Is killing dolphins worth it?

It starts with a dozen men warming themselves in the town located in the Higashimuno District in Japan. When the sun rises they head of into the sea in search for their prey: the dolphin. Many years ago, there had been a debate over the pursuit of dolphin for human consumption. Since the Oscar-winning film showed graphic footage of dolphins being slaughtered with knives. Should this be allowed? Why do they do this in the first place?

Many people from around the world, would disagree with this act of cruelty but from the mayor’s point of view we can see he wants us to understand. ‘Foreign activists ask us why we kill these cute animals, but we can see them as a vital source of food, even now’ says Taiji mayor. We can see that the mayor wants us to understand that they are grateful for the dolphins but they need a source of food. Is that a big enough reason to kill these dolphins?

In addition to this the fishermen believe that by killing these dolphins they are continuing a tradition that had been in their families for years. ‘We couldn’t grow rice or vegetables here. We needed to kill whales to eat and hundreds of people had died doing so. We will always be grateful to our ancestors.’ It does not seem that the fishermen are doing it out of spite but to keep up with the tradition. ‘Whales enables this town to function’ Everything in Taiji functions on the income of the sales of dolphins to zoos and aquariums so by killing dolphins it’s helping the town.

In conclusion many people would disagree with dolphins being slaughtered as they believe its animal cruelty and unfair. On the other hand, the locals believe it is a tradition to be continued and the only way to function the town. This shows that everyone has different views because the locals believed that what they were doing was right unlike us who think it’s wrong.

By Enitan