

# The Dominion of Man

By Lin Stone

Once upon a time I was rushed to a hospital with a stroke. Helpless, hapless, and worried silly on top of that, I realized – as you should – my first job was to quit **FEELING** helpless. Eventually my mind reflected that the very first thing God gave to man was dominion over all things. How many? **ALL**.

Is that true? Yes. Go to the zoo and look at the all the animals that arrogantly assumed they didn't fall into that category. The toughest looking dude there is the rhinoceros. I mean this guy is built like a second world war tank.



As you gaze in awe at the armor plates on this guy, remarks will flow around you: “I sure wouldn't want to make him angry.” or, “I wouldn't even want him sniffing around me to see if he wants to be angry.” And yes, that is true. But you stop and think a minute. Here's the biggest and the toughest of them all, but he's the one in the pen and man, having dominion over all things, can wing it all the way

around the world and back. The rhinoceros is in a pen and there aren't many of his cousins left running around wild at home either, but man is free.

As long as you don't do something stupid, you know -- like dropping down into that pen with him, chances are you don't have a thing to worry about. Hey, they even let little kids come in here; it must be pretty safe to look down on this guy. What else is there to fear? The elephant? No. He bowed to man's charms a long time ago. Tigers? No. Some of my friends pay \$300 a night just so they can cuddle up to one. What about the whale, biggest animal on earth that we know about? Scientists say these beasties have been surviving for a million years or more in spite of great white sharks and assorted other felons. But just as soon as man started blubbering, the whale's days were numbered. Today whales are a protected species. What do they need protection from? **Man**.

Hunting rattlesnakes isn't the safest sport in the world either, but there are people who pay for the privilege. Little old me, laying here in bed, I can tell you how to pick up nine out of ten rattlesnakes without getting bit. In most cities of America it isn't the grizzly bear you have to watch out for, it is man. Man is the meanie on this planet. When he picks up a stick everything else had better scatter like quail. With a heritage like that there is never an excuse for feeling helpless.

**Feeling helpless is not  
a part of our heritage.**