



ITALY
**MEN AND
WOLVES**
THE STORY OF A RETURN

©S. Bergamaschi &
A. Benvenuti
parallelozero



COLLI BOLOGNESI (BOLOGNA HILLS), APENNINES.
FOOTPRINT FROM A CANIS LUPUS ITALICUS.

MEN AND WOLVES: INSTINCT AND REASON, PACK AND SOCIETY, NATURE AND URBANISATION; THE THOUSAND-YEAR INTERTWINING OF TWO SPECIES, CREATING A UNIQUE HISTORY THAT IS PART SCIENCE, BUT ALSO PART FEARS, IRRATIONALITY AND LEGENDS.

MEN AND WOLVES HAVE ALWAYS COEXISTED IN HISTORY, DISTRUSTING EACH OTHER BUT SOMETIMES ALSO UNDERSTANDING EACH OTHER IN THEIR DIVERSITY.

“YESTERDAY I SAW A WOLF OUTSIDE THE DOOR. HE WAS STARING AT ME WITH THOSE YELLOW EYES. HE WAS BEAUTIFUL. I GOT GOOSE BUMPS AND A SHIVER DOWN MY SPINE”: THOSE LUCKY ENOUGH TO MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH WOLVES ALL TELL A SIMILAR VERSION OF THIS STORY.

THE WOLF IS A SHY ANIMAL THAT RARELY APPROACHES HUMANS, HAVING LEARNED TO DISTRUST THE SPECIES TO PRESERVE ITS OWN.

MANY CULTURES IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD HAVE CONSIDERED THE WOLF IN VARIOUS FORMS: FROM THE AMERICAN INDIANS, TO THE INUITS OF ALASKA, TO THE PEOPLES OF NORTHERN EUROPE. THE ITALIANS ALSO LIVED TOGETHER WITH WOLVES UP UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF THE LAST CENTURY.

IN THE 1920s, HOWEVER, WOLVES BEGAN TO BE CONSIDERED A HARMFUL SPECIES IN ITALY FOR BOTH LIVESTOCK AND GAME, SO ITS MEN BEGAN A BATTLE THAT LED THE SPECIES TO REACH A HISTORICAL LOW IN THE 1970s (ABOUT 100 WOLVES).

THEY ONLY RESISTED IN SMALL RESTRICTED AREAS OF THE COUNTRY THAT INCLUDED THE SIBILLINI MOUNTAINS IN THE MARCHE REGION AND THE SOUTHERN PART OF CALABRIA.



BERGAMO ALPS. ARGO, AN ABRUZZESE SHEEPDOG, WATCHES THE FLOCK NEAR HIS MASTER, THE SHEPHERD GIUSEPPE.

WITHOUT INTRODUCING ANY SPECIFIC INTERVENTIONS, THE NUMBER OF PACKS IN ITALY BEGAN TO GROW AGAIN IN THE 90s AND TODAY THERE ARE ABOUT 2,000 WOLVES IN THE COUNTRY. THIS IS AN ABSOLUTELY NATURAL FACT THAT, HOWEVER, HAS REKINDLED A SERIES OF CONFLICTS WITH HUMAN ACTIVITIES AND HAS BROUGHT THE DEBATE ALL THE WAY UP TO PARLIAMENT, WHERE IN 2017 A BILL WAS CONSIDERED FOR THEIR SLAUGHTER (THE BILL WAS NOT APPROVED).

IN RECENT YEARS VARIOUS ASSOCIATIONS HAVE ARISEN THAT WORK FOR THE POSSIBLE COEXISTENCE OF MAN AND WOLF.

MANY SHEPHERDS HAVE ACCEPTED THIS CHALLENGE AND HAVE BEGUN TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS TO DEFEND THEIR FLOCKS WITH BOTH INNOVATIVE METHODS (ELECTRIFIED FENCES FOR NIGHT-TIME AND "ANTI-WOLF" FENCES FOR STATIONARY FLOCKS) AND WITH "ANCIENT" METHODS SUCH AS TRAINING ABRUZZESE SHEEPDOGS, NATURAL DETERRENTS OF WOLVES.

AND WHILE MANY RESEARCHERS STUDY THEIR BEHAVIOUR AND MOVEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, THE ITALIANS IDEOLOGICALLY CHOOSE ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER.

PAINTERS SUCH AS MARZIO TAMER CELEBRATE THEIR BEAUTY, ACTORS LIKE BARBARA BRING CHILDREN INTO THE WOODS TO TELL FAIRY TALES WITH WOLVES AS PROTAGONISTS AND ANIMAL RIGHTS GROUPS RISE UP WHEN THE GOVERNMENT TRIES TO LAUNCH ABATEMENT PLANS.

PAOLA CROSSED THE ALPS WHILE LIVING IN THE WOODS WITH HER HORSE ISOTTA, TELLING OF HER ADVENTURE IN THE WILDERNESS WITH HER BOOK "SENTIERI DA LUPI" (WOLVES' PATHS).

VILLAGE TRADITIONS CELEBRATING WOLVES HAVE COME TO LIGHT AFTER BEING FORGOTTEN FOR CENTURIES, FOR EXAMPLE IN THE SMALL TOWN OF CHIANALE (CN), WHERE AN ANCIENT CARNIVAL CELEBRATION CALLED "LI LOUPS" HAS BEEN REDISCOVERED.



GRUGLIASCO, VETERINARY HOSPITAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN PIEDMONT. CARRYING OUT AN AUTOPSY ON A WOLF.



INTERIOR OF A THOLOS HUT: A TRADITIONAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE ABRUZZESE SHEPHERDS.
THESE HOLES CREATED IN THE MOUNTAIN AND CONSTRUCTED WITH DRY STONE OFFERED THE
SHEPHERDS A PLACE TO KEEP THEIR FLOCK AND DEFEND IT FROM THE COLD AND THE WOLVES.



CHIANALE, VALLEYS OF THE CUNEO AREA.
THE ANCIENT CARNIVAL FESTIVAL "LI LOUPS" (OF THE WOLVES)
HAS BEEN NEWLY CELEBRATED FOR ABOUT A DECADE THANKS TO AN
ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY AND AT THE REQUEST OF THE YOUTH OF THE
PRO LOCO IN CHIANALE. A BOY IS SELECTED AND JOKINGLY DRESSED AS A WOLF,
WHICH BY NOW HAVE FULLY RETURNED WITHIN THE ECOSYSTEM OF THE ENTIRE
ALPINE ARC, THEN BOUND AND KEPT AT BAY BY THE OTHER KIDS WHO TRY TO
TAME HIM, CONTAIN HIS RAGE AND HIS DESIRE TO DISTURB THE LOCALS.



MUNICIPALITY OF PENNE, ABRUZZO, WWF CENTRE FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION.
SIX HYBRIDISED WOLF PUPS ARE BEING KEPT HERE; THEY ONLY HAVE 4% CANINE DNA.

M·A·G·R·I·P·P·A·L·F·C·O·S·T·E·R·T·I·V·M·F·E·C·I·T



Attenti all'uomo
Fermiamo l'abbattimento dei Lupi
Il 2 Febbraio
fermiamo Galletti
affinchè non autorizzi
il provvedimento
della conferenza
Stato-Regioni
Lupo è una specie protetta
dalla direttiva Habitat
PER QUESTO NOI DICIAMO
Salvaillupo



ROME, ANIMAL RIGHTS DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT BILL (WHICH LATER LAPSED) FOR THE SLAUGHTER OF WOLVES.



NATIONAL PARK OF ABRUZZO. THE RECENT SNOWSTORM AND ICY AIR (-12 DEGREES) HAD CONVINCED THIS FAMILY OF WOLVES TO STAY SHELTERED BEHIND A HILL ALONG A PARK PATH. THEIR THICK WINTER FUR AND CLASSIC DOUGHNUT POSITION ALLOW THEM TO COPE WITH EXTREME TEMPERATURES.



MILAN, SALAMON GALLERY. THE NATURALIST ARTIST MARZIO TAMER DURING THE FINAL TOUCHES TO ONE OF HIS WORKS DEDICATED TO WOLVES. TAMER IS EXTREMELY FASCINATED BY THIS ANIMAL AND HAS MADE MANY PAINTINGS FOCUSED ON THEIR FIGURE, STUDYING THEIR PHYSICAL PROPORTIONS AND THEIR BEHAVIOUR WITHIN THE PACK.



TRENTO, MUSE (MUSEUM OF SCIENCES).
A LITTLE GIRL TAKES A PICTURE WITH HER FATHER OF A *CANIS LUPUS ITALICUS*

FARINDOLA, ABRUZZO. FARINDOLA IS ONE OF THE MANY INHABITED TOWNS OFTEN VISITED BY WOLVES. THEIR COHABITATION IN THESE AREAS HAS BEEN A PART OF DAILY LIFE FOR MANY YEARS.



LIGONCHIO, EMILIAN APENNINES. LUIGI, A ZOOLOGIST SPECIALISING IN WOLVES WHO WORKS ON THE WOLF APENNINE PROJECT, CHECKS THE CAMERA TRAPS TO DETECT THE POSSIBLE NOCTURNAL PASSAGE OF THE WOLVES.



TRENTO. THE "LUPI IN CITTÀ" (WOLVES IN THE CITY) PROJECT INVOLVED SEVERAL ARTISTS WHO CREATED WORKS BASED ON WOLVES.





TUSCAN-EMILIAN APENNINES. INFORMATION DAY ON WOLVES. CHILDREN CAN PLAY AND LISTEN TO STORIES ABOUT THE ANIMAL TO LEARN ABOUT ITS COMPLEX HABITS.



ENTRACQUE. WILDLIFE MUSEUM IN THE TOWN CENTRE.
A FAMILY FOLLOWS THE HISTORY OF WOLVES
IN A ROOM WITH A REPRODUCTION OF A WOLF DEN.



NATIONAL PARK OF ABRUZZO. A WOLF IS INTENT ON CROSSING A ROCKY AREA COVERED IN SNOW.

ENTRACQUE, "MEN AND WOLVES" CENTRE. FAMILY VISITING THE MUSEUM'S ROOMS. A THEMATIC PATH RECOUNTS THE LIFE OF LIGABUE, THE FIRST WOLF IN ITALY WHOSE MOVEMENTS WERE MONITORED.





PANORAMA OF MONTI DELLA LAGA IN GRAN SASSO NATIONAL PARK.



CHIANALE, VALLEYS OF THE CUNEO AREA.
THE ANCIENT CARNIVAL FESTIVAL "LI LOUPS" (OF THE WOLVES) HAS BEEN
NEWLY CELEBRATED FOR ABOUT A DECADE THANKS TO AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL
STUDY AND AT THE REQUEST OF THE YOUTH OF THE PRO LOCO IN CHIANALE.
A BOY IS SELECTED AND JOKINGLY DRESSED AS A WOLF, WHICH BY NOW HAVE FULLY
RETURNED WITHIN THE ECOSYSTEM OF THE ENTIRE ALPINE ARC, THEN BOUND AND KEPT
AT BAY BY THE OTHER KIDS WHO TRY TO TAME HIM, CONTAIN HIS RAGE AND HIS DESIRE TO DISTURB THE LOCALS.

MARITIME ALPS. MATTIA, A ZOOLOGIST SPECIALISING IN WOLVES
WORKING ON THE WOLF-ALPS PROJECT, LOOKS FOR TRACES OF WOLVES IN ORDER TO
FOLLOW THE PACK'S MOVEMENTS TOGETHER WITH THE TEAM OF THE STATE FORESTRY CORPS.





ROME, THE CITY'S BIOPARK. IT HOSTS A PACK OF WOLVES FROM AN ABANDONED ZOO OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA. THE ANIMALS WERE SAVED AND BROUGHT TO ROME.



MAREMMA. A ONE OF A KIND IMAGE: A FAMILY OF WOLVES AT DAWN, INTENT ON CROSSING A SWAMPY AREA. THIS ENVIRONMENT IS NOT VERY SUITABLE FOR WOLVES, BUT THEY STILL SCOUR THE AREA FOR PREY AND REFUGE.



THE VILLAGE OF GORFIGLIANO, IMMERSED IN THE PARK OF THE APUAN ALPS. WOLF SIGHTINGS ARE FREQUENT IN THIS AREA.



parallel zero

PARALLELOZERO, VIA DONATELLO 19/A, MILAN - INFO@PARALLELOZERO.COM - WWW.PARALLELOZERO.COM - +39.02.89281630