

# I no longer steal from nature

*Abu 'L'Ala Ahmad ibn Abdallah all-Ma'arri*

You are diseased in understanding and religion.  
Come to me, that you may hear something of sound truth.  
Do not unjustly eat fish the water has given up,  
And do not desire as food the flesh of slaughtered animals, Or  
the white milk of mothers who intended its pure draught for  
their young, not noble ladies.  
And do not grieve the unsuspecting birds by taking eggs;  
for injustice is the worst of crimes.  
And spare the honey which the bees get industriously  
from the flowers of fragrant plants;  
For they did not store it that it might belong to others, Nor  
did they gather it for bounty and gifts.  
I washed my hands of all this; and wish that I  
Perceived my way before my hair went gray!

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Medieval Syrian poet. He was the defender of the cause for animal integrity and nature. In 2013, his statue was beheaded by jihadists from Al-Nusra Front.