

# IS IT CORONA, OR OUR OWN KARMA?

*The Vedic Insight*

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EPIDEMIC / PANDEMIC

# The Known History



10 of the Worst Pandemics

## 165 AD Antonine Plague

- Death Toll: **5 Million**
- Asia, Egypt, Greece, Italy

## 541-42 Plague of Justinian

- Death Toll: **25 Million**
- Half of Europe

## 1346-53 The Black Death

- Death Toll: **75 - 200 Million**
- Europe, Africa, Asia

## 1852-60 Third Cholera

- Death Toll: **1 Million**
- Asia, Europe, North America and Africa

## 1889-90 Flu

- Death Toll: **1 Million**
- Global

## 1910-11 Sixth Cholera

- Death Toll: **800,000+**
- Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe, Russia

## 1918 Flu

- Death Toll: **20 - 50 Million**
- Global

## 1956-58 Asian Flu

- Death Toll: **2 Million**
- China, Singapore, Hong Kong, US

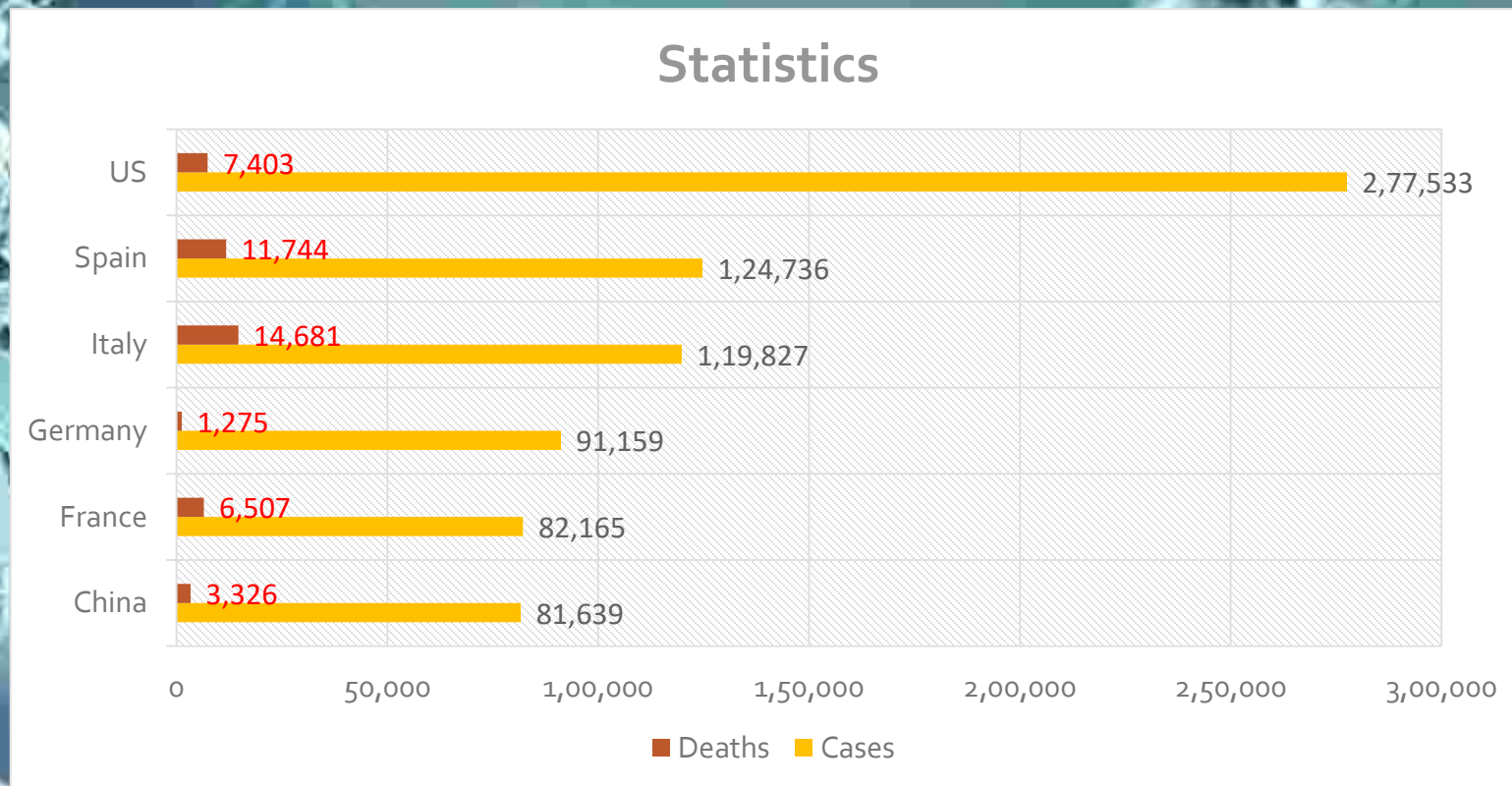
## 1968 Flu

- Death Toll: **1 Million**
- Hong Kong, Singapore, Vietnam, Philippines, India, US

## 2005-12 HIV/AIDS

- Death Toll: **36 Million**
- Congo, Global

# COVID – 19 (Stats as on April 1<sup>st</sup> week, 2020)



Coronavirus Cases:

**1,132,337**

Deaths:

**60,353**

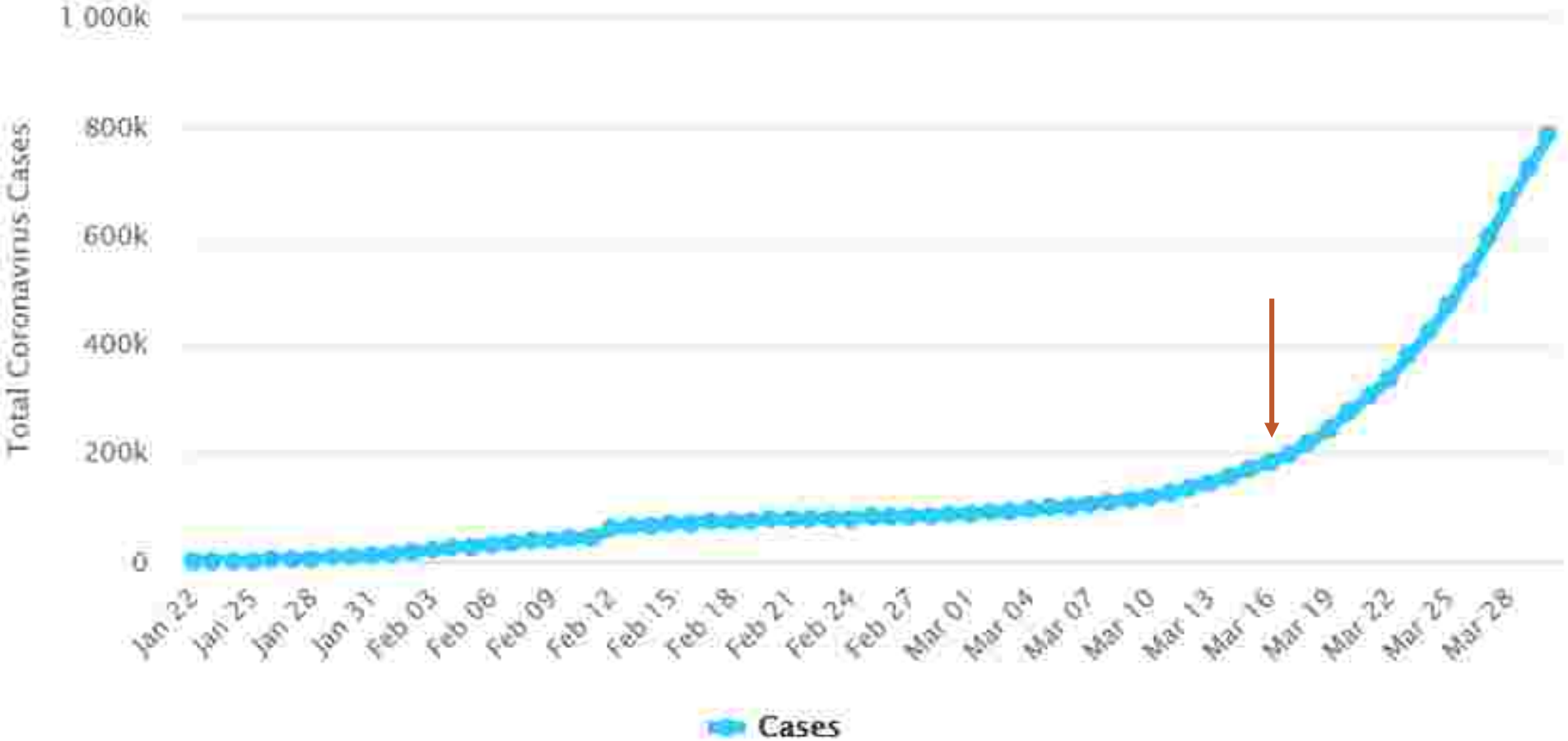
Recovered:

**235,992**

# COVID - 19

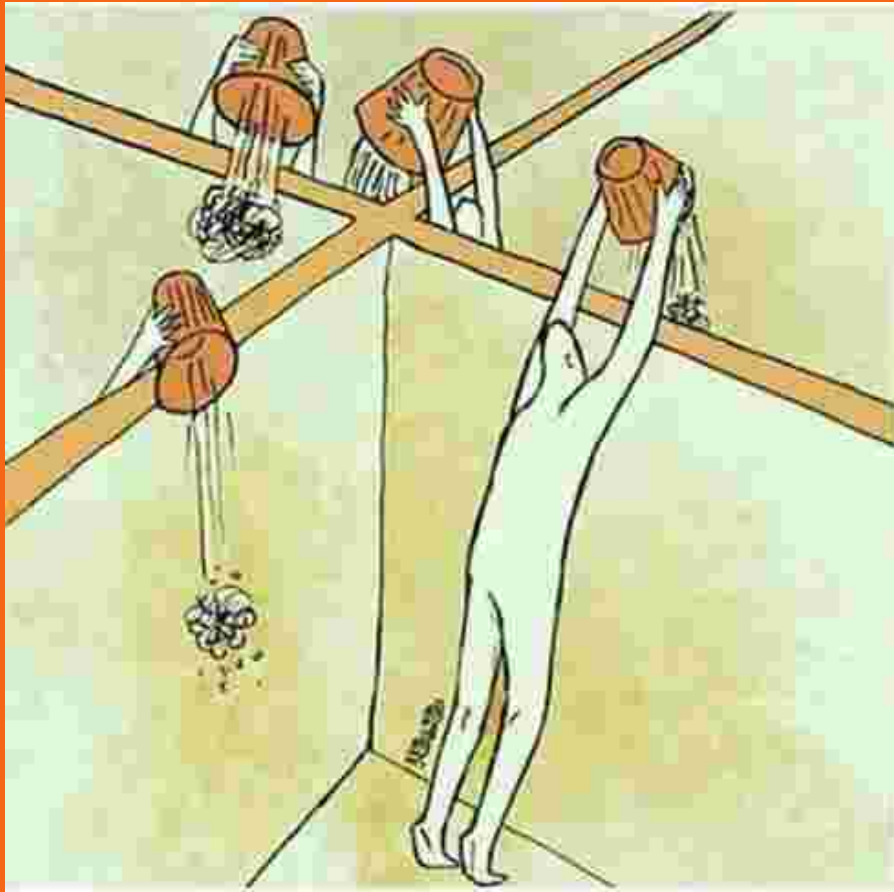
## Total Cases

(Linear Scale)



KARMA

# The Law

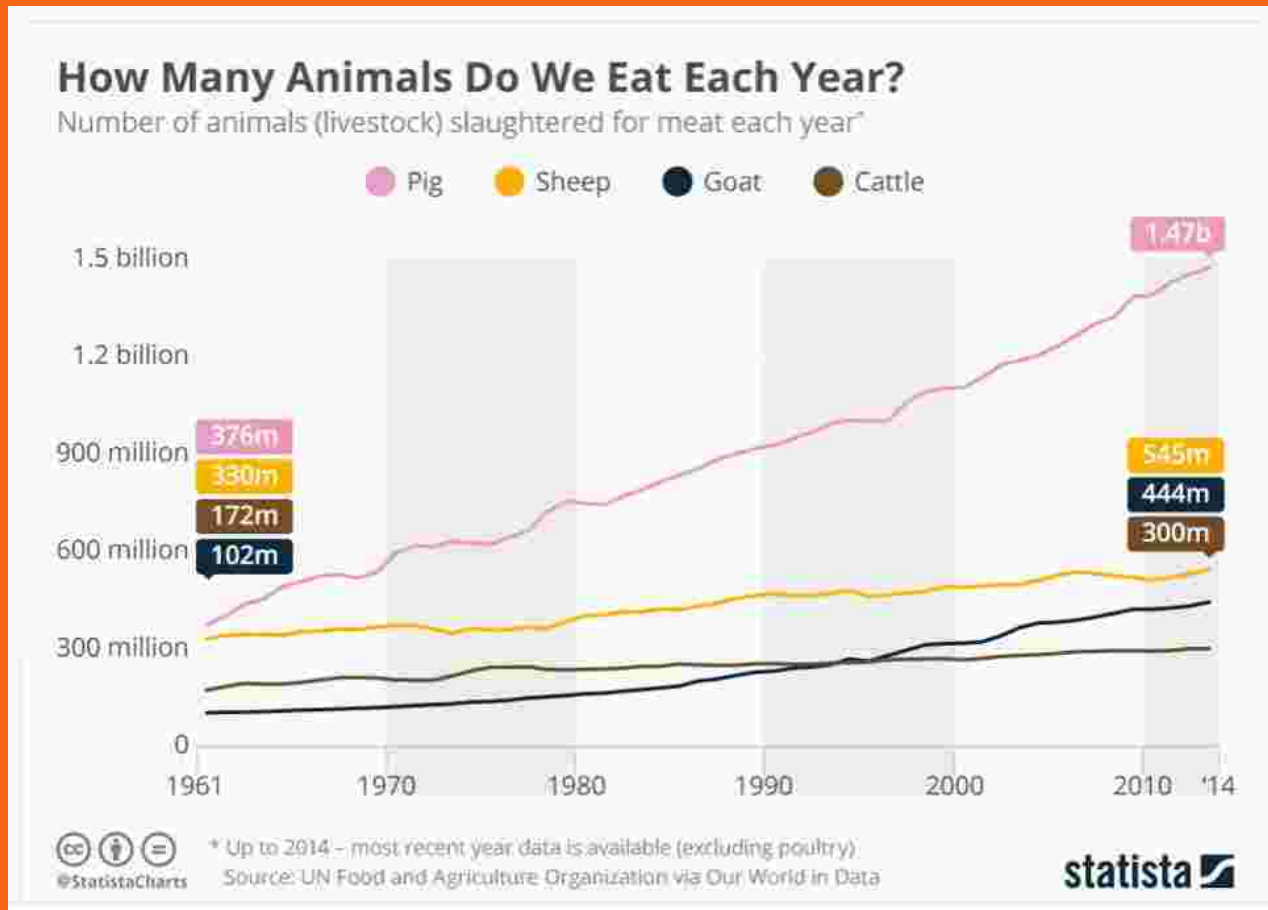


Individual  
Karma



Collective  
Karma

# Mass Animal Killing

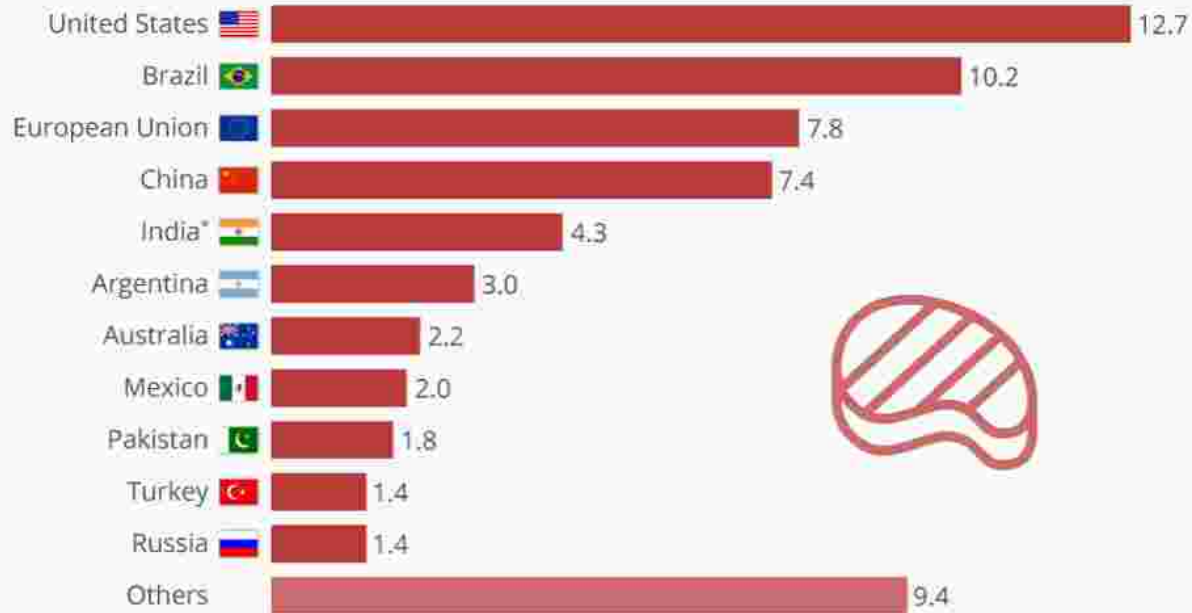


Approx.  
72 Billion  
Annually

# Mother Cow Killing

## The Biggest Producers of Beef in the World

Leading beef and veal producing countries in the world in 2019 (in million metric tons)



\* Includes water buffalo  
@StatistaCharts Sources: FAO, U.S. Department of Agriculture

statista

Approx.  
300 Million  
Annually

# Annual Animal US Slaughter Stats

2020 U.S. ANIMAL KILL CLOCK

**14,158,765,381**

animals have been killed for food  
**this year** in the United States



# Annual Animal US Slaughter Stats



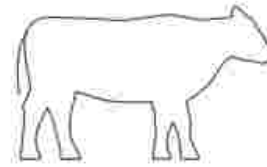
**CHICKENS**

7,958,900,000



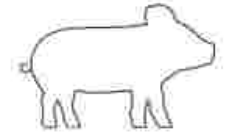
**TURKEYS**

226,580,000



**CATTLE**

35,810,000



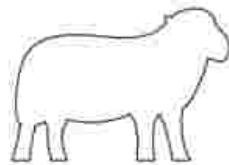
**PIGS**

123,686,000



**DUCKS**

28,620,000



**SHEEP**

6,880,000



**FISH<sup>1</sup>**

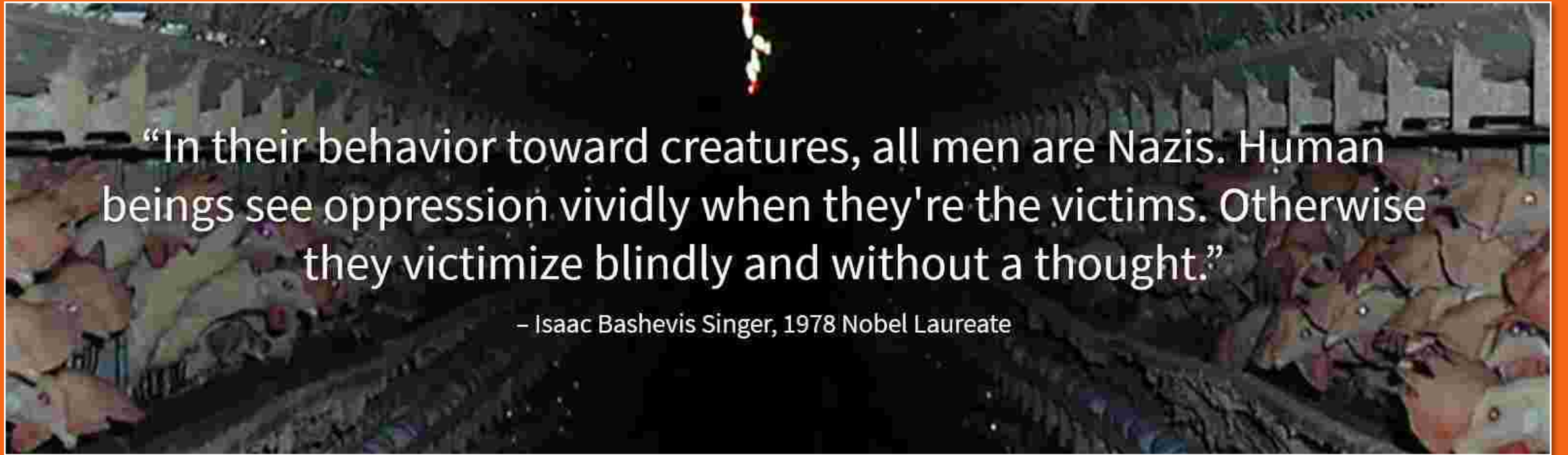
3,797,000,000



**SHELLFISH<sup>1</sup>**

43,109,000,000

# Victimizing Blindly



Ātmavat sarva-bhūteṣu: One should observe all living entities to be on the same level as oneself.

- Cāṇakya Paṇḍita

# Induced Abortion

Approx.

56 Million (Worldwide),

15.6 Million (In India),

Annually



# God will not tolerate

And they are leading the sinful life; still, they are very much proud of their civilization. And they are suffering periodical wars, war number one, war number two, war number three. This number will increase...

If you kill, then you be killed... And a few days, few years after, we shall kill each other.

So they are not afraid of any sinful life. You see?

The nature will not tolerate. Kṛṣṇa will not tolerate. God will not tolerate, because God claims, "I am the father of everyone."

- Room Conversation with Professor Durckheim, German Spiritual Writer, June 19, 1974, Germany

# A Party of Conspirators

According to Manu, the great author of civic codes and religious principles, even **the killer of an animal is to be considered a murderer** because animal food is never meant for the civilized man, whose prime duty is to prepare himself for going back to Godhead. He says that **in the act of killing an animal, there is a regular conspiracy by the party of sinners, and all of them are liable to be punished as murderers exactly like a party of conspirators who kill a human being combinedly...** No one can create a living being despite all advancement of material science, and therefore no one has the right to kill a living being by one's independent whims...

- Srimad-Bhagavatam, 1.7.37 purport

# A Party of Conspirators

**1** He who gives permission

**2** He who kills the animal

**3** He who sells the slaughtered animal

**4** He who cooks the animal

**5** He who administers distribution of the foodstuff

**6** He who eats such cooked animal food

# Collective Karma

1. Gender Karma
2. Race Karma
3. Tribal Karma
4. Group Karma
5. Institutional Karma
6. National Karma
7. Universal Karma

Reactions

Death

Fear

Anxiety

Depression

Illness

Economic  
Loss

Lockdown

...

# THE COSMIC FORCE

# Nature's Law is not Blind

Śrīla Prabhupāda: A snake gives birth to scores of snakes at a time, and if all were allowed to exist, there would be a great disturbance. Therefore, big snakes devour the small snakes. That is nature's law. But behind nature's law is a brain. That is our proposition. **Nature's law is not blind, for behind it there is a brain, and that brain is God.**

We learn this from the Bhagavad-gītā [9.10]:

*mayādhyakṣeṇa prakṛtiḥ sūyate sa-carācaram...*

- Journey of Self Discovery

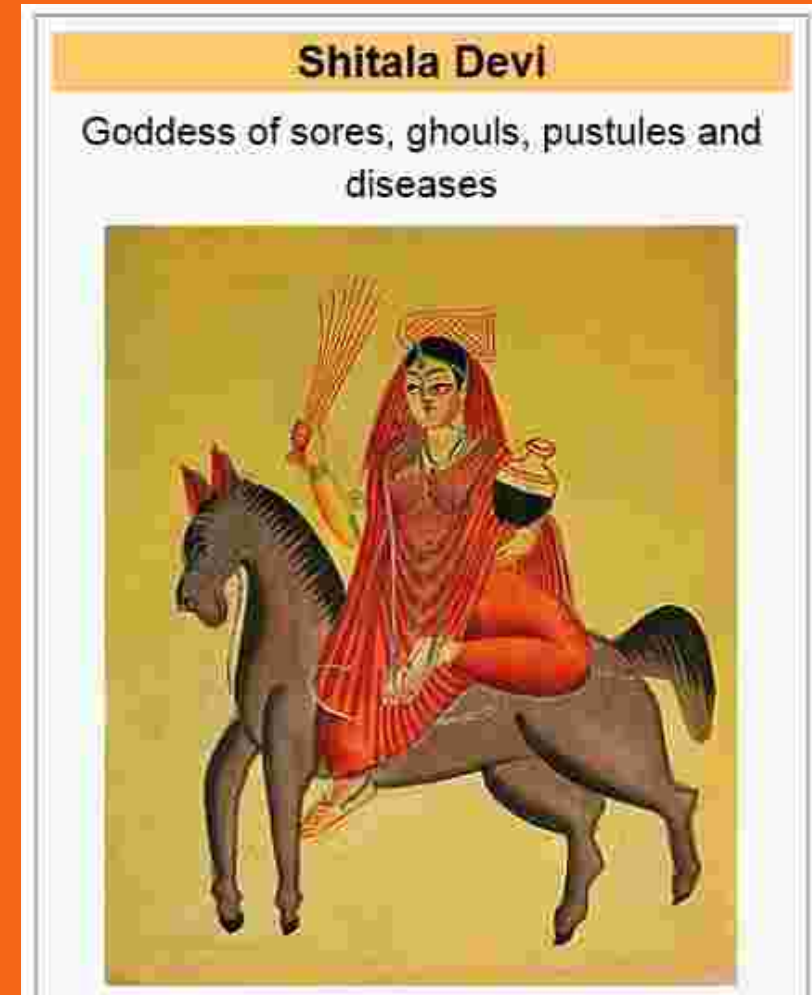
# Not by Chance, but Planned

Śrīla Prabhupāda: The economic theory of Malthus states that **whenever there is overpopulation**, there must be **an outbreak of war, epidemic, famine, or the like to curb it**. These natural activities do not take place by chance but are planned. Anyone who says they are a matter of chance has insufficient knowledge.

- Journey of Self Discovery

# Goddess of Disease

- Incarnation of: Goddess Durga
- Weapons: Broom, fan, pot full of water (medicinal)
- Worshipped on: Shitala Ashtami, 8<sup>th</sup> day after Gaur Purnima (Holi)
- Companions: Jvara (fever demon), Ghentukarna (itches and skin diseases), Raktavati (blood infections & 64 Epidemics)
- Cooled by: Curd, Neem, Chillies, Tamarind, Lemon



# Celestial Influences, Earthly Reactions

Material advancement of civilization means advancement of the reactions of the threefold miseries due to celestial influence, earthly reactions and bodily or mental pains. **By the celestial influence of the stars** there are many calamities like excessive heat, cold, rains or no rains, and the **aftereffects are famine, disease and epidemic**. The aggregate result is agony of the body and the mind. **Man-made material science cannot do anything to counteract these threefold miseries.**

- Srimad-Bhagavatam, 1.14.11, Purport

# THE PANDEMIC OF IGNORANCE

# Is Coronavirus the Greatest Killer?

**465 Times**

*Statistics  
Source:  
Worldometers  
(Jan 1<sup>st</sup> –  
Mar 25<sup>th</sup>,  
2020)*

Count	Cause
21,297	Coronavirus
1,13,034	Seasonal Flu
2,28,095	Malaria
2,49,904	Suicides
3,13,903	Traffic Fatalities
3,90,908	HIV/ AIDS
5,81,599	Smoking
11,62,481	Cancer
23,82,324	Hunger
99,13,702	Abortion

Who  
Is  
more  
dangerous  
?

# Can we put off Death?

- An appointed time to live, an appointed time to die:

*jātasya hi dhruvo mṛtyur dhruvaṁ janma mṛtasya ca  
tasmād aparihārye 'rthe na tvaṁ śocitum arhasi  
(Bg. 2.27)*

- When the right time comes, one has to go, epidemic or no epidemic, medicine or none.  
Are we prepared for the war with death?

# Will Lockdown help?

- Is **Lockdown** a **strategy**, or our **Surrender** to the insurmountable power of material nature?  
**Our plans of advancement are constantly being thwarted by the powerful time.**
- Will Lockdown change people's approach to lifestyle?
- Will it make them kinder?
- Will it make them less sinful, selfish, vicious and exploitative?

The disease is outside because of the disease inside... Cure within to cure without...

# THE ULTIMATE CURE

# India's contribution to World problems



There is a great need for disseminating the message of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam all over the world. It is the duty of every responsible Indian to broadcast the transcendental message of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam throughout the world to do all the super most good as well as to bring about the desired peace in the world. Because India has failed in her duty by neglecting this responsible work, **there is so much quarrel and trouble all over the world.**

- Srimad-Bhagavatam, 1.5.11, Purport

# How to Overcome?

Therefore, **our constant touch with the Lord by devotional service** can give us relief without our being disturbed in the discharge of our human duties. **The asuras, however, who do not believe in the existence of God, make their own plans to counteract all these threefold miseries, and so they meet with failures every time.** The Bhagavad-gītā (7.14) clearly states that the reaction of material energy is never to be conquered, because of the binding effects of the three modes. **They can simply be overcome by one who surrenders fully in devotion under the lotus feet of the Lord.**

- Srimad-Bhagavatam, 1.14.11, Purport

I have heard in 1900, 1898—I was born in 1896—so I have heard, I have seen also, I remember, in Calcutta there was a very virulent type of plague epidemic in 1898. So Calcutta became devastated. All people practically left Calcutta. Daily hundreds and hundreds of people were dying. I was one year old or one and a half year old. I have seen what was happening, but there was plague epidemic. That I did not know. I, later on, I heard from my parents. So one bābājī, he organized saṅkīrtana, Hare Kṛṣṇa saṅkīrtana. When there was no other way, so he organized saṅkīrtana all over Calcutta. And in the, in saṅkīrtana, all people, Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Parsi, everyone joined. And they were coming, they were going road to road, street to street, entering in every house. So that Mahatma Gandhi Road, 151, you have seen. The saṅkīrtana party we received very nicely. There was light, and I was very small, I was also dancing, I can remember. Just like our small children sometimes dances. I remember. I could see only up to the knees of the persons who were joined. So the plague subsided. This is a fact. Everyone who knows history of Calcutta, the plague was subsided by saṅkīrtana movement.

# Are we Fearless?

**Paramahansa:** It is said that a devotee is supposed to be fearless.

**Prabhupāda:** Fearless because devotee means one who has taken shelter of Kṛṣṇa. He's devotee. He's fearless. And one who has not taken shelter of Kṛṣṇa, how he can be fearless? Suppose there is epidemic disease, if you have got vaccination, then you can remain fearless. Otherwise, the epidemic will contaminate and then you'll have to suffer. So Kṛṣṇa is the vaccination to remain fearless.

- Morning Walk — June 13, 1974, Paris

# Take shelter of Krishna and Cry

The time is very dangerous. And still, in this dangerous time... Just like in epidemic condition where every people is being contaminated and dying, still, the doctors appointed by the government, they have to go into the epidemic area and try to treat the person and save them. Our duty is like that. The whole atmosphere is epidemic, whole atmosphere, this Kali-yuga. And still, by the superior orders we have to preach this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement. Therefore our only shelter is Kṛṣṇa. Kṛṣṇa, kṛṣṇa, kṛṣṇa, kṛṣṇa, kṛṣṇa, kṛṣṇa, rakṣa mām... The foolish people, they are thinking that "We are very happy and we are very safe." **But nobody is safe.**

- Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 6.2.1-5, Calcutta, January 6, 1971

# What is our Responsibility?



**Question:** What is our responsibility as a group to the collective karma of the planet and our society?

**Answer:** “We have a very great responsibility...

Not a day should go by where we do not recognize the importance of selflessness and caring for one another. **As our actions become increasingly positive, then our collective karma becomes more beneficial and affects other aspects of the community.”**

# Call for Duty

“One of the reasons for the degradation of today’s world is the negative karmic energy accumulated in our environments. **As spiritual warriors, it is our task to transform this energy through our own examples.** We should live in such a way that we become karma-free, without creating new problems to entrap us. Then the people we meet will not drag us down with their negativity, but instead will be uplifted by our naturally radiating positive energy.

The greatest service we can do for others is to **live an exemplary life as carriers of devotion** and as models of love in action.

- Spiritual Warrior 3, Solace for the Heart in Difficult Times

So,

Is it Corona,

Or

Our Own Karma

?