



# SEMI --- SILENT

**ANIMALS ARE GOOD  
MATTER AND MEANING. STUDIUM**

**Author: Anna Kravets  
Production Company: SEMI SILENT**

Duration: 13m47s

[WWW.SEMISILENT.RO](http://WWW.SEMISILENT.RO)

## English, Romanian (original)

**Emil:** I have to admit, I never heard them. They probably do communicate somehow, but I did not hear them.

**O femeie (în plan secund):** Gata, gata! Bravo, cățel! Bravo, bunicuțo! Bravo, bunicuțo! Uite, e aproape gata. Bravo, bunicuțo! Bravo! Bravo!

**Emil:** I love all the animals. They are our best teachers. Let's take the wolfs, for example, there were some philosophers long time ago saying that homo homini lupus est. Like the people are acting towards other people like wolves. From what I know, it belongs to Pausanias and it was later put in discussion by Thomas Hobbes, on citizenship... It's a big mistake. Wolves are extremely social, are extremely loyal, they will die anytime to protect their puppies. Animals do have lots of feelings, but hey do not have bad feelings. The bad feelings are a human thing. The will to do bad things to other people and to feeling good while doing it. The wolves are killing the dear because he needs to eat, not because he hates the dear.

We learn from the Middle Ages that the Muslim are bad. The Muslim from the Middle Ages learn that the Christians are bad. And those kind of feelings went over the centuries. It's a very deep feeling of rejecting the Other, the other who's not like me.

**Anna:** Tradition of hatred.

**Emil:** Yes. Probably it's a mix of evolution, superstitions, of cultural dogmas, of education, of lack of education, lack of culture. The people who are not well educated are extremely easy to influence to believe all kind of things, like Taliban, they have no idea what's school. And Ayatollah, Allah... And you are going to see a 10 years old child becoming a suicide bomber. Because that child had no chance to learn, to think, to use his mind. You can find this in every culture. The people who have abandoned school after 2-3 years and they are practically tabula rasa. At least in the European Union we [Romanians] are number one on children who abandoned school or who have never went to school. They are wasting their lives. They became shepherds or simple workers... Yes, they are

## English (translation)

**Emil:** I have to admit, I never heard them. They probably do communicate somehow, but I did not hear them.

**A woman (in the background):** *It's over, it's over! Bravo, little dog! Bravo, granny! Look, it's almost ready. Bravo, granny! Bravo! Bravo!*

**Emil:** I love all the animals. They are our best teachers. Let's take the wolfs, for example, there were some philosophers long time ago saying that homo homini lupus est. Like the people are acting towards other people like wolves. From what I know, it belongs to Pausanias and it was later put in discussion by Thomas Hobbes, on citizenship... It's a big mistake. Wolves are extremely social, are extremely loyal, they will die anytime to protect their puppies. Animals do have lots of feelings, but hey do not have bad feelings. The bad feelings are a human thing. The will to do bad things to other people and to feeling good while doing it. The wolves are killing the dear because he needs to eat, not because he hates the dear.

We learn from the Middle Ages that the Muslim are bad. The Muslim from the Middle Ages learn that the Christians are bad. And those kind of feelings went over the centuries. It's a very deep feeling of rejecting the Other, the other who's not like me.

**Anna:** Tradition of hatred.

**Emil:** Yes. Probably it's a mix of evolution, superstitions, of cultural dogmas, of education, of lack of education, lack of culture. The people who are not well educated are extremely easy to influence to believe all kind of things, like Taliban, they have no idea what's school. And Ayatollah, Allah... And you are going to see a 10 years old child becoming a suicide bomber. Because that child had no chance to learn, to think, to use his mind. You can find this in every culture. The people who have abandoned school after 2-3 years and they are practically tabula rasa. At least in the European Union we [Romanians] are number one on children who abandoned school or who have never went to school. They are wasting their lives. They became shepherds or simple workers... Yes, they are

using their minds, but they are only using a small fraction of what they could be, what they could become.

It is not bad to be a shepherds, it's bad to be an uneducated shepherd.

**O femeie:** Bravo, bravo, cățel! Oooo! Bravo, cățeluș! O fetiță drăguță, o fetiță așa cuminte, cuminte, cuminte...

**Emil:** Animals are good.

**O femeie:** ... și am luat toată murdăria... Uite, o vrei tu pe asta? Bravo! Bravo, fetiță! Bravo, bravo! Asta-i părul tău. Îți place părul tău? Vrei să fii prietenă cu părul tău?

**Emil:** Animals should be examples for us. From a second point of view, animals are just as God made them. They didn't perverted themselves like human did. They are just as naïve as they were in the first day of their creation. They are a constant reminder of what it was in the Garden of Eden.

**Anna:** What do you mean?

**Emil:** Because the animals, the plants are just as they were in the moment they were created. The animals were not perverted, plants were not perverted... humans got perverted. The animals, the plants are just like they were in the Garden of Eden.

**Anna:** They didn't taste the Fruit of Knowledge.

**Emil:** Exactly.

**Anna:** So the absence of knowledge makes them innocent and un-perverted. Is that so?

**Emil:** Yes. Knowledge in itself is just knowledge. Knowledge is not good or bad. The way we are using the knowledge... The knowledge in itself is...

**O femeie:** Bravo! Bravo, bunicuțo! Asta, asta! Vrei să te joci cu el? Ține-l! Hai, lasă-mă să mai iau un picuț, un picuț... Cercei. Rastafari. Îți place părul tău? Vrei să fii prietenă cu părul tău? Da, da, da, da, da! Da! Părul tău, părul tău. Îți place? Îți place? Daaa! Ești mai ușurică acuma? Mă lași să mai iau o bucățică de

using their minds, but they are only using a small fraction of what they could be, what they could become.

It is not bad to be a shepherds, it's bad to be an uneducated shepherd.

**A woman:** *Bravo, bravo, little dog! Oooo! Bravo, doggy! A nice little girl, such a good girl, good, good...*

**Emil:** Animals are good.

**A woman:** *... and we took of all the dirt... Look! Do you want this one? Bravo! Bravo, dear girl! Bravo, bravo! This is your hair. Do you like your hair? Do you want to befriend your hair?*

**Emil:** Animals should be examples for us. From a second point of view, animals are just as God made them. They didn't perverted themselves like human did. They are just as naïve as they were in the first day of their creation. They are a constant reminder of what it was in the Garden of Eden.

**Anna:** What do you mean?

**Emil:** Because the animals, the plants are just as they were in the moment they were created. The animals were not perverted, plants were not perverted... humans got perverted. The animals, the plants are just like they were in the Garden of Eden.

**Anna:** They didn't taste the Fruit of Knowledge.

**Emil:** Exactly.

**Anna:** So the absence of knowledge makes them innocent and un-perverted. Is that so?

**Emil:** Yes. Knowledge in itself is just knowledge. Knowledge is not good or bad. The way we are using the knowledge... The knowledge in itself is...

**A woman:** *Bravo! Bravo, granny! This one, this one. Do you want to play with it? Take it! Come on, let e take another bit, a little bit... Earrings. Rastafari. Do you like your hair? Do you want to befriend your hair? Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes! Yes! Your hair, your hair. Do you like it? Do you like it? Yees! Are you lighter now? Do you let me to take an-*

aici? Așa, ce bine, ce bine! Bravo, mămică!  
Bravo, cățică! Ești așa un cățel de bun!  
Extraordinar!  
Am scăpat de kilograme de blăniță. Kilo-  
grame întregi.  
Bravo, bravo, bravo!

**Emil:** Getting back to where we started. The best teachers we can find are the animals.

**O femeie:** Ușor, ușor! Bravooo!

**Emil:** The birds, the ants...

**O femeie:** Te-am chelit? Vai de capul tău, uite cum arăți!

**Emil:** ... squirrels, dear...

**O femeie:** Mă lași să mai iau oleacă? Încă una? Da? Una.

**Emil:** ... wild boar, wild rabbit...

**O femeie:** Ia, uite! Ia, uite! Bravo, cățeluș! Fetiță drăguță.

**Emil:** We should learn from them.

**O femeie:** Fetiță așa cuminte...

**Emil:** Because none of them is evil and none of them will ever be evil. They are doing what they have to do to survive.

**O femeie:** Bravo, bravo! Bravo, cățel!

**Emil:** They will not harm someone else, just...

... because the worst enemy is the human being. The only one that have the power to hate deeply. To be envious... We do not find this kind of feelings among animals.

We hear the wilderness in here. In the memoirs of Enescu's wife... she lived here during the winter, stayed here in Tescani, she could hear wolves howling all around the mansion.

**Anna:** Wolves... I thought I heard wolves last night. It was very like „woouuuuuu”!

**Emil:** Could be.

**Anna:** And the dogs also barking...

//

*other little bit from here? Like this, so well, so well! Bravo, mommy! Bravo, little bitch. You are such a good dog! Extraordinar! We got rid of kilograms of little fur. Entire kilograms.*  
*Bravo, bravo, bravo!*

**Emil:** Getting back to where we started. The best teachers we can find are the animals.

**A woman:** *Easy, easy! Bravooo!*

**Emil:** The birds, the ants...

**A woman:** *Did I balded you? Oh, poor you, look how you look!*

**Emil:** ... squirrels, dear...

**A woman:** *Do you let me take another bit? Another one? One.*

**Emil:** ... wild boar, wild rabbit...

**A woman:** *Look! Look! Bravo, little dog! Pretty girl.*

**Emil:** We should learn from them.

**A woman:** *Such a good girl...*

**Emil:** Because none of them is evil and none of them will ever be evil. They are doing what they have to do to survive.

**A woman:** *Bravo, bravo! Bravo, little dog!*

**Emil:** They will not harm someone else, just...

... because the worst enemy is the human being. The only one that have the power to hate deeply. To be envious... We do not find this kind of feelings among animals.

We hear the wilderness in here. In the memoirs of Enescu's wife... she lived here during the winter, stayed here in Tescani, she could hear wolves howling all around the mansion.

**Anna:** Wolves... I thought I heard wolves last night. It was very like „woouuuuuu”!

**Emil:** Could be.

**Anna:** And the dogs also barking...

//

# ANIMALS ARE GOOD

## MATTER AND MEANING. STUDIUM

**Author:** Anna Kravets

**Production Company:** SEMI SILENT

Duration: 13m47s

What is the difference between talking with and talking about nonhuman animals?

Commonly, the former engages a certain performative speech within discourses of subjugation and/ or affection, and the latter rather involves those of superiority, utility and commodity. Are human languages an ever blooming possibility, or still a strict limitation? Les non-dupes errent? Vocal rhythms caught in the middle of a rescue operation suggest that other purposes mobilize different type of talk.

Tactile, absorbing and memetic, the rhythms that permeate and structure daily lives are those we long to recreate in all the strictness of the human beat. Necessarily though, there is a possibility or an imaginary of their violation. Rhythms extracted by animating non-animate objects discharge each in its proper continuation.

Then also, Homo homini lupus est. Traveling from Hobbes to the Garden of Eden, Emil and I are strolling around what went wrong in the society of humans and the common sense of its relation to nonhuman animals. Animals do not possess knowledge, but have a sense of moderation. What exactly do we attribute to this notion of knowledge, and why are humans deprived of that sense of moderation?

Sound composition created during the SONIC FUTURE RESIDENCIES organized by Asociația Jumătatea plină and SEMI SILENT at the George Enescu National Museum in Tescani Village, Bacău County, Romania in September 2021.

**Anna Kravets** (Kyiv, Ukraine) is a researcher holding a double Master's in cultural studies and social sciences. Her fields of activity include radio art and radio journalism, podcasting, translation. In her work and research projects, she has addressed linguistic aspects of power relations and mechanisms of collective imaginary, anthropology of voice, work in migration, experimental media. In 2017, she founded the Radio International experimental radio workshop. Her current projects oscillate between work and routine philosophies, conditions of precarity, shifted subjectivity and participative vocalizations. She runs a radio show about the transformations of work and leisure on RUI/ Cashmere Radio.

All sounds (recorded, composed, edited) by Anna Kravets for SEMI SILENT.

Photo: Nicu Ilfoveanu

**SEMI**  

---

**SILENT**

[WWW.SEMISILENT.RO](http://WWW.SEMISILENT.RO)