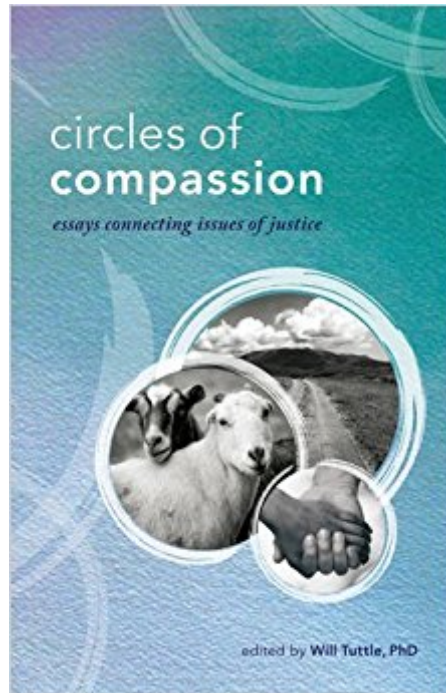




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# Circles Of Compassion: Essays Connecting Issues Of Justice



## Synopsis

What is the link between compassion for animals, social justice, and harmony in our human world? This book consists of a series of essays by internationally recognized authors and activists. These insightful and inspiring essays focus on how the seemingly disparate issues of human, animal, and environmental rights are indeed connected. Illuminating the connections between injustice to animals and the various forms of social and ecological injustice, these thirty authors provide essential keys to effectively addressing the hidden roots of our dilemmas. The essays also provide practical guidance about how to make the individual, systemic, and social changes necessary to effectively create a peaceful and just world for all. This landmark book provides a crucial impetus for us to break through our confining delusions, build bridges of understanding, and awaken from the cultural trance of indifference and inequity.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Compassion is the path to transformation of consciousness and purification of the human spirit. This important book is an exciting collection of deep reflections about compassion and its celebration of all living creatures who abide equally within the shimmering web of life. --Elizabeth & Dennis Kucinich  
Circles of Compassion is rich in innovative thought, connection and heart. The perfectly orchestrated collaboration of inspired minds makes this collection of writings essential reading for anyone wanting to develop or deepen their compassion for all beings. This book is a great gift to humanity and has the potential to unite us all. It can also bring peace and freedom to animals and

healing to the earth, creating a bright, sustainable future. I loved the inclusive tone of the book and the hope I felt while reading it. I will share this book far and wide as I regard it as a brilliant educational tool that we are very fortunate to have access to. As more and more people are now re-awakening their innate compassion, *Circles of Compassion* has arrived at the perfect moment in time. --Kathy Divine  
Through a wide spectrum of diverse and thought-provoking lenses, *Circles of Compassion* brilliantly explores the vital link between compassion for animals, social justice, and human well-being. This comprehensive anthology is a must-read for all people seeking to keep their hearts and minds open to source the wisdom needed to thrive in these troubling times. --Joel and Michelle Levey, founders, *Wisdom at Work*, authors of *Living In Balance*, and *Mindfulness, Meditation, and Mind Fitness*

Will Tuttle, visionary author of *The World Peace Diet*, is a pianist, composer, educator, and recipient of the Courage of Conscience Award. A former Zen monk, his PhD from UC Berkeley focused on educating intuition and altruism. Dr. Tuttle presents at events around the world, promoting peace through compassion for all life.

An excellent bunch of essays on the interconnected nature of domination, exploitation and oppression of humans toward: people in poverty in the US and developing countries, women, children, animals (or nonhuman animals as all beings are animals) and the environment. I wish they included more about the environmental issues too including the pollution from the developed countries' frenzy to acquire and develop, or consumerism. The focus was on the exploitation and outright torture of nonhuman animals, largely through farmed animals. However, some countries decimate the wild and endangered animals too, the US does too. It was obvious to me from my research one of the big steps we as human beings need to take to begin to reverse this and climate change. Governments need to focus on the solutions too instead of continuing to ignore the problem. The only way they will do that is if the public makes them. We need to take action. We need to be the change we want to see.

I acquired this compilation of essays at one of Dr. Tuttle's events. While academic in parts and sometimes uneven, there were several stories to which I really connected. You'll note that as the essays are compiled alphabetically (rather than weaving a theme) many of these are in the middle or second half of the book. The ones I connected to the most including compositions by: Christopher-Sebastian McJetters, whose plain speech and straightforward ideas I found

appealing. David Nibert, whom I had the honor of talking to at a potluck once and whose ideas have really stuck with me. Anthony J. Nocella II, whose essay was provocative and questioned vegan assumptions. Lauren Ornelas, with her vivid and effective descriptions and connections. Colleen Patrick-Goudreau, with relatable experiences and a permeating positivity to her writing. Marla Rose, with such a simple and powerful analogy. And Zoe Weil, with practical intersectional suggestions and thoughts. Interesting ideas - a nice collection. Worthwhile for anyone interested in thinking further about intersectional compassion themes.

I have so far read half of the book. It is absolutely riveting and devastatingly eye-opening. The daily choices we make about what to eat have such far-reaching impact on the planet, the animals, and hungry humans. The essays are extremely well-written, and the subject matter is crucially important to our lives and the lives of others. Each piece "connects the dots" among various seemingly unrelated challenges facing our world. To see the role of our food choices is to truly wake up to our place in this world. Please read this book and meditate on its teachings.

Thank you for your contribution to a shared vision of world peace !

What a refreshing read! I could not put down this book. I look forward to reading it many times over.

A wake up call to the world.

There is a lot of good material in this book, but it is poorly edited. A number of the essays are very repetitive and they vary a lot in quality of writing. In those cases where the authors disagreed with each other, it might have been profitable to allow those authors to respond to each other. Basic fact checking would have been helpful; for example, one author places the assassination of John F. Kennedy in 1968. Some of the authors identify the animals rights movement as European in origin, when, in fact, it has roots that go back to ancient Asia.

As a fellow vegan and animal activist, I am not ever supposed to say anything critical of fellow vegans. It's the unspoken rule. But I wish the editor had pulled the essays that compare the War on Animals -- also known as human civilization -- to slavery, the Holocaust, the Civil Rights movement, etc. As a movement, we know many people are repulsed by these comparisons; also, it's been said so many times as to become a (tired) vegan cliché. And it's not even the best or most compelling

argument(s). When's the last time you heard someone say they became vegan because of the similarities between our current treatment of animals and slavery? (Ugh: it's gross to even write it down). Animal activists/writers: stop it. The weakness of this book is that a few of the essays are completely unoriginal and offer nothing new. I found them boring, if not many other things. That said, some of the essays in this collection are inspired -- written with compassion, intelligence and an abiding concern for not only non-human animals but the earth itself (and people, too). Jo Stepaniak and Will Tuttle's wonderful essays immediately come to mind. And there are several other inspired writings here, too. And some unfamiliar voices (at least to me). Some of these essays read like boring classroom lectures, but that's less a criticism than a preference. That's not my cup of tea. I prefer beautiful writing that's passionate and personal -- something our movement lacks in terms of literary offerings. The closest thing we have to a beautifully written animal rights manifesto is *Eating Animals* by Jonathan Safran Foer. But there were a few essays in this collection that I didn't want to end, and I kept thinking to myself, "that person should write a book." My opinions on this book (and they're just opinions, not facts) are not intended to dissuade anyone from reading it. On the contrary, the stuff that's elegant and interesting is really good. And the best thing about a collection of essays is that there's really something for everyone -- including judgmental vegans like myself.

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