

That was only the beginning. The elephant then began a rampage of assaulting human beings and attacking dwellings. Seven (7) people were caught, mutilated and killed that day. It was the beginning of a little over two days of terror and despair.

The elephant was not done and continued a killing spree throughout the area. In the end 13 people had been killed, all of them suffering from unspeakable torment as the animal took them apart.

Why would an elephant search out seemingly specific persons to kill and why continue the punishment so long? This is not their way!

However, it is stated early in the story that this elephant was a female elephant, not a male as was thought by those who saw it. Such behavior is not habitual but when it is done, it is said that it is normally male elephants that do it. The elephant was shot and then it was revealed to be a female, ... a female that had lost every fear in its rampage.

It came to be known that this female elephant had a youngster that wandered a bit away and came into contact with a large group of local people who were trying to kill the elephants. The people focused their attention on the youngster and brutally tortured it with small stones, large rocks, crackers, burning "mashals" until it was dead. The sorrowful mother was forced away from the immediate area but in her mourning, she seems to have made a plan. She didn't stop to eat anything during her rampage, although all manner of good food was available to her. She didn't harm any animal. She did not assault a mentally challenged man although she could have in a moment.

Perhaps nobody really knows much about how and what elephants think but one could easily believe this elephant got her revenge.

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Joel Sartore is an outstanding photo artist who takes outstanding photos of wild animals. Joel's style is unique and he has travelled the world taking photos of wild animals. ZOO'S PRINT will feature a group of photographs by Joel every month, starting with next issue in which we will display photographs taken in India during Joel's visit.

Joel Sartore has produced more than 30 stories from around the world as a freelance photographer for National Geographic

He is an author, speaker and teacher who captivates audiences with his funny and inspiring adventures.

His images show a world worth saving.

We welcome Joel to the pages of ZOOS' PRINT magazine in its 30th year of publication.

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