

breed instincts, is an impressive package which includes having a sense of right and wrong. This surely opens the door to heaven.

The crux of the matter is the question of personality. What thinking human person can deny that their canine companion has a unique personality? We know that no matter how many Scottish Terriers one has had the pleasure of living with, they all have been different in temperament and *personality*. While there are typical Scottie “duties,” their style of execution always has a distinctive quirk to it. There is no other way to describe this reality.

Not only does legend, lore, and spiritual intuition say that our dogs warrant entry into the Creator’s abode at the end of their earthly lives, but the biblical promise also includes animals in a life after death. In Genesis 9:9-10, the Creator makes a covenant with the animals as well as with Noah after the Flood, saying, “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and *with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you...*” That is inclusive, and now we use the Rainbow Bridge as a symbol of the original sign God set in the clouds.

Love is love, a divine dispensation from wherever it comes. We have a basic need for reciprocal love, a need to love and be loved. Dogs can fill that need nearly as well as human beings, some would say, just as well. Consider the endowment of dogs: they have instincts we do not, intuit climates of emotion, exercise inscrutable wisdom, and obey inaudible commands. They have a sanctified innocence, an inherent dignity of their own, and are capable of self-sacrificing love and loyalty rarely found among human beings. They do not consistently abuse, ravage, and kill their own species. To believe that there can be no animals in heaven is untenable for the critical reason that love is what makes life itself tenable. Our dogs bring an incomparable enrichment to our lives with their honesty, fidelity, forgiveness, and unconditional love. But more than that, they introduce us to another dimension that is qualitatively different from life with people and human codes of conduct. They deepen our sense of connectedness with all the mysteries of the universe.