



“Compassionate Sheep”

Very late one midsummer night, during relentless rain which turned every track and path into a raging river, I fought against the current and walked up the road-river with a bundle of hay on my back and a torch in my hand, to feed the sheep. I found them blissfully happy in their little shed, in the back corner of which lay a small, tightly curled-up, fast-asleep fox cub. His coat was soaking and he had obviously been washed out of his earth and sought shelter with the sheep, who had extended a welcome to him.

There must be so many beautiful instances of cooperation in the natural world that I don't see, but it was thrilling to be able to witness this one. I hurried home and asked Rich to go back with his camera.

A few months later I saw a larger fox sitting, dog-like, outside the same sheep house, calmly conversing with two of the ewes, who were standing in the doorway. I felt certain that it was the same fox, saying thank you.

Young, Rosamund. “Compassionate Sheep.” In *The Wisdom of Sheep: Observations from a Family Farm*, 43–44. New York: Penguin Press, 2024.



Mori Sosen, *Monkeys and Sparrows* (detail), c. 1800, hanging scroll (one of a pair), ink and color on paper, 51 3/4 × 21 15/16 in (131.4 × 55.7 cm). Philadelphia Museum of Art, Purchased with Museum Funds, 1962 (1962-108-1).