

All God's creatures

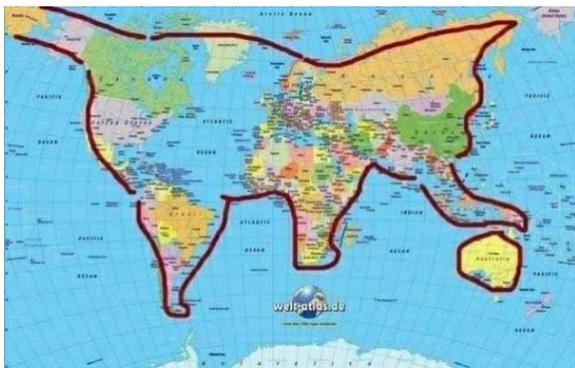
The world is restless. Tempers seem shorter than they should be, tolerance levels are lower, and individuals appear to be fixated on, what in the bigger scheme of things, are trivial. Some might say this is age related – we don't like change. I'm not so sure ... perhaps it's cultural? But then this feeling wouldn't be so widespread, would it?

Why do some think they're better than others and go on the defensive or start to bully others when they don't get their way? Why do we think we have the right answer and need to show others the right way or educate them? Why, if we've been the victim of the bully or the recipient of the education by those who are now discredited, do we think we are owed something?

This is the history of life. Looking back through time, across the globe, different communities will have experienced the same as we are now, only the context and content differing. On occasion, the feelings erupt into war, those of 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 being the most recent on a global scale. And the Cold War? Yet, for those countries going through 'small wars' and heightened tensions, it is no different. At least one of the countries involved looked in on itself and what it wanted rather than to the greater good or benefit of itself and others.

Often, conflicts erupt because one side is not prepared to think of others, or to put themselves in others' shoes. A little niggle is not put into context and festers until one, often trivial, difference is enough to 'break the camel's back'. And have you ever thought, why do we instinctively fight or turn to violence to redress perceived wrongs? Do politicians in opposition parties have to disagree with a suggestion made by the other even if it is the best decision for the country? Surely if the starting point is negative, other options are immediately closed down? What would happen if we entered potential conflict discussions with the idea that we can find a win-win solution?

A rather surprising discovery was that Field Marshal Lord Kitchener, assumed to be in favour of war, was all for peace: 'ensure your country is able to defend itself but then do everything in your power to avoid going to war' was in essence his message. He had experience of other cultures and faiths, being fluent in Arabic, Turkish and Hebrew as well as German, French and English to see how similar we all are and that the real issue causing conflict was inequality and suppression of the weak. He recognised that we're all God's children, even shedding a tear when a baggage camel died.



Cat-world reminded me how much we're all God's creatures – apologies to dog and other animal lovers – and all part of the whole, if one part doesn't function properly, the rest suffers. So, why do we insist that we're always right and others need to be converted?

Isn't it time to sit and listen to the other side(s), honestly without trying to second guess their real motives, and work towards a peace that works for all of us, individually, communally, nationally and globally?

What would the world look like if in our different faiths, instead of giving up food for a specified period we gave up getting angry and tried to respond in love? What if instead of all the individual recognition days, we simply had 'respect for all' and 'love one another' days?

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image: <https://petcentral.chewy.com/map-proves-its-a-cats-world-and-were-just-living-in-it/>