

# 大象的渺小空間

## A Giant Animal Trapped in a Tiny Pen

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動物園是許多孩子接觸生物的啟蒙地。為了欣賞難得一見的猛禽走獸，中南部的孩子總會不遠千里到高雄壽山動物園，那是童年最幸福美妙的享受。成長後，再重回動物園看動物的心情，卻已不再像童年那般的單純。

似乎總是要站到大象前，才會驚嘆象的巨大：總是要親耳聽見獅吼，才知道電視喇叭無法呈現大自然帶來的震撼。只是，為了能讓人類能近距離觀看，這些動物失去了自由，而這還不包括在商業買賣中，那些失去生命的動物們。

凝視著大象的雙眼，此刻的我變得，跟牠所在的空間一樣渺小。

For most people, a zoo is where they had their first contact with living animals as a child. Kids in the central and southern parts of Taiwan would always go all the way to Shou-shan Zoo in Kaohsiung just to take a look at those rarely seen creatures. For me, that used to be one of the most wonderful moments in my childhood. But now I could no longer see those animals in captive the way I did when I go back to any zoo as a grown-up.

It appears that people could admire the hugeness of elephants only when standing in front of one. It appears that people could feel the power of the roar of lions that no TV stereos could parallel only when hearing it in person. Just because of those pleasures humans want to enjoy in a close distance, however, those animals lost their freedom, not to mention the lives many others lost in the trade and commerce of humans.

As I look into the elephant's eyes, I feel myself as tiny as the space it is trapped in.

