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The Animal Conference on the Environment

Thema : Food

I will think while eating

動物かんきょう会議 日本語版 FOR ENVIRONMENT

Animal conference

*If humans won't do their part,
then why not think as animals?*

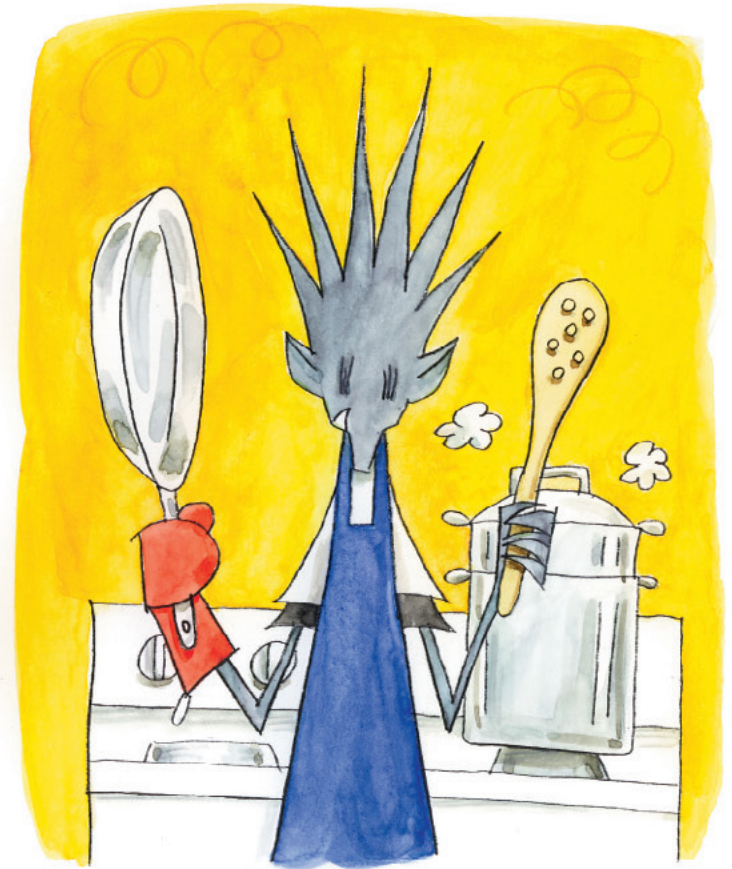
**Does being a gourmet
destroy the earth?**

動物会議に参加しよう!
<http://zomama.jp>

VOL.05

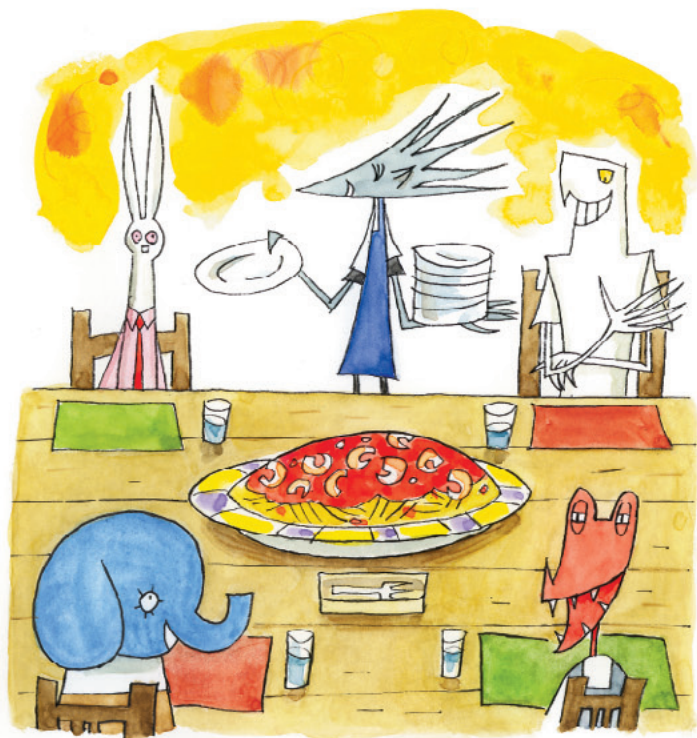


Sheltering themselves from the cold wind, our animal friends are resting, drinking warm tea in Harri's home in the forest. As the night begins to fall, they all seem to be getting hungry.

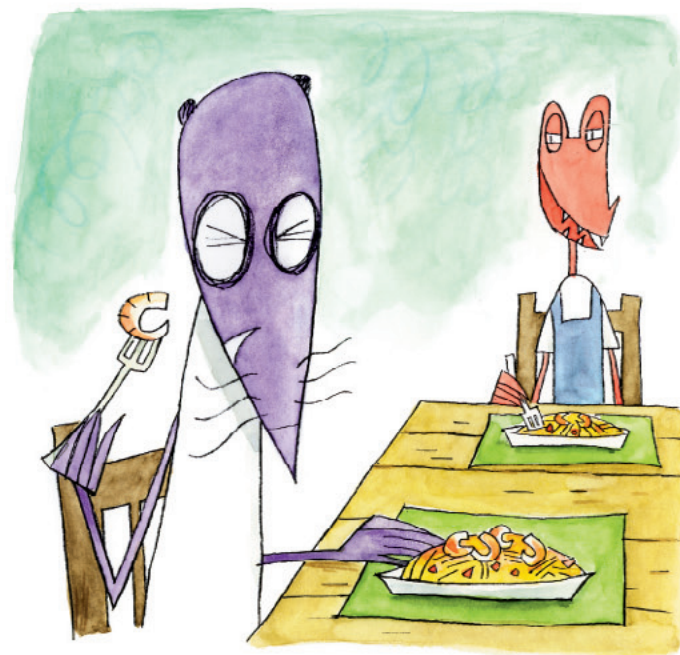


Harri, who had been busy in the kitchen, comes out holding a frying pan in his hand. "Sorry for the wait, everybody. I've just cooked some dinner for you all."

"What did you cook, Harri? Sausages and potatoes?" Max sneers teasingly. Harri smiles back at him politely and announces, "Actually, it's seafood pasta. Seafood is healthy and good for dieting, Italian style, Of course. I like to think of myself as a conpisseur." Cheerfully, he proceeds to pass plates around the table.



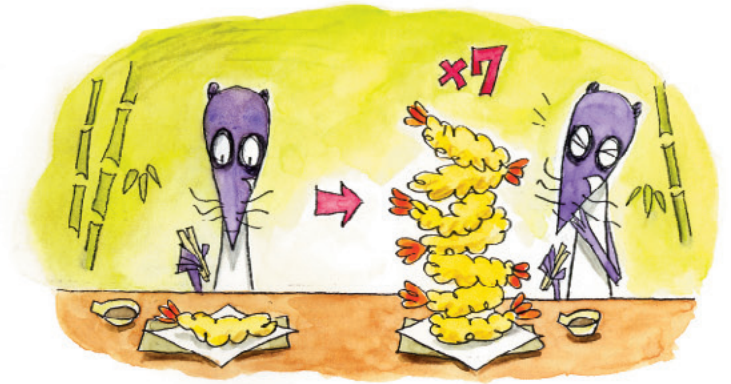
"Yay! Italian food is the trend in Japan right now, did you know?" says Tac with enthusiasm. "Ooh, I love prawns!" Tac is in the midst of devouring prawns from the pasta when suddenly Jacare snaps at Tac with a cynical glare.



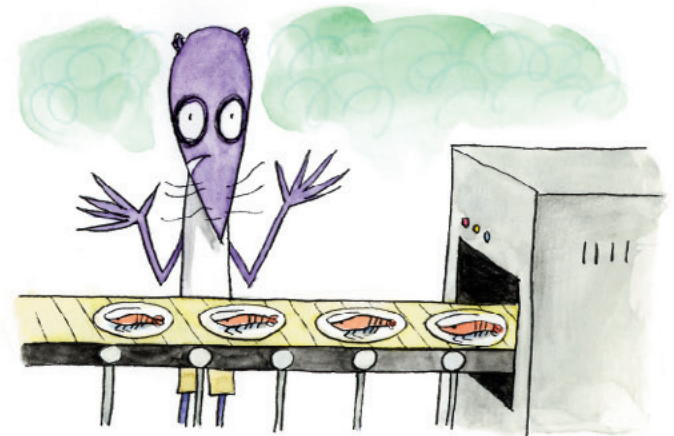
"Hey, you Japanese badgers really like prawns, don't you? What are you going to do? Eat all the prawns in the world until they're gone?"

Dr. Rabbit sends a cold look towards Tac as well.

"Ahem," he clears his throat before providing some numbers to paint the picture. "Did you know that an astonishing one-third of all prawns procured in the world are eaten by our friends in Japan. Furthermore, Japan's imports of prawns have increased to seven times more than it was twenty years ago."



Tac gulps down his prawn in a hurry. "B-b-but there's no worry, because prawns and fish can be bred in farms," he quickly replies with an excuse.



Bodhi picks up a large prawn with his fork.

"I've seen many prawn farms in my country, India, made for export to other countries, but these farms are destroying our waterfront environment. And, to make matters even worse, the prawns are too expensive for us local people. We cannot even buy them," he explains gently, but with a sad look on his face.

Tac bends his head down and looks at the ground in shame.



But Max seemed unfazed. Still chewing his prawns, he exclaims, "Too bad. But, you know what, Bodhi? We're supporting your lives by buying those prawns. What's the problem with that?" Max swells his chest and looks around at the others.

For a while, no one could say a word.



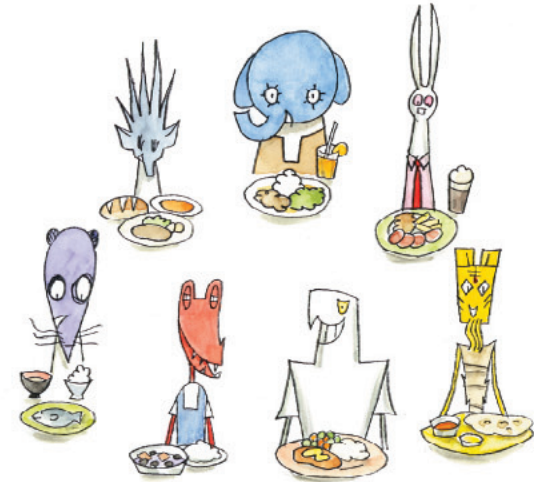
It was Mama Elle who finally broke the silence.

"Well, we just eat the vegetables and fruit grown nearby. Why eat food from other countries when it all needs to be shipped from so far away?"

"That's right. It wasn't very long ago when we all ate what was harvested from the land we lived in," adds Harri.



"Exactly. Live off the land. Eat what grows locally. It's what's best for the body as well," Bodhi happily agrees.



"Ahem." Dr. Rabbit pulls out a graph that he exhibits it to everybody as he explains, "This graph shows the self-sufficiency in food for each of our countries. As you can see, Tac's Japan relies on other countries for more than 60% of its food!"

Tac stares at the graph, wide-eyed. "This is terrible! I had no idea we relied so much on others for our own food," he exclaims, "Now I am very, very, worried."