

The True Threat

They are among the most voracious predators on the face of the earth. They have lithe and maneuverable bodies, protective fur coats, ears which actually shift around to locate the direction from which sound emanates, and eyes which allow them to see in light conditions which are six times dimmer than those conditions humans can see in. In addition, they have retractable claws which can literally eviscerate an attacking creature, or one which has become looked upon as prey. They can travel nearly silently and invisibly due to padding on their paws, and coats of fur which camouflages them in most conditions. They are quite independent and very intelligent. All these features combine to make the cat one of the most effective predators known to man.

Cats were, due to this multiplicity of predatory talents and an independent nature, treated with varying attitudes. They were both worshiped and treated as witches or demons because they were not understood. Their physical talents of balance, mystique, independence, and stealth made them the object of literature, art, legend, music, fear, and religion. In my personal experience with cats, I have found them to be sometimes tolerant of all family members but bond to one particular person in the family. You don't pick them, they pick you. Don't ever try to "stare down" a cat.... You'll lose.

Cats vary in size from the diminutive house cats to the sometimes 800lb Siberian Tiger. Those larger versions are capable of killing and eating man. Interestingly enough, while there are documented cases of the "man eating tiger", I would venture a guess that more men kill tigers than the other way around; and, the cat kills for defense or to satisfy hunger rather than just for the sake of killing.... Man is the only creature that that I am aware of, that kills like that, for the sheer pleasure of killing.

At times, man formed a "partnership", if you please, with cats such as cheetahs because of their speed and cunning as killers. I am told that in times gone by, the maharajahs of old would have "hunting cheetahs" which were trained to kill and bring down a game animal which had been pointed out as a trophy for the master. The maharajah would reward the hunting cheetah with a cup of blood.... drained from the slain prize. I saw a poster hinting at this relationship. Shown was a beautiful cheetah sitting on its haunches, mouth and muzzle covered with blood. The cheetah's neck was heavily chained as it sat gazing vacantly off into somewhere unknown. There was also a caption under the picture reading "born free".

Understandably, the massive power and strength of other cats such as lions was used in another "partnership" by the emperors of the Persian Empire to destroy those persons who dared to be viewed as a challenge to the sovereign authority of the ruler. Daniel, in the Old Testament book of Daniel, was cast into the den of lions for refusing to deny his faith by worshiping the God of Israel. The lion's mouths were kept closed by God, and, when Daniel was extricated from the lions den unscathed, his accusers and their families were cast into the den of lions and crushed before their bodies hit the bottom of the den[1]. This demonstrated the ferocity of the beasts, God's Divine Care, and man's ability to misuse that over which God has given man dominion[2]. Capitalizing on the strength and ferocity of another creature for the sake of suppressing others whose beliefs and actions stand out for the truth in God demonstrates the cunning and fierceness of yet another being who consumes men, not just physically, but spiritually.

This is the true threat to man. I speak of Satan. Satan lied to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden so that they might disobey God's edicts[3]. Satan continued His battle against the people of the Lord throughout the Old Testament, necessitating animal sacrifices to atone for man's sin as stated in the books of Leviticus and Deuteronomy.

Satan's efforts to bring down the love and forgiveness of God were buttressed by man's internal proclivity to sin. This manifested itself in horrible deeds of trespass against God's stated request of following His will, and culminated for example, in the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, saving only a few of His children as a remnant of those who would follow Him[4].

Satan, to be sure, conducts his battles on a different plane than what man is able to resist on his own. Eve was deceived because she was possibly not familiar with the concept of a lie as told to her in the garden[5]. Man's inhumanity to his fellow man, as manifested in the above examples, is motivated by the half truths and deceptions brought on by false thinking. This false thinking is instilled in the gullible minds and hearts of man by Satan Himself. Not

being able to resist the wiles of the master deceiver, man acquiesces to his purposeful “spiritually eviscerating” lies with devastating results. Just as a cat will kill its prey, so Satan ultimately kills and consumes His prey. Satan, however, will torture His prey and gleefully allow him to suffer rather than mercifully killing him as does the cat. One need only look around himself at the ruined lives brought on by Satan’s snares. Proverbs speaks to this situation when it says: “There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death”[6].

Satan, the deceiver, will stop at nothing to ruin God’s Creation. He conducts his battles, not on a plane upon which we battle on physical terms, but on one with which we are not prepared to deal, given the means we have on our own. Given a physical challenge, we are prepared to physically work things out, but, since our battle is a spiritual one and not a physical one, we must be prepared to put on spiritual defense. We are told to stand firm, and that a spiritual armor is the only defense we have against the wiles of the devil[7].

Without being spiritually prepared by Christ, we are as helpless spiritually as Daniel would have been alone physically against the lions, had it not been for God’s deliverance. However, just as the lions crushed the bones of those who rose up against Daniel when they were cast into the lions den, so will those who rise up against the believers in Christ ultimately meet their demise. When we are spiritually prepared by Christ, He will walk with us always[8]. With the watchcare of our Lord and Savior, we can go through life fearing nothing because of His Devine Presence[9] . Praise The Lord.

[1] Daniel 6: 1-24

[2] Genesis 1: 27-31

[3] Genesis 3:1-7

[4] Genesis 18-19

[5] Genesis 3:1-13

[6] Proverbs 14:12, 16:25

[7] Ephesians 6: 12-17

[8] Matthew 28:20

[9] Psalms 23: 4