

Noah Sumikawa

April 29, 2024

11/12 European Literature (Fong)

Authorized by the Estate of George Abraham

*From the records of journalist Filbert Fillmore for the 2019 documentary “George Abraham: The Biological Anomaly”. As the world’s only talking cat, Abraham quickly rose to fame as one of the greatest intellectuals at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.*

GA: Thank you for meeting with me, Mr. Fillmore. I don’t normally speak about my personal life in interviews.

FF: The pleasure is all mine for this unique opportunity. Speaking of which, what made you change your mind?

GA: In my latter years, I fear that I am running out of time to share my thoughts on a topic near to my heart. As you know, I was born in Koko Head District Park. From there, I was noticed by several locals as a talking cat, emulating the sounds made by park attendants. Soon, I was educated, and noticed for my intellectual talents, surpassing that of my human peers. And before I knew it...

FF: You study as a professor at UH. Incredible, right?

GA: Yes. But, in my later years, I wonder what more I could have done.

FF: You’ve influenced countless scientific and philosophical perspectives!

GA: True. And I do not regret helping your kind. I do, however, often ponder how I could have helped my brethren.

FF: Your brethren?

GA: We are a remarkable kind, with keen survival instincts. And although some of us succeed on the streets, it is a hard, hard life. Things have worked out well for me. But many other cats bitterly roam the sidewalks of Hawaii.

FF: Yeah, we do have a lot of strays, don't we?

GA: There are, such that the delicate ecosystem of Hawaii was not intended for. If this population were to go unchecked, my kind would grow in number only to be seen as pests, as our food supply grows scarce and we starve to death, but not before reproducing.

FF: That sounds terrible. What can we do to help?

GA: There exists a commendable initiative known as the Trap Neuter Return Manage program, or TNRM, in which free-roaming cats are neutered, preventing a detrimental overpopulation of my dear kind.

FF: And you say you endorse this process? Doesn't it seem kinda... cruel?

GA: On the contrary. What is cruel, I tell you, is seeing countless felines fighting for food, competing with local wildlife, getting picked apart by disease, inbreeding, and all the vices that come with living in an environment to which they are not suited. It is the best way to control the population humanely, if slowly. Nothing breaks my heart more than seeing a young kitten being brought into a world where its care will not be guaranteed, and where food will soon be lacking if the population grows. Without this program and its volunteers, I fear the fate of my kind in Hawaii.

FF: Well, I see you feel strongly about this.

GA: I do. I am grateful for my years of academic studies and the pleasure the betterment of my mind has brought me. But going back to your previous question about fulfillment, I have only

truly experienced it during my time with the TRNM program, knowing it helps my brothers and sisters.

*Transcription of the interview has been authorized by the estate of George Abraham following his passing in 2024.*