

3. CAT AND MONGOOSE

My friend G.J., who frequently stays with me, has just told me the following story, which I think is worth repeating for the interest of readers:—

‘When I was a student at Adyar, we used to take tea out in the garden at 3.30 p.m. daily. A saucer of milk was always placed on the ground close to our tea table.

As soon as the rattle of cups announced the arrival of the servant bringing our tea, from one corner of the garden would come a cat and from the opposite corner a mongoose. They would reach the saucer of milk simultaneously, and each would begin to drink without taking the slightest notice of the other. As soon as the milk was finished, each animal would retire to the corner whence it had come.

We never saw either animal at any other time.’

Almost with tears in his eyes, my friend concluded ‘Oh! If only I’d had a camera in those days!’

G.J. is a deservedly famous actor, but I have no doubt that those almost-tears were more than almost-genuine.

LONAVLA,
September 29, 1954.

T. GAY.

4. EXTRAORDINARY BEHAVIOUR OF A SOLITARY
BULL BISON (GAUR)

While out on the hills (Billigirirangans, Coimbatore District) on the 7th November, I observed a solitary bull bison behaving in a peculiar manner. The scene was an open grass flat, at one end of which Sholagas (aborigines of these hills) had buried a child about a year ago.

The bull proceeded to flatten the little mound by pawing at it; and then, using its right horn like a scythe, pivoting round and round at the same time, it dug a smooth, saucer-like depression with horizontal sweeps of its horn. The Sholagas with me were astonished, and their comments instructive. After a few minutes the bull seemed to be satisfied that the deep basin it had excavated was to its liking and strolled off.

On inspecting the bison’s effort it was revealed that had the bull dug a few inches deeper the poor child’s remains would have been disinterred. The sides of the ‘basin’ were, in part, polished by the animal’s horn. It is difficult to account for its behaviour. That the bull had been fighting with another solitary earlier was obvious, as we came on their battle-ground only a short distance away.

HONNAMETTI ESTATE,
ATTIKAN P.O.,
via MYSORE,
November 11, 1954.

R. C. MORRIS



Morris, R C. 1955. "Extraordinary Behaviour of a Solitary Bull Bison (Gaur)."
The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society 52, 916–916.

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