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Food Empowerment Writing

Corpse On Your Plate

"*Chomp*-" You bite into your glistening burger—patty and all—expecting the familiar sinking of teeth into meat. What if that meat were not truly what you thought it to be? What if the global meat industry had been lying to you for decades on end? Despite the horror of it all, such is the alarming reality of flesh for consumption. Graver so is the truth that both workers and animals alike are suffering endlessly to pay the price for our oblivion.

Among countless categories of cruel meat manufacturing, the fast-food industry in particular has become far too standardized and wide-spread in spite of its sadistically inhumane nature. Put simply, the most severe flaw of this business can be considered the ignorance of society—the sheer anonymity of the food being digested through one's literal intestines. Customers are unaware of what they are eating—nor have they considered the unfathomable misery of millions that brought the meal to their plate. The saying, "you are what you eat," has never been so applicable to a situation as it is now.

To explicate, this corrupt trade subjects animals to senseless torture followed by eventual death. The magnitude of fast-food companies unjustly allows them to process millions of *lives* as though they were no more than mere products, "pumping them [the animals] full of non-therapeutic antibiotics and artificial growth hormones, amputating body parts to avoid unnatural stress-induced injuries, and slaughtering them at breakneck speeds on mechanized disassembly lines (often while they remain fully conscious)" ("Fast Food," 2019, para. 15). Due to the selfish desires of avaricious humans, sinless creatures are forced to suffer at their expense simply for a few extra dollars. Consequently, the meat industry cannot justify the agony they have inflicted on innocents for profit.

Furthermore, this heartless brutality even extends to the workers in this field, who are deprived of fundamental rights and subject to perilous ultimatum. Despite the duty of the government to ensure the safety and justice of all hired personnel, these meat-processing facilities are rarely punished for disorienting laws in their favor. To illustrate, these establishments illegally hire undocumented laborers—fully aware of their helpless state—in order to exert the threat of deportation. Hence, victims are forced to tolerate repulsive conditions, such as the breakneck line speed. Among the endless hours, workers must kill livestock at a fatal pace that invariably prioritizes volume over safety. Due to mandatory overtime, workers commonly injure themselves with dull blades, though "The threat of termination discourages workers from reporting safety concerns, injuries, or other serious issues…" ("Slaughterhouse Workers," 2019, para. 4). Such factories refuse to optimize the health and safety of their employees, preferring to attain even a single cent more at the cost of lives. However, this horrifying labor impairs not only physical well-being, but also mental stability. In its vile and inhumane essence, "Workers who are responsible for killing animals routinely observe animals being cut and dismembered while still conscious, as well as being skinned and boiled alive. Hour after hour, day after day the workers interact with countless animals in various states of fear and pain" ("Slaughterhouse Workers," 2019, para. 22). No human nor animal should ever be obliged to undergo the utterly murderous brutality that is mandatory in slaughterhouses.

As is conspicuously evident, the meat industry establishes its unjust ethics completely in selfish motives of cheap convenience outweighing crucial welfare. Displayed through the dominant fast-food culture, consumers are unaware of the utter poison that they are willingly digesting—never bothering to second-guess the contents of their meal. Little do they know that meat is constantly formulated through decades of seclusive deaths, concealed abuse, and

agonizing torture for humans *and* animals. Workers are threatened and compelled to tolerate unacceptable, illegal conditions of death and peril—even mental deterioration—for an exceedingly low salary. However, the fault does not lie upon only those blinded by money, but also those who choose to blind themselves. The blame is to be distributed to those who deafen themselves to the piercingly anguished cries of excruciating pain just for the corpse on one's plate. The next time you guiltily swallow a chicken's flesh or a cow's intestines, take action for what is right by converting to veganism. Without a single shred of doubt, the most eminent method to combating this injustice of the meat industry is by recognizing lies and defying absolute rule—for the animals. For the workers.

For everyone.

For *us*.

References

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