

Vegetarianism

Post by "Cassius" of January 7, 2025 at 12:01 PM

Just a short quick note to add to this topic because I recently heard someone say "If it can't die, it's not food."

That struck me as helpful in this analysis of the ethics of vegetarianism. Of course I presume that the emphasis at least most of the time in the debate is on "consciousness" as the dividing line between what is "ethical" to eat and what is not.

Nevertheless I can see that it would be useful to think of the problem in terms of the fact that even plants must "die" for us to eat them.

I'm still in the general camp that it makes a lot of sense to minimize conscious suffering whenever possible. Plus, it's hard for me to say that plants fall under any reasonable definition of consciousness.

But when you look at the issue from the more general point of view of "living" vs. non-living," it's also hard for me to argue the conversation ought to be judged in terms of "death" vs. "consciousness." And if you do look at the issue on that level, it seems to be more apparent that it's impossible for any living creature to survive except after the death of other living creatures.

So I guess that leaves me at "minimize the conscious suffering but it's ok to eat meat." And I should add that there are specific steps I would support to make sure conscious suffering is minimized, but agricultural / slaughtering practices are beyond the scope of this post.