

Subject **Gender-Insensitive Commentary on Cruise**

From Birendra Kaur <info@drkharaksingh.org.in>

To info@jucycruise.co.nz , book@jucycruise.co.nz , res@jucycruise.co.nz , birendrakaur@yahoo.com

Date 04.09.2017 9:39 pm

• Polygamy - Its Biology ... Ethics.doc (~76 KB)

Dear Sir/ Madam,
Greetings of the Day

I was on the Jucy Cruise at Milford Sound on the 14th of August, 2017.

I wish to bring to your kind notice that the commentary on the same (and may be on the other cruises as well) was in bad taste while referring to an animal, encountered en route. I feel duty-bound to bring the distasteful, gender-insensitive commentary to your notice. I do not remember the exact wording, but it was to the effect:

"Oh! How lucky is the young male! He has 15-16 girl friends at a time!"

Polygamous nature of the animal may be a fact, but it is to be narrated as such, and not in the tone and tenor in which it was actually done. The tourists were not just a group of boys, but families and couples. I found the style of the commentary most embarrassing, demeaning!

As a student of Biology, I once wrote an article (attached - 'Polygamy: It's Biology and Ethics') pointing out that all those animal species about which we say that their males are polygamous, that in fact their females are polygamous too - as these females have a new male at regular intervals in their lifetime, by virtue of the strongest male winning over the weaker and/or older males in fierce fight(s).

As such, the females of the so-called polygamous males are polygamous too. Rather, the fact, in fact, is that this polygamous female lives with the strongest and healthiest males throughout her life, while the polygamous stint of the male is rather short-lived.

Would it thus be in good taste (?) to comment, even as it is a fact, to the effect, as follows:

"Oh! How lucky these females are! They get so many boy friends in their lifetime, who are the strongest and healthiest of all males! Never ever do they get a weak one or an aged one!"

I would highly appreciate a response from your end, irrespective of whether you consider it worth looking into or not.

Best regards,

Birendra Kaur
Settler, Dr Kharak Singh Trust
www.drkharaksingh.org.in

PS: The attached article also brings out that the reproductive behaviour of human beings vis-a-vis that of the polygamous animal species is at a variance.

[The said article is placed on the Home Page of www.drkharaksingh.org.in under "Selected Articles."]