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-crusted 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.

(CONTINUED)
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.