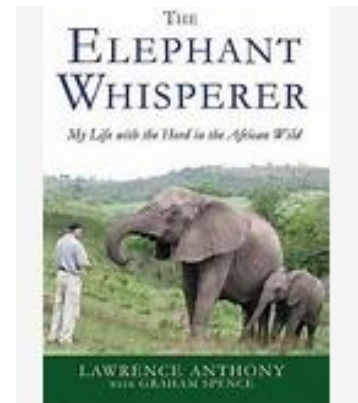


Lawrence Anthony, the Elephant Whisperer

Lawrence Anthony, born in Johannesburg, is a legend in South Africa. He was the author of 3 books including the bestseller, *The Elephant Whisperer*, bravely rescued wildlife and rehabilitated elephants all over the globe from human atrocities, including the courageous rescue of Baghdad Zoo animals during US invasion in 2003.



He was called by a conservation group to rescue a group of nine elephants who had escaped their enclosure and were wreaking havoc across Northern Mpumalanga, and were about to be shot. He tried to communicate with the matriarch of the herd through the tone of his voice and body language, eventually rescued them and brought to the reserve, and in time came to be known as "Elephant-whisperer".

In the following years, he established a conservation group, The Earth Organization in 2003, and his efforts led to the establishment of two new reserves, the Royal Zulu Biosphere in Zululand and the Mayibuye Game Reserve in Kwa Ximba.

On March 7, 2012, Lawrence Anthony died of a heart attack at the age of 61. This happened just before his planned March 2012 conservation gala dinner in Durban to raise international awareness for the rhino-poaching crisis and to launch his new book, *The Last Rhinos: My Battle to Save One of the World's Greatest Creatures*.

Following his death, there were reports that some of the elephants he worked to save came to his family's home in accordance with the way elephants usually mourn the death of one of their own.

A total of 31 elephants had patiently walked over 12 miles to get to his South African House.

Witnessing this spectacle, humans were obviously in awe not only because of the supreme intelligence and precise timing that these elephants sensed about Lawrence 's passing, but also because of the profound memory and emotion the beloved animals evoked in such an organized way:

Walking slowly for days they made their way in a solemn one-by-one queue, from their habitat to his house. Lawrence's wife, Francoise, was especially touched, knowing that the elephants had not been to his house prior to that day for well over 3 years!

But yet they knew where they were going. The elephants obviously wanted to pay their deep respects, honouring their friend who had saved their lives - so much respect that they stayed for 2 days 2 nights without eating anything. Then one morning, they left, making their long journey back home.

Activities

1. Why was Lawrence Anthony known as an 'elephant whisperer'?
2. Where is Baghdad?
3. Why were the zoo animals of Baghdad in trouble in 2003?
4. What work is Lawrence Anthony most famous for?
5. In which country did he carry out most of his work?
6. What was the purpose of the dinner that was planned just after his death?
7. Describe the actions of the elephants at his death?
8. How do you think the elephants knew that he had died?
9. How does this true story show us that all of God's creatures belong to Him?
10. Write the Scripture verse: Matthew 10:29