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More than Honey

In agriculture and environmental science, researchers and agronomists study a wide variety of living things that support crop production and survival of ecosystems. From the results found, they make rationale and prediction of how living things such as insects play roles in agricultural production and support for the survival of natural plants and animals. Besides, they also realize threats capable of diminishing the value of organisms in different ecological conditions. Bees are among the most studied living organisms since their roles are proved to support life beyond how they are commonly perceived.

Ideally, there exists a confirmation that the agricultural zones and the ecosystem, such as forests, cannot survive without bees. The perception results from the ideology that it is only through bees that plants get pollinated. Also, bees support wild plant growth, act as a food source, and also support wildlife habitats. Nevertheless, they create biodiversity by supporting the coexistence of different species of the ecosystem. It means that their disappearance means the end of this biodiversity. Hence, basing arguments on this perspective and the observable evidence from the film *More Than Honey*, one can attest that disappearance of bees does not

only imply the end of honey production but also the end of agriculture and ecosystem biodiversity.

Often, most societies perceive bees as a source of honey only. It means that most people keep bees for honey. However, researchers such as Markus Imhoof engage in an investigation to prove that bees are more than honey. This ideology follows evidence-based analyses guided by an empirical evaluation of how bees are used across the world, especially in the United States, China, and Australia.

As seen earlier, bees serve as essential agents of crop pollination. In this case, they transfer pollen between male and female parts of the flower, thus facilitating the production of fruits. By doing so, they replace human labor required to do the pollination. According to the film, Imhoof identifies bees as better pollinators that work for free (Imhoof, 2012). It means that their presence prevents exploitation of agricultural workers, which is evident in northern China, where bees have nearly died off as a result of colony collapse. The rationale depicted in this context is that bees help conserve labor, implying that their role exceeds honey production.

Globally, food stability has been a catastrophe in many regions of the world. Farmers try every way to cultivate crops that alleviate hunger as well as promoting economic stability. Almonds are one of the “superfoods” valued across the globe. Regardless, most farmers don't have the cognition of how bees contribute towards the growth of almonds. As a result, they keep using pesticides, which besides eliminating pests, they also disturb bee colonies, thus facilitating their movement, which reduces their population.

In his adventure, Imhoof first arrives in California, where almost 90% of the world's almonds are grown (Markus, 2012). He realizes that for the almond trees to produce, they depend

on bees in terms of pollination. Notably, the bees are trapped in orchards with other insects that pollinate other crops. However, their population appears undermined by the pesticides and infestation by Varroa mites. It portrays that the production of almonds exists as much as bees are available. Therefore, migration of bees due to the attack and presence of uncondusive conditions means exhaustion of the almonds. This presents one of the attention revealed by the film that failure to conserve bee population will lead to great loss in the agricultural sector. Apparently, support of almond production also confirms that bees are more than honey.

The conservation of living organisms is a narrative shallowly embraced in many regions of the world. Essentially, people conserve what they know. It means that discoveries increase the scope at which living organisms are valued. This ideology is present in *More Than Honey*. Critical observation shows that Inhoof's arrival in Arizona and Australia is an affirmation that people conserve living organisms based on their knowledge about them. For example, in Australia, the director realizes that the bee researchers are working on a disease resistance breed of bees that would maintain the population of the colony (Inhoof, 2012). Also, in Arizona, the director realizes that honey harvesters have made a discovery that Great Yellow And The Great Hope are resistant bee breeds used for agriculture in America. From this context, it can be realized that globally, the bee population is under threat.

The research in Austria and the discovery in Arizona depicts that some breeds of bees are resistance to conditions while others are well adapted. It means that rigorous research must be done to conserve bees as much as possible in order to maintain their role in agriculture and the ecosystem sector. Besides, based on this scenario, one can also realize the other meaning of more than honey. Essentially, the phrase communicates that besides reaping the benefits of bee

products, there is a call to action that requires conservation of the bee population to maintain their essential role in agriculture and biodiversity.

In some research, science implicates value on living organisms based on how they tend to exist like human beings — their mode existence in a behavior that reveals rational character. For example, bees' movement and communication reveals that they are more than honey makers. In the film, the video photography displays bees as a colony whose function is equated to that of a human brain. Also, as they move, they create sounds of harmony the same way human beings create sound while pursuing common roles (Inhoof, 2012). Their migration to comfortable places also reflects some rationale and value. Summed together, this scenario approves that bees are more than honey makers. They have a defined way of life that needs to be learned and understood while engaging them in human practices.

To conclude, bees are a source of life to living things such as plants and animals. However, research has approved that there exist potential threats that tend to collapse the bee population, thus undermining their value. As postulated by the film director, disappearance of bees does not only imply the end of honey production but also the end of of agriculture and ecosystem biodiversity. Therefore, the discovery of resistant breeds and conservation measures such as low usage of pesticides in bee zones are encouraged to eliminate the threat bee colonies. Hence, by supporting the world crops and calling an action to maintain them, is it arguable that bees are more than honey

Reference

Imhoof, Markus (2012). "More than Honey - Markus Imhoof (Official Trailer)". Vimeo,
<https://vimeo.com/45684169..>