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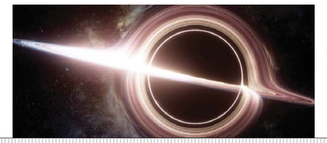


Time Freezes Inside a Black Hole

One of the most ground-breaking discoveries of the 20th century was the relativity of time. In some movies you have seen that time stops, it freezes, imagine flash, for instance, time can run slow for him. Physics can explain this. It is possible inside the black hole, on the event horizon. This is possible due to gravitational time dilation. For black holes, time, a second becomes infinitely long that there exists singularity, meaning time tends to freeze. So a distant observer would observe time nearly paused or frozen inside a black hole.

#J'ADORE

Trending Earring Styles

Whether you prefer hoops, dangles or studs, there's a wide array of earring types to suit your style.

From trendy earring styles to everyday jewellery staples, like classic diamond studs, no look is complete without the perfect pair of earrings. Whether you prefer hoops, dangles or studs, there's a wide array of earring types to suit your style and help you look put together, no matter what you're wearing. Read on to learn more about the most popular earring trends for the season.

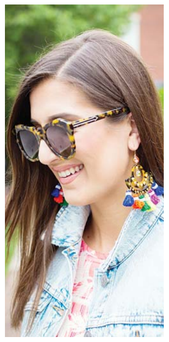
Hoop Earrings

Hoop earrings are a favourite trend that evolves from year to year. Sleek gold and silver styles in every size continue to be popular for everyday wear, while hoops embellished with diamonds take your ensemble up a notch. You can even double up your hoops, mixing various sizes and textures to create a unique and fashion-forward look.

Modern Pearl Earrings

Who doesn't appreciate the timeless beauty and elegance of pearls? We are especially fond of the modern updates being incorporated into pearl earring designs. From unique shapes and colours to interesting accents and metalwork, modern pearl earrings are a trend that should be embraced all year long.

Colourful Statement Earrings



Give your spring or summer ensemble a shot of life with a pop of colour on your ears. Pinks, blues, greens and more will be a welcome sight as the weather turns warmer.

Celestial Earrings

Many people find themselves drawn to celestial jewellery, whether for its whimsical, playful charm or its seeming connection to the universe and the great beyond. Moons and stars are among the most popular symbols in celestial jewellery designs and transition seamlessly from season to season.

Sculptural Earrings

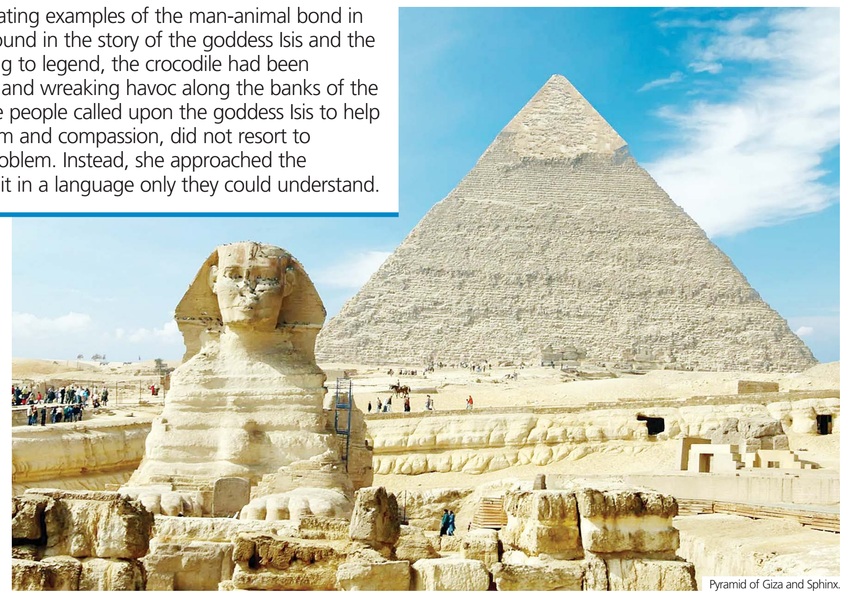
The popularity of metal jewellery with sculptural silhouettes is expected to soar in summer. Earrings featuring geometric shapes are unique and sophisticated and are sure to be an outfit-maker, if not a conversation starter!

Mismatched Earrings

The mismatched earring trend is still going strong in 2023. While we love this trend for its unexpectedness and playfulness, we understand that it may not be the most practical trend to try for everyone. For this reason, we are really loving the versatility of these convertible earring styles.

One of the most fascinating examples of the man-animal bond in ancient Egypt can be found in the story of the goddess Isis and the Nile crocodile. According to legend, the crocodile had been attacking local villagers and wreaking havoc along the banks of the Nile. In desperation, the people called upon the goddess Isis to help them. Isis, in her wisdom and compassion, did not resort to violence to solve the problem. Instead, she approached the crocodile and spoke to it in a language only they could understand.

Mariam Abuhaideri
Animal rights activist and a wonderlust



Pyramid of Giza and Sphinx.

The Sphinx Speaks & Isis Sooths Crocs

When we think of ancient Egypt, we often picture towering pyramids, intricate hieroglyphics, and majestic pharaohs. But one aspect of Pharaonic Egypt that is often overlooked is the deep and meaningful relationship between humans and animals. The ancient Egyptians revered animals and believed that they held a special place in the world. This reverence is evident in the many depictions of animals in Egyptian art and architecture, as well as the mummification of animals for both religious and practical purposes.

As an animal lover and enthusiast, I have always been fascinated by the relationship between humans and animals throughout history. When I lived in Egypt, I was intrigued to learn about the Pharaonic Egyptians' unique relationship with animals and nature.

I want to share some of the fascinating and often overlooked stories of the man-animal bond that were such an integral part of ancient Egyptian culture. For me, these stories serve as a powerful reminder that our connection to the natural world is not a new or fleeting concept. Rather, it is a bond that has existed for centuries, and one that we should strive to honour and protect in our modern lives. So, let's take a journey together to explore the fascinating world of ancient Egypt and the profound relationship between humans and animals that helped shape its culture and legacy.

#EGYPT

The Man-Animal Bond

One of the most striking examples of the man-animal bond in Pharaonic Egypt is the relationship between the Egyptians and their cats. Cats were highly regarded in ancient Egypt and were often depicted in artwork and literature. The Egyptians believed that cats were sacred animals and that they possessed a certain level of divinity.

I visited the Temple of Bastet in the city of Bubastis, which was dedicated to the goddess Bastet, who was often depicted with the head of a cat. The temple was home to many cats, who were considered to be the sacred guardians of the temple. The cats were well cared for and had free reign of the temple grounds, often lounging in the sun or playing with one another. As I watched the cats interact with each other and the temple staff, I could sense the deep connection between humans and animals that has existed in Egypt for thousands of years.

Another animal that held great importance in Pharaonic Egypt was the ibis, a type of bird. The ibis was associated with the god Thoth, who was the god of writing and knowledge. The Egyptians believed that the ibis had the ability to communicate with the gods and could serve as a messenger between the mortal world and the divine.

I visited the Temple of Karnak, which was home to many ibises. The temple staff cared for the birds and ensured that they had a safe and comfortable habitat. As I watched the ibises move gracefully around their enclosure, I couldn't help but feel a sense of awe at the reverence that the Pharaonic Egyptians had for these animals.

In addition to cats and ibises, many other animals held a special place in Pharaonic Egypt. Dogs were often used for hunting and as guardians of the home, while cattle were used for milk and meat. The Egyptians even used crocodiles as a symbol of power and strength, often incorporating their images into artwork and architecture.

But the man-animal bond in Pharaonic Egypt was not limited to the practical use of animals. The Egyptians also believed that animals could serve as companions and even as healers. Cats, in particular, were believed to have a soothing presence and were often kept as pets.

As I travelled throughout Egypt, I saw many examples of this bond between humans and animals. In Luxor, I visited an animal sanctuary that rescued and cared for injured and abandoned animals. The sanctuary was home to many dogs, cats, horses, and other animals, all of whom had been given a second chance at life thanks to the care and dedication of the sanctuary staff.

I also visited a hospital that used animal therapy to help patients recover from illnesses and injuries. Patients were visited by dogs, cats, and even rabbits, who provided comfort and companionship during their recovery. It was heart-warming to see the positive impact that animals could have on human health and well-being.

Ibis.

Of Camels and Pyramids.

Spiritual Qualities

The Egyptians' love and respect for animals also manifested in their religious beliefs. Animals played an essential role in ancient Egyptian religion, with many gods and goddesses depicted as having the heads of various animals. For instance, the goddess Bastet, who was associated with protection and fertility, was often represented as a cat. The god Horus, who represented the sky and divine kingship, was depicted as a falcon.

The Egyptians also believed that animals possessed spiritual qualities and were capable of communicating with the gods. As a result, they would often mummify their beloved pets and other animals and bury them with great care and reverence. Some of the most famous examples of this are the millions of mummified animals found in the catacombs of Saqqara, including cats, birds, dogs, and even crocodiles. Now, I am not endorsing mummification as an ethical act, but I wasn't there to tell them otherwise! However, the thought behind it- of continued companionship- fascinated me.

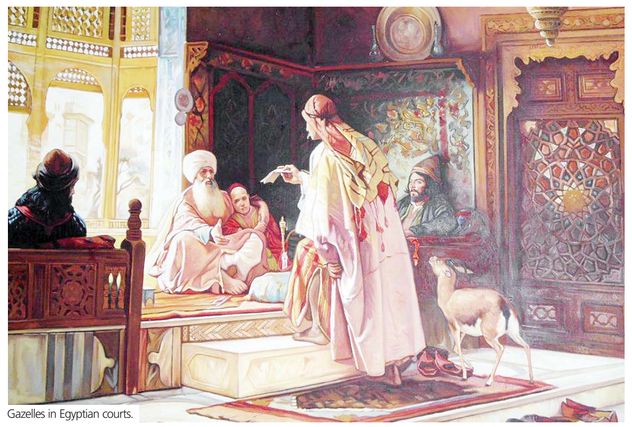
As I wandered through the exhibits of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, I was struck by the abundance of animal artifacts, from intricately decorated cat mummies to statues of jackals and ibises. The attention to detail and the reverence with which these artifacts had been crafted spoke volumes about the Egyptians' love for their animal companions and their deep spiritual connection to the natural world.

But the man-animal bond in ancient Egypt was not limited to pets and domesticated animals. The Egyptians also had a close relationship with the wild animals of the Nile Valley, such as crocodiles, hippos, and gazelles. These animals were respected and admired for their strength, grace, and beauty, and were often depicted in art and literature.

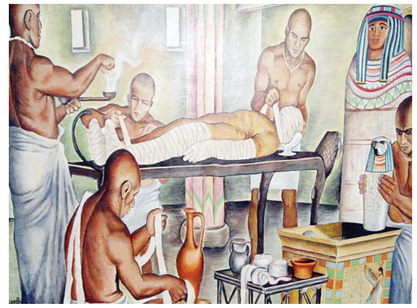
One of the most fascinating examples of the man-animal bond in ancient Egypt can be found in the story of the goddess Isis and the Nile crocodile. According to legend, the crocodile had been attacking local villagers and wreaking havoc along the banks of the Nile. In desperation, the people called upon the goddess Isis to help them.

Isis, in her wisdom and compassion, did not resort to violence to solve the problem. Instead, she approached the crocodile and spoke to it in a language only they could understand. She convinced the crocodile to leave the villagers alone and to live in peace with them, and the crocodile agreed.

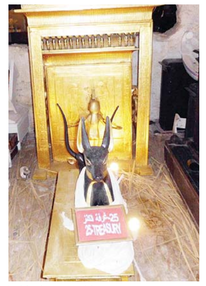
The story of Isis and the crocodile highlights the Egyptians' belief in the power of communication and understanding between humans and animals. It also speaks to their reverence for the natural world and their belief in the interconnectedness of all living things.



Gazelles in Egyptian courts.



Mummification process.



Inside the pyramids- at a museum.

Cats in Temple of Bastet.

The Pharaonic Culture

In modern times, we can learn a great deal from the Egyptians' approach to the man-animal bond. Despite their vast differences in culture and technology, the ancient Egyptians recognized the importance of treating animals with respect and compassion. They understood that animals were not mere objects or tools for human use, but living beings with their own unique qualities and personalities.

As we continue to strive for greater animal welfare and conservation in our modern world, we can look to the lessons of Egypt's Pharaonic history as a source of inspiration and guidance. We can learn to see animals as more than just resources to be exploited, but as valued members of our shared global community.

One of the most iconic symbols of the ancient Egyptian civilization, the Sphinx, is also a testament to the deep bond between man and animal in the Pharaonic culture. In Egyptian mythology, the Sphinx is said to be a creature with the body of a lion and the head of a human. According to legend, the Sphinx guarded the entrance to the city of Thebes, and posed a riddle to anyone who wished to enter.

> The riddle asked, "What goes on four legs in the morning, two legs at noon, and three legs in the evening?" The answer, of course, was a human, who crawls on all fours as a baby, walks on two legs as an adult, and uses a cane in old age. If the traveller answered the riddle correctly, the Sphinx would allow them to enter the city.

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This story is a powerful illustration of the role that animals played in ancient Egyptian mythology and culture. The Sphinx is not simply a fearsome creature, but rather a symbol of the deep connection between humans and animals that was such an integral part of Egyptian life. By honouring this connection and acknowledging the power and wisdom of the natural world, the ancient Egyptians were able to build a civilization that has left a lasting impact on the world to this day.

As we continue to grapple with issues of animal welfare and conservation in India, we would do well to look back to the lessons of ancient Egypt and remember the importance of our bond with the natural world. Just as the Sphinx posed a riddle that challenged travellers to acknowledge their connection to the animal kingdom, we too must be willing to recognize and honour this bond if we hope to create a more just and sustainable world for all creatures, great and small.

rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com

#BRAINPOWER

Controlling Feel Good

A ubiquitous neurotransmitter that carries signals between brain cells, dopamine, among its many functions, is involved in multiple aspects of cognitive processing.

From the thrill of hearing an ice cream truck approaching to the spikes of pleasure while sipping a fine wine, the neurological messenger known as dopamine has been popularly described as the brain's "feel good" chemical related to reward and pleasure.

A ubiquitous neurotransmitter that carries signals between brain cells, dopamine, among its many functions, is involved in multiple aspects of cognitive processing. The chemical messenger has been extensively studied from the perspective of external cues, or "deterministic" signals. Instead, University of California San Diego researchers recently set out to investigate less understood aspects related to spontaneous impulses of dopamine. Their results, published in the journal Current Biology, have shown that mice can wilfully manipulate these random dopamine pulses.

Rather than only occurring when presented with pleasurable, or reward-based expectations, UC San Diego graduate student Conrad Foo led research that found that the neocortex in mice is flooded with unpredictable impulses of dopamine that occur approximately once per minute.

Working with colleagues at UC San Diego (Department of Physics and Section of Neurobiology) and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, Foo investigated whether mice are in fact aware that these impulses--documented in the lab through molecular and optical imaging techniques--are actually occurring. The researchers devised a feedback scheme in which mice on a treadmill received a reward if they showed they were able to control the impromptu dopamine signals. Not only were mice aware of these dopamine impulses, the data revealed, but the results confirmed that they learned to anticipate and volitionally act upon a portion of them.

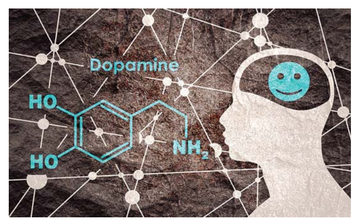
"Critically, mice learned to reliably elicit (dopamine) impulses prior to receiving a reward," the researchers note in the paper. "These effects reversed when the reward was removed. We posit that spontaneous dopamine impulses may serve as a salient cognitive event in behavioural planning."

The researchers say the study opens a new dimension in the study of dopamine and brain dynamics. They now intend to extend this research to explore if and how unpredictable dopamine events drive foraging, which is an essential aspect of seeking sustenance, finding a mate and as a social behaviour in colonizing new home bases.

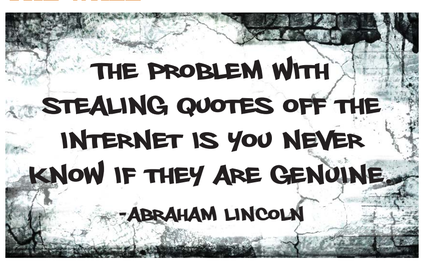
"We further conjecture that an animal's sense of spontaneous dopamine impulses may motivate it to search and forage in the absence of known reward-predictive stimuli," the researchers noted.

In their efforts to control dopamine, the researchers clarified that dopamine appears to invigorate, rather than initiate, motor behaviour.

"This started as a serendipitous finding by a talented, and curious, graduate student with intellectual support from a wonderful group of colleagues," said study senior co-author David Kleinfeld, a professor in the Department of Physics (Division of Physical Sciences) and Section of Neurobiology (Division of Biological Sciences). "As an unanticipated result, we spent many long days expanding on the original study and of course performing control experiments to verify the claims. These led to the current conclusions."



THE WALL



BABY BLUES

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman