

Animal Totem



‘Ferals’: what are they trying to tell us?



by Scott Alexander King

Australia is richly stocked with many beautiful animals and birds, many of which are not found anywhere else in the world. We are truly blessed to share our home with the Koala, Emu, Kangaroo, Platypus, Wombat and Echidna, to name just a few. Australia plays host to the largest assortment of venomous Snakes indigenous to any one land, for example, and the spectrum of our native Parrots is breathtaking. However, as well as the unique fauna that call Australia home, there is also a diverse collection of introduced animals – animals originally brought to Australia by European Settlers over 200 years ago and accidentally or intentionally released into the environment for one reason or another. Although some of the animals here in Australia are ‘feral’, and as such, are harmful to nature’s intended way of things, none of them are here by any fault of their own. They may not be indigenous to Australia, and their introduction may have negatively altered the ecology of Australia forever, but we must remember that many of us aren’t native to this land either, with our very arrival all those years ago dramatically initiating the more obvious changes we see today. We need to transform the way we view these animals and look to the lessons hidden behind their presence, while acknowledging them as the powerful teachers that they are, *instead of persecuting them and labelling them as worthless vermin.* After all, like us, all the animals, whether feral or not, are indigenous to the Earth Mother and are, when viewed in this light, nothing less than sacred.



Despite our ever deepening awareness of Spirit and spirituality, many people continue to view the animals as ‘dumb’ or devoid of a soul. We look with eagerness to the healing ways of nature (e.g. flowers, trees, crystals) in an attempt to reclaim personal power, yet few people have dared to look to the animals in the same light, or realise the significance of the gifts of wisdom they are bursting to bestow upon us. Even fewer people have realised that if we were to simply acknowledge why the animals are walking with us and then look to their medicine as a key that will help unlock our potential, then chances are the Earth Mother herself would take care of the

over abundance of ‘feral’ animals that seem to be ‘in our face’ taunting us to embrace their message, daring us to heal.

The animals were once considered our equals and were revered as brothers and sisters by the ancients, and they should still be treated as such. The animals give of themselves without question. Some share their meat, skin and fleece, and they do so because they inherently know it is a requirement enforced by Spirit that some animals eat meat and for others to be that meat. It is the way of things – it keeps all things in balance and demonstrates the sacred Cycle of Life. In other words, it is their medicine and their purpose to supply sustenance to others – and they know that. However, we have forgotten the sacredness of the animals. They have become nothing more than furniture, fashion accessories, play things and servants and, as is the case with the ferals that inhabit our land, some animals have become an embarrassment that will not leave, no matter how hard we try to push them away.

Unlike us ignorant two-leggeds, the animals are not so vain as to believe that ‘it is all about them’. The animals know better than that. They not only feel the relationship they share with us – they live it. They remember it from a very deep place. In traditional stories of Creation, many legends speak of a time when the animals and the People were one and the same. People could become animals at will and the animals could become people. It was not until they decided what they were meant to be that they began to take on the one form that would see them through until the end of time. The animals still remember this time, on a cellular level, and they know it as their role to help us remember it too. The animals considered vermin here in Australia – Foxes, Goats, Rabbits, Cats and in some places, Dogs, Pigs and Deer – would never have made the voyage here had it not been for the early white settlers who brought the animals here to make the new country more hospitable to their wants and needs. We forget that this land rightfully belongs to the Indigenous People who occupied it before the arrival of White Man, just as it belongs to the native animals that initially inhabited it before the introduction of the