

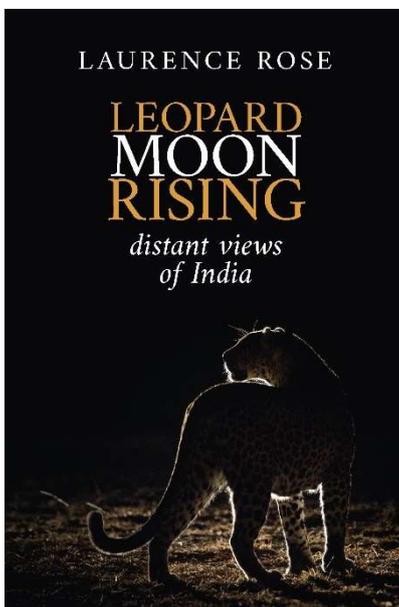
Leopard Moon Rising: distant views of India

by Laurence Rose

British conservationist Laurence Rose travelled to India to hear stories that are rarely told: first-hand accounts of indigenous people's special relationships with the wildlife around them. The Warli people living in the urban forests of Mumbai use ancient art practices and traditional dance to protest forest destruction and encroachment. Like the Maldhari pastoralists of Gujarat, they live harmoniously alongside some of the allegedly most dangerous animals in the world. In Mumbai, it is the leopard, living at the highest density of any urban big cat population. In Gujarat's Gir forest, it is the endangered Asiatic lion, which preys on the herdsmen's prized buffalo. Rose delves into the values and practicalities that govern life among India's big cats, discovering that even the tiger is revered as much as it is feared.

Along the way, he observes at first hand the devastating effect of the Asian vulture crisis, which has seen over 100 million birds die in ten years. The human cost is only beginning to be understood, with the effects on some communities hidden from official view.

The country that saw the world's first conservation principles laid down – by the emperor Ashoka, ruling the Indian subcontinent in the 3rd century BCE – now struggles to live by his edicts. Rapid economic growth, population growth, infrastructure development and the spread of mining and agriculture are essentially the same threats as are encountered everywhere on Earth. Opposed against them are ancient aspects of culture that deem such assaults on nature anathema. For an outsider like Laurence Rose, the roles of traditional culture and contemporary values are best understood when the two sides come together and do battle.



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About the Author:

Laurence Rose is a leading wildlife conservationist who has worked in more than twenty countries to save species from extinction and defend the most important places for wildlife. He joined the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in 1983 and is currently Change Manager for [*Back from the Brink*](#), a hugely ambitious, eight-organisation, multi-million pound collaboration for threatened species recovery across all nature.

After more than three decades in mainstream conservation he is using his writing to challenge government, society and the conservation sector itself to adopt a more radical, urgent approach. His first book *The Long Spring* was published in 2018, and *Framing Nature* in October 2020. Laurence is also a writer, composer and artistic collaborator. All his writing originates from direct personal experience and mindful observation. Originally from Kent, he has lived in rural West Yorkshire since 1999.

To request a pdf for review, interview, talk or further information please contact laurence@laurerose.co.uk



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PRAISE FOR FRAMING NATURE

"Read Laurence Rose's book; it will be worth your time. Almost every one of Rose's pages here are deep sourced and expertly informed, but also enamoured of their subjects, with every one being locally witnessed, and beautifully placed." – **Tim Dee, *Caught by the River***

"Gives full rein to Rose's lyrical prose" – **Mark Cocker, *New Statesman***

"Rose has a knack of observing a whole landscape. While his focus may be on individual species, his keen gaze takes in all sorts of details, making this a fascinating read for anyone with an interest in any aspect of the natural world." – **Matt Merritt, *Bird Watching Magazine***

PRAISE FOR THE LONG SPRING

"No book has made me want to sprout wings and fly quite like Laurence Rose's modern classic as it chronicles nature's progress from winter slumber to verdant awakening in language so beautiful it sings." – **Stuart Winter, *Sunday Express***

"As a detailed primer to the world above our heads, *The Long Spring* makes for an inspiring, eye-opening read. And Rose is as affable and informed a guide as you could hope for." – **Oliver Balch, *The Spectator***

"Rose is excellent on the science that informs our understanding ... His ear for the sounds of birds is exceptional, while his ability to render their spring songs in precise language is among the foremost pleasures of the book. Impressive." – **Mark Cocker, *New Statesman***

"I will dip into *The Long Spring* for years to come, to sit with the author in some out of the way edgeland in Europe, marvelling at the many delights that fill the air, and learning more about this quirky, richly rewarding continent." – **Mary Colwell**

"Intelligent and thoughtful, and a very good read." – **Mark Avery**