



BJÖRN PERSSON

LIVING SOULS

fri tanke



» We are all animals of this planet. We are all creatures.
And nonhuman animals experience pain sensations just like we do.
They too are strong, intelligent, industrious, mobile, and evolutionary.
They too are capable of growth and adaptation. Like us, first and foremost,
they are earthlings. And like us, they are surviving. Like us, they also seek
their own comfort rather than discomfort. And like us, they express
degrees of emotion. In short, like us, they are alive.«

[JOAQUIN PHOENIX]

CONTENT

FOREWORD – MATHIAS OSVATH.....	XV
FOREWORD – FRANS DE WAAL.....	XVII
PREFACE – BJÖRN PERSSON.....	XXI
PROLOGUE	25
WHAT IS CONSCIOUSNESS?.....	27
ARE ANIMALS AWARE?.....	31
ALL LIFE SHOULD BE VALUED EQUALLY.....	37
AWARENESS.....	43
FAMILY.....	73
PERSONALITY.....	95
SOCIAL BONDS.....	131
EMOTIONS.....	155
INTELLIGENCE.....	191
LANGUAGE.....	225
EPILOGUE	257
IT’S TIME TO RETHINK OUR HUMAN-CENTERED WORLD.....	259
AFTERWORD – THOMAS BERND HILDEBRANDT.....	261
MY INNER JOURNEY.....	263

IN MEMORY OF SUDAN

1973–2018

Sudan drew his last breath on a rainy day in March 2018. He left the world in despair. Sudan was the last male northern white rhinoceros.

Sudan had become an ambassador for every species on the brink of extinction. With him gone, there are only two females left of his species.

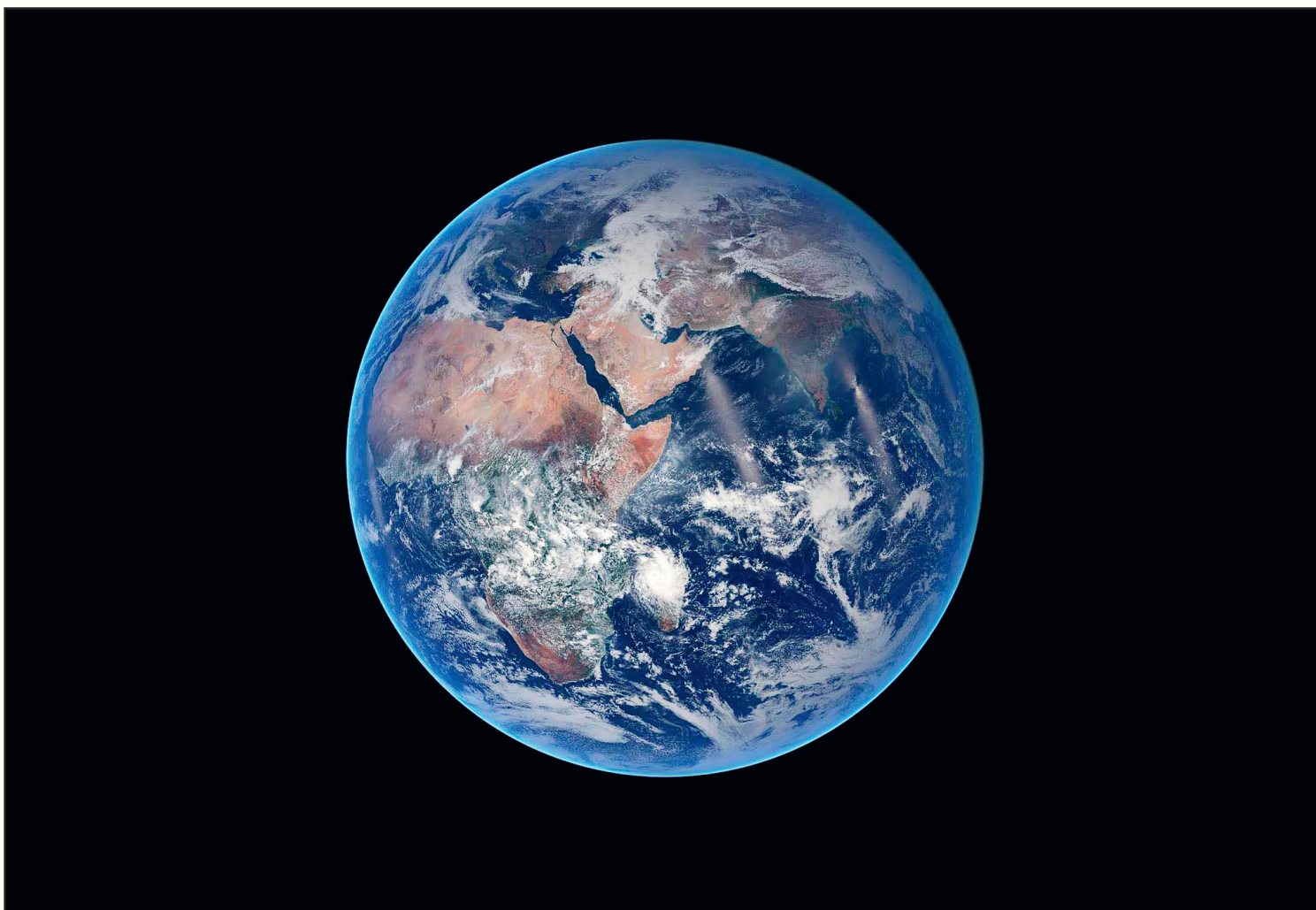
Still, this might not be the end of his story. His semen was preserved, and scientists are now harvesting eggs from those two females. Embryos have been made, and they mean to implant them in surrogate female southern white rhinos. However, using IVF to save rhinos has never been done before, and there is a thin line between failure and success.

Whatever the future holds, Sudan is at rest. Had he been able to share a final piece of appeal, he would probably ask us to re-evaluate our concept of animals. We are not superior, and we have no right to treat them as property. They, too, have feelings, families, and a right to live. If we want to prevent the northern white rhino and other species from extinction, we must change the way we view and value our fellow souls on Earth.





»All things share the same breath,
the beast,
the tree,
the man.
The air shares its spirit with all the life it supports.«
[CHIEF SEATTLE]



ONE PLANET, ONE FAMILY

ABOUT 3,7 BILLION years ago, small microbes of molecules gradually began to form through an evolutionary process of increasing complexity. The earliest forms of life, as we know it, materialized.

Since then, life has spread and evolved into miraculous shapes and forms. Today, there are more than 8,7 million species on our planet. Some weave webs, some run at 130 km/h, and some have large brains, but no matter what abilities or qualities, we all descend from that very first cell. Every species is related by the same life-giving force that created everything out of nothing.

Like a family, we share this planet, our home, and although we have our differences, we all share the same fundamental needs.