

The Home Forum®



1 What could this be? Or, more accurately, who-who? Folk tales credit this animal with wisdom. This particular type is the provincial avian emblem of Manitoba, Canada.



2 Here's a hungry caterpillar's-eye view of this item. It's closely related (attached, actually) to the object shown in photo No. 7.



8 Some today are 20 feet long, but 110 million years ago, 'Sarcosuchus imperator' grew to 40 feet.



ANIMAL VEGETABLE OR MINERAL?



THINGS CAN LOOK wildly different when you get up close. An animal may look like a mineral, and a vegetable like an animal. Take a look at these photos. Are they animals, vegetables, or minerals? Read the clues. Can you guess what they are? (Answers on page 19.)



3 It's heavier than lead, lighter than uranium, and for centuries it has been used to help you get what you want.



4 You'd expect to look up to see something like this, but this two-legged thing with the three-letter name lives on the ground in Australia.

7 It is native to America, but its name is from an ancient Greek word meaning 'cooked by the sun.' You can cook it, too, but it's also fun to turn it into something illuminating.



6 It was once part of something much larger. It got this way by being weathered or pulverized by the action of the item shown in photo No. 5. Castles, anyone?



5 It's neither animal nor vegetable, so let's call it a mineral. Without it, there wouldn't be any animals or vegetables. Scientists say it may have been 'delivered' to earth ages ago by comets.

TODAY'S ARTICLE ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Bringing a spiritual perspective to daily life

Judgment-proof

"WHAT? LIFE IS NOT ALL about me? Don't burst my bubble." Those were the days when I thought of no one but myself and tried to interpret how others felt about me. The flip side is that I felt I had a right to judge others, to approve them as worthy or not.

The Bible has this instructive passage about judging others: "Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way" (Rom. 14:13). Eugene Peterson's modern translation states: "Forget about deciding what's right for each other. Here's what you need to be concerned about: that you don't get in the way of someone else, making life more difficult than it already is."

That passage makes me think about the difference between boulders and pebbles. A boulder is big, obvious, like an elephant in the room. It's clear that

Getting rid of smoke, letting in good air. It's not always the work of a moment.

I read an article that compared criticism to moving. The author pointed out that even if several families from the same block were moving on the same day, each one's move would be different. Some would have the kitchen all ready to go, but the living room would still need some work; others would have the bedrooms ready but not the kitchen, and so on. Most of us are trying to progress - to become a better person, or, perhaps, move toward living a more spiritually-based life - and good for you if you already have that kitchen packed and ready to go. It may just be the last room in the house that I feel ready to tackle, but I'll be happy starting with my basement. This illustration helps me get past judging someone else.

Mary Baker Eddy's writings often encourage me to examine my conversations and thoughts - to bring them into alignment with a loving standard. The words she wrote in a poem called "Love" are set to music as a hymn that I've found help-

Put out that fire that is applying the heat of criticism to yourselves or others.

ful. In part, it describes the "arrow," that mental or verbal barb: "The arrow that doth wound the dove / Darts not from those who watch and love." The next verse speaks of the need to have a Christlike approach in our actions: "If thou the bending reed wouldst break / By thought or word unkind, / Pray that his spirit you partake, / Who loved and healed mankind" The final verse spurs me on to resist the temptation to be critical of myself or others. Mrs. Eddy places the ability to overcome this tendency in the hands of a greater authority than good intentions, good manners, or just human will to be better:

Thou to whose power our hope we give,
Free us from human strife.
Fed by Thy Love divine we live,
For Love alone is Life;
And life most sweet, as heart to heart
Speaks kindly when we meet and part.
Christian Science Hymnal



9 These are often found 'growing' inside spherical nodules lodged in limestone beds. The nodules get their name from a Greek word that means 'earthlike.'



10 Does it look like a mineral? It isn't. It can be up to one inch thick. In zoos, it's often washed using Murphy's Oil Soap.



11 You'd be prickly, too, if you were trying to protect something that a lot of thirsty animals wanted to consume.



12 It's not a mineral, though it looks like one. It's not an animal. Strictly speaking, it's not a vegetable, either, but it does 'consume' vegetative matter.

(1) Closeup of the beak of a great gray owl. The large owls (males can be 27 inches tall) are rarely seen. (2) The underside of a leaf on a pumpkin plant; (3) gold ingots; (4) emu feathers. The emu is a large, flightless bird, second in size to the ostrich; (5) reflections of a dock in water; (6) sand, patterned by rippling water; (7) a pumpkin, which can be carved into a jack-o'-lantern; (8) skin of an Australian saltwater crocodile; 'Sarcosuchus imperator' is the scientific name for the recently discovered 'SuperCroc'; (9) amethyst crystals in a geode (from the Greek word 'geodes'); (10) elephant skin. Yes, elephants sometimes are scrubbed with the mild soap; (11) unidentified cactus. Cactus spines discourage animals from eating it to get at the moisture its flesh contains; (12) bracket fungus.

ANSWERS

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