**Pause Station**

Featured Work: *Dinka Man Imitating Horns, South Sudan* by Carol Beckwith and Angela Fisher

Insight Activity: Interconnectedness/Compassion for All Sentient Beings



Narrative:

What catches your eye in this photograph? At puberty male members of the Dinka tribe receive a namesake ox. They view themselves and the ox as interconnected, singular beings. This young man trained the ox’s horns from calf-hood into a beautiful lyre shape, and emulates them with his arms as he walks alongside his beloved companion.

Have you ever had a close relationship with an animal? Have you ever tried peering deeply into their eyes for an extended period of time? If so, did the experience influence the amount of kinship and respect you felt toward them?

Many species of animals have extraordinary capabilities that are unmatched by humans. Birds navigate between continents guided by electromagnetic fields. Dogs use their keen sense of smell to detect diseases. Whales rely on echolocation to identify objects. So are humans truly superior to all other sentient beings? Or might a more accurate accessment view us has having certain attributes, such as opposable thumbs and advanced forms of communication, that compel us to act as responsible stewards of this planet and all her inhabitants?