



Newsletter October 2009

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SIGNIFICANCE OF COWS

"Of all creatures, the cow is given a special place in the religious tradition of India". Indeed, Krishna is often known as 'Gopal' and 'Govinda' - names that refer to His loving feeling for cows. The very name of Krishna's holy land of Braj (pasture) and His spiritual abode Goloka (cow-world) reveal His intimate connection with cows. While such loving cows are helplessly dragged into the organized slaughter houses, only their throats to be slit and skin to be ripped off causing unbearable pain, our Vrindavan Goshala is working very hard towards protecting them and giving voice to their agony. Not only that, by supporting Vrindavan's Goraksha Seva program you are protecting Mother Earth (which is also symbolized by a cow in the Vedic paradigm) through the promotion of "Environment Friendly" farming practices.

WHAT IS COW PROTECTION?

THE ACTUAL PHILOSOPHICAL REASON FOR COW PROTECTION IS VERY SIMPLE:

First of all, all living entities should be protected from slaughter and other violence at the hands of humans. Not only cows, but animals have souls the same as we do. All are children of god, all are dear to him. With this view in mind, it can be seen that slaughter is a form of MURDER.

The cow, however is our MOTHER, Vedic philosophy teaches there are 7 mothers:

- 1) the birth mother,
- 2) the nurse at time of birth
- 3) the wife of a Brahmana,
- 4) the wife of the king
- 5) the wife of the spiritual master
- 6) the earth
- 7) the cow

You may wonder why the cow is considered one of the 7 mothers. Well it is because she gives her milk to nourish us. All mothers should hold a position of respect, and since one does not kill and eat one's mother, the cow should not be killed and eaten. Likewise, the bull is our father because he can plough the earth to produce food grains. One does not kill and eat one's father and mother – not even when they are old and less economically useful.



COW ADOPTION PROGRAM

It is noteworthy that our program is one of the sincere effort to serve Lord Krishna's dear Cows. It is, therefore, a great opportunity for all and specially for the members of ISKCON community to support the Cow through " Cow Adoption " Program . The Cows remain under ' Care Takers', a team of committed and dedicated staff, serving with full sincerity in the spirit of complete selflessness.



BENEFITS OF COW ADOPTION

This Cow Adoption program ensures that you receive all pious credits (Punya Karma) automatically. Also when you plan your visit to Vrindavan you and your whole family can actually see and spend time with the cow adopted by you. We will also send the picture & name of the cow adopted by you. It is like owning and maintaining a cow away from home.

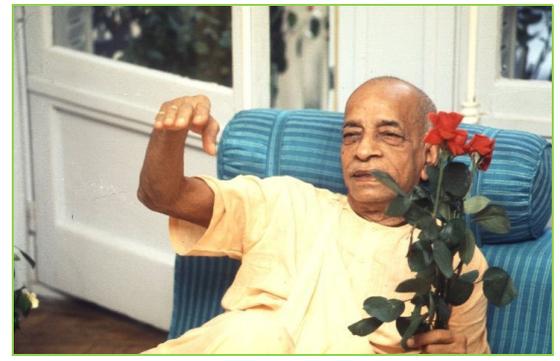
What our well wisher Sri Sidharth Muzumdar says.....

Thank you very much for these wonderful pics. I must commend the manner in which you and your entire team carried out this puja. Today there are few places where the temple administration undertakes cow protection so sincerely and transparently. I once again congratulate you and ISKCON Vrindavan for your praise worthy endeavour The entire event of the Gau Daan has had an immense effect on me.. It's an activity which makes us feel close to Lord Krishna.

Sri Krishna instructs us to protect the cow - (Srimad Bhagavatam 8.24.5)

“Without protection of cows, brahminical culture cannot be maintained; and without brahminical culture, the aim of life cannot be fulfilled.”

Srila Prabhupada on Cows....



The next symptom of the age of Kali is the distressed condition of the cow. Milking the cow means drawing the principles of religiosity in liquid form. The milk means cow's milk because it is liquid form of religious principles. The great Rishis and Munis would live only on the subsistence of milk. Srila Sukadeva Goswami would go to a householder while milking the cow and he would simply take a little quantity of it for subsistence. Even fifty years before nobody would deprive a Sadhu for a pound or two of milk and every householder would spare milk like water. For a Sanatanist (the follower of Vedic principles) it is the duty of every householder to have cows and bulls as household paraphernalia not only for drinking milk but also for deriving religious principles from her. The Sanatanist worships the cow on religious principles as much as a Brahmin is so respected. The cows milk is required for the purpose of sacrificial fire and by performing sacrifices the householder can only be happy. The cow with her calf is not only beautiful to look at but also it gives satisfaction to the cow and happily she delivers milk as much as possible. But in the Kali Yuga the calves are separated from the cow as early as possible for purposes which may not be mentioned in these pages of Srimad Bhagwatam. The cow stands with tears in the eyes and the Sudra milkman draws artificially milk from the cow and when there is no milk the cow is sent for being slaughtered. These great sinful acts, of the human being, are responsible for all the troubles in the present society. They do not know what they are doing in the name of advancement of economic development. The influence of Kali will keep them in darkness of ignorance and inspite of all endeavours for peace and prosperity of the human society at large, they must try to see the cows and the bulls happy in all respects. Foolish people do not know how happiness is earned by making the cows and bulls happy but it is a fact by the law of nature. Let us take it from the authority of 'Srimad Bhagwatam' and adopt the principles for all round happiness of the human-kind. (SB 1.17.3)

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**Bhaktivedanta Swami Goshala will be celebrating
Go Puja festival on 19th October 2009 from 7:00
am to 12:00 noon. Gift to Deities (Deities visiting
to Goshala), Pandal set-up, Flower decoration,
Cows decoration, Cow Ladoos are available for
sponsorship. If interested please contact on
mobile: (00 91) 999 704 9759**

**Govardhan festival in the temple from 12:00 noon
to 2:00 pm**

Come Let's Serve The Cows of Krishna- Balarama