their 'down' is plucked from their bodies at rapid speed. After that, several birds are paralyzed on the ground, with large wounds on the flesh. The birds with large open wounds are then sewn with needle and thread on site by the workers themselves, without any anesthetic. (FAKTA, Kalla. Documentary [2009] apud Portal ANDA, 2014). (Grifos nossos)¹⁰.

This reveals not only evidence and arguments contrary to those presented by some poultry companies (which narrate the *beautiful process* of slaughtering birds in a mechanically gradual state), but deconstructs the paradigm of *well-being and the necessary*. It shows us that birds are not plucked only when dead or unconscious, but alive, in pain, suffering, suffering from human wickedness. Still reporting to the ANDA portal (2014),

Research by Kalla Fakta estimates that 50 to 80% of feathers from around the world

⁹ Aqui adotamos o termo *depenagem clandestina* para se referir ao processo não-mecanizado, ao procedimento ilegal, sem as devidas regularizações, e que ocorrem principalmente para sediar eventos carnavalescos, para o mercado hostil das plumas.

¹⁰ **...pássaros amarrados gritando e lutando para libertar-se, conforme seu 'down' é arrancado de seus corpos em velocidade rápida.** Depois disso, várias aves ficam paralisadas no chão, com grandes feridas na carne. As aves com grandes feridas abertas são então costuradas com agulha e linha no local pelos própriostrabalhadores, sem qualquer anestésico. (FAKTA, Kalla. Documentário [2009] apud Portal ANDA, 2014). (Grifos nossos).

are plucked from live birds. Industry groups say the actual percentage is much lower, but another investigation – this one by Ikea (Swedish home furniture company) – confirmed the high figures. That same year Ikea stopped working with Mysel, a Chinese feather-made bedding brand, citing concerns for the welfare of birds. **The largest producers of feather accessories are Hungary, China and Poland, and all three** use the harvesting process in live animals. (Our griffins).

According to the Center for Technical Productions (CTP 2014 apud PINTO et. al, 2015), in whose discourse we noticed some procedural relief, the depenage occurs "through the mechanical action of rubber "fingers", which are attached to rotating drums, wings, legs, neck and body are plucked".

The Animal Rights News Agency, through its electronic portal, brings us two accounts of doctors who witnessed animal mistreatment and gave their voice in denunciation: a) the Swedish veterinarian Dr. Johan Beck *Friis* described the process of depenage as "nothing less than a qualified torture". b) Dr. *Laurie Siperstein-Cook*¹¹, in an interview with CBS 5 from San Francisco¹², he responded to the footage by stating that this is "horribly, terribly painful," and that "if you choose to buy a product that uses feathers, you're supporting torture." Such live accounts are successful from an *image of Occupy for Animals*, explained below:

Image 5: Plucked ostrich



Imagem 5. Pesquisa em: <http://www.anda.jor.br/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/9497133.jpg>

Ostriches are raised in abundance on large farms, some of them exclusively for harvesting feathers, while others are also used for meat and leather. "Although ostriches can live between 40 and 70 years, those destined for meat or leather production are killed at about one year of age" (Portal ANDA, 2014).

Thus, we come to a representative table. Constructed from reports of the e-mail address ANDA, this brings very rich information about processes and methods that are evil to animal life.

¹¹ Veterinária e especialista em pássaros da SPCA.

¹² A *Columbia Broadcasting System* é uma das maiores redes de televisão e rádio dos EUA. Supõe-se que a "CBS 5" citada faça referência à baía de San Francisco na Califórnia, nos Estados Unidos

4 METHODOLOGICAL PROCEDURES: METHODS OF REMOVAL OF OSTRICH FEATHERS

The methodology of this paper is used in the perception of the tension between "image/word" from the interaction between verbal and non-verbal discourses, in which they were used for the electronic database of SCIELO Brazil - *Scientific Electronic Library online* and the Capes Portal in order to deepen the discussion.

<p>Method 1:</p> <p>Hold the bird in a box or container.</p>	<p>Method Description:</p> <p>The bird is contained, either in a "boot box" or a container so small that it cannot kick or turn around. Several times, the bird has its head fastened with a black hood. Younger birds are plucked as soon as they reach adulthood, around 16 months of age. With each 7 or 8 months after that, your large feathers are pulled from your skin.</p>
<p>Method 2:</p> <p>Bird stuck or contained. They remove the feathers.</p>	<p>Method Description:</p> <p>This other method is different, but equally inhuman: birds are contained while the officials their feathers are removed with species of pruning shears at about two centimeters above the bird's skin; may cause bleeding and damage to regeneration, as the vessels may cause blood cells and nerves run through the centre of the feathers.</p>
<p>Quilling:</p> <p>Remove the thorns.</p>	<p>Process Description:</p> <p>The next step is the so-called "quilling", in which workers remove the thorns from the feathers that were intentionally left in the follicle during the cutting process. This is done with pliers or by hand.</p>

Table adapted from the electronic portal ANDA, through the writing: "Birds are plucked alive for human consumption of feathers".

Such methods indicate that much of human society has embraced a selfish anthropocentrism, inserted in pleasure and greed, and this demonstrates social pathology. Here we formulate some definitions for pathological beings (as to the animal cause) as people who promote:

I_ Unjustified violence against animals - considering themselves as such cruel and unnecessarily acts.

II_ Promotion of expansive death without cause.

III_ Cruel suffering and prolongation of serious injury to an animal.

IV_ ill-treatment of sick, injured or endangered animals or that broker the devaluation of animals that should/could, as far as possible, be rescued.

Cruel and sick people are also considered those who promote prohibited acts consistent in:

V_ require an animal, in cases other than emerging, efforts or penalties that, by its conditions, it is obviously unable to perform or that are obviously beyond its capacity.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

Improper processing and management of poultry feathers can lead to problems of environmental contamination due to inadequate disposal of waste, and may serious problems, such as the compromise of the ecosystem. In the process of killing birds there is a discard of several parts because they are not of human consumption and have no commercial purpose, such as declassified carcasses. Therefore, in case of not going into the process of decomposition, they need to have an appropriate final destination or disposition that does not put the environment and in accordance with the legislation.

The impacts caused by the production of consumer goods through poultry mortality deserve special attention depending on the dimensions and proportionalities achieved. It becomes evident the importance of analyzing the environmental aspects and impacts related to the attack promoted against birds, being possible to understand some of the peculiarities of this process, such as suffering, pain, the cry of these innocent beings. According to NBR ISO 14001 (apud PINTO et. al, p. 3; 2015), an environmental aspect is defined

any elements of an organization's activities, products or services that can interact with the environment and may cause positive or negative environmental impacts. The environmental impact is defined as any physical, chemical or biological alteration of the environmental environment caused by any form of matter or energy and resulting from human activities and that directly or indirectly affect the safety, health, well-being, socioeconomic activities, aesthetic, sanitary conditions and quality of natural resources.

In this exhibition line, it is expected with this study, not only to warn the population to avoid contributing to the slaughter of birds, but also to raise awareness among people and the poultry slaughtering industries (with regard to environmental impacts). With this we also hope to support future studies on this topic.

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