

Benchmarks of Civilization: 2

Man differentiates himself from other beings.
He has speech.
He can protect himself from the elements.
He can leave the old and adapt to a new environment.

Man's speech, his clothing, and the ingenious ways he travels and migrates,

Allows him to be freer than:

The Eagle
The Jungle Beast and
Even
The Wind.

Man is capable of controlling the forces of nature more than they are capable of controlling him.

But man has not demonstrated his capability to control himself.

And that which permits him to fly, to build, to shape his destiny,

Causes him to impede and destroy other men.

That which gives some men their freedom gives enslavement to others.

That which makes man uniquely free,
Makes him uniquely harrassed.

Our gifts are our demons.

Never having spoken, the lion rules with a roar.

Hardly moving, the snail endures.

In his pond, the fish is free.

But man, prâdeful and eloquent man!

He disdains the mute and struggles against a relationship with them.

He binds the crippled and increases their spasticity.

He restrains the weak and incompetent and guarantees their infirmity.

He envelopes the old and feeble and insures their lonliness.

He segregates the ill and recreates their mental and spiritual disabilities.

Man enforces his retribution on those who do not speak by encarcerating them.

On those who do not think by enchaining them.

On those who do not conform by denuding them.

On those who will not be broken by breaking them.

The animals have fewer gifts than man but
fewer imperatives
fewer options but
fewer requirements
fewer accomplishments but
fewer needs.

Animals ~~have~~ ^{are} less civiliz~~ation~~ ^{ed} than man, but ^{have} more
civilization.

Animals have less freedom.

But the animal world has more freedom.

Mankind has enslaved his brothers and himself.