

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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FADE IN:

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Two older gentleman sit at a table, face to face, in a restaurant. In front of each elderly man is a cloth napkin, a fork, knife, and spoon, and a glass of water. LEONARD, 82, vegan and KARL, 83, carnivore argue with each other at the table.

LEONARD

All I am saying is that killing for food is inhumane.

KARL

People have been doing it for thousands of years. They had no other choice back then if they wanted a substantial meal.

LEONARD

There were fruits and vegetables back then.

KARL

I said substantial. Besides, meat is filling. A big, nice, juicy steak hits the spot. Your little fruits, vegetables, and goddamn tofu are child's play. It's not filling whatsoever.

LEONARD

There are plenty of substantial and delicious substitute meals now. A veggieburger for instance. Perhaps a tofu hotdog?

KARL

I think I'm gonna be sick.

LEONARD

Do you have any idea what they have to do to baby cows in order to make veal?

KARL

(with a crooked smile and a wink:)

No, but it's delicious.

Leonard rolls his eyes.

(CONTINUED)

LEONARD

Never minding the fact that you kill poor, helpless creatures for your meals. You also kill animals for your clothing.

KARL

Here we go again...

LEONARD

Seriously. What's wrong with a nice cotton or bamboo t-shirt?

KARL

(defensively)

I wear cotton t-shirts sometimes.

LEONARD

And a leather belt everyday.

KARL

To keep my goddamn pants up.

LEONARD

A hemp belt would work just as well.

KARL

Yeah, if I were a frickin' hippie.

Leonard rolls his eyes again.

LEONARD

It's just sickening that you would kill an animal and eat it.

KARL

I'm not killing it.

LEONARD

You know what I mean.

KARL

It's gonna die eventually. Why can't I eat it?

LEONARD

You can eat it once it's dead.

KARL

That's disgusting.

(CONTINUED)

LEONARD

So is just casually eating a piece of meat knowing that the animal had to be tortured and murder for you to enjoy your fat, gluttonous self! Meat is murder.

KARL

What? And plants aren't living?

LEONARD

That's not the point. Animals have feelings. They have children, families. They weep. Animals can cry!

KARL

Jesus...

A WAITRESS, young, maybe in her 20's, walks up to the table holding a plate in each hand. One is a vegetarian meal and the other, a nice, juicy steak.

WAITRESS

(quickly and professionally)
Pumpkin seed-crust ed lentil patties with roasted garlic mashed potatoes and salad?

Leonard gestures.

LEONARD

That's me.

The Waitress places the plate down in front of Leonard.

WAITRESS

And here is your rib eye steak with extra gravy and smashed potatoes, sir.

The Waitress places Karl's platter down in front of him.

WAITRESS

(to Leonard and Karl)
Enjoy your meals.

LEONARD

Thank you.

KARL

Thanks.

Karl and Leonard ready themselves for their meals. Leonard places the cloth napkin on his lap, Karl tucks his into his shirt. They each grab their cutlery and start to cut away at their meals.

LEONARD

And another thing--

Leonard and Karl both fall, face first into their plates. They die.

FADE OUT.

THE END.