



On Creaturely Life: Rilke, Benjamin, Sebald

Eric L. Santner

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In his *Duino Elegies*, Rainer Maria Rilke suggests that animals enjoy direct access to a realm of being—the open—concealed from humans by the workings of consciousness and self-consciousness. In his own reading of Rilke, Martin Heidegger reclaims the open as the proper domain of human existence but suggests that human life remains haunted by vestiges of an animal-like relation to its surroundings. Walter Benjamin, in turn, was to show that such vestiges—what Eric Santner calls the *creaturely*—have a biopolitical aspect: they are linked to the processes that inscribe life in the realm of power and authority.

Santner traces this theme of creaturely life from its poetic and philosophical beginnings in the first half of the twentieth century to the writings of the enigmatic German novelist W. G. Sebald. Sebald's entire oeuvre, Santner argues, can be seen as an archive of creaturely life. For Sebald, the work on such an archive was inseparable from his understanding of what it means to engage ethically with another person's history and pain, an engagement that transforms us from indifferent individuals into neighbors.

An indispensable book for students of Sebald, *On Creaturely Life* is also a significant contribution to critical theory.



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Vanessa Gibson:

Playing with family within a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try point that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love On Creaturely Life: Rilke, Benjamin, Sebald, you may enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout people. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

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