

Dr. Jane Goodall *primatologist, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute & UN Messenger of Peace, Speech at the University of Toronto, 15 May 2006*

5 Chimpanzees, more like us than any other living creature. It's absolutely extraordinary how biologically
we realise far more today than when I began in 1960, how like us they are. The DNA of the chimpanzee
and humans, differs by only just over 1 percent. [...] You could get a blood transfusion from them if you
matched the blood group. The immune system, so like ours that they can catch or be infected with all
known human diseases, which is why some scientists have incarcerated them in 5 foot by 5 foot cages to
investigate otherwise uniquely human diseases. Unfortunately, these scientists were reluctant to admit the
10 equally dramatic similarities in the behaviour of chimpanzees. And it shouldn't surprise us that, given the
similarity of brain, and nervous system, that they are capable of intellectual performances, like the tool
using and tool making, which used to be considered the hallmarks¹ of the human species. And
chimpanzees are capable of so many fascinating intellectual performances. Captive chimpanzees can learn
more than 400 of the signs used by deaf people, American Sign Language. And they can use those signs
15 when communicating with each other as well as communicating with their teacher. [...] They also have
emotions similar to those which we call happiness, sadness, fear, despair. They're capable of mental as
well as physical suffering.

And all these things that I've just said were considered absolutely not possible when I first went to
Cambridge University in England in 1961. [...]

20 And now, finally, all these years later, we're moving into a world where even science is beginning to
accept that these things are true, where, in most major universities, you can study animal mind, you can
study animal emotion, you can even try to come to grips in the psychology department with animal
personality. So, we are moving there, and by and large, the main pockets of resistance are those people
who, in some way or another, are exploiting animals in painful and invasive ways. But gradually, I think,
25 the voice of the animals is growing. [...] It's clear that chimpanzees, more like us than any other creature,
have really helped us to redefine our position in nature. It's really clear, once you've spent time with the
chimpanzees, that you can no longer draw a sharp line between humans on the one hand and the rest of
the animal kingdom on the other. It's a very blurry² line. It's getting more blurry all the time. And it's [...] definite
30 that we're not the only beings on the planet with personalities, minds and feelings. And that gives
us a new respect, not only for the chimpanzees, but the other amazing animal beings with whom we
share this planet. [...]

¹ Typical features/quality

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