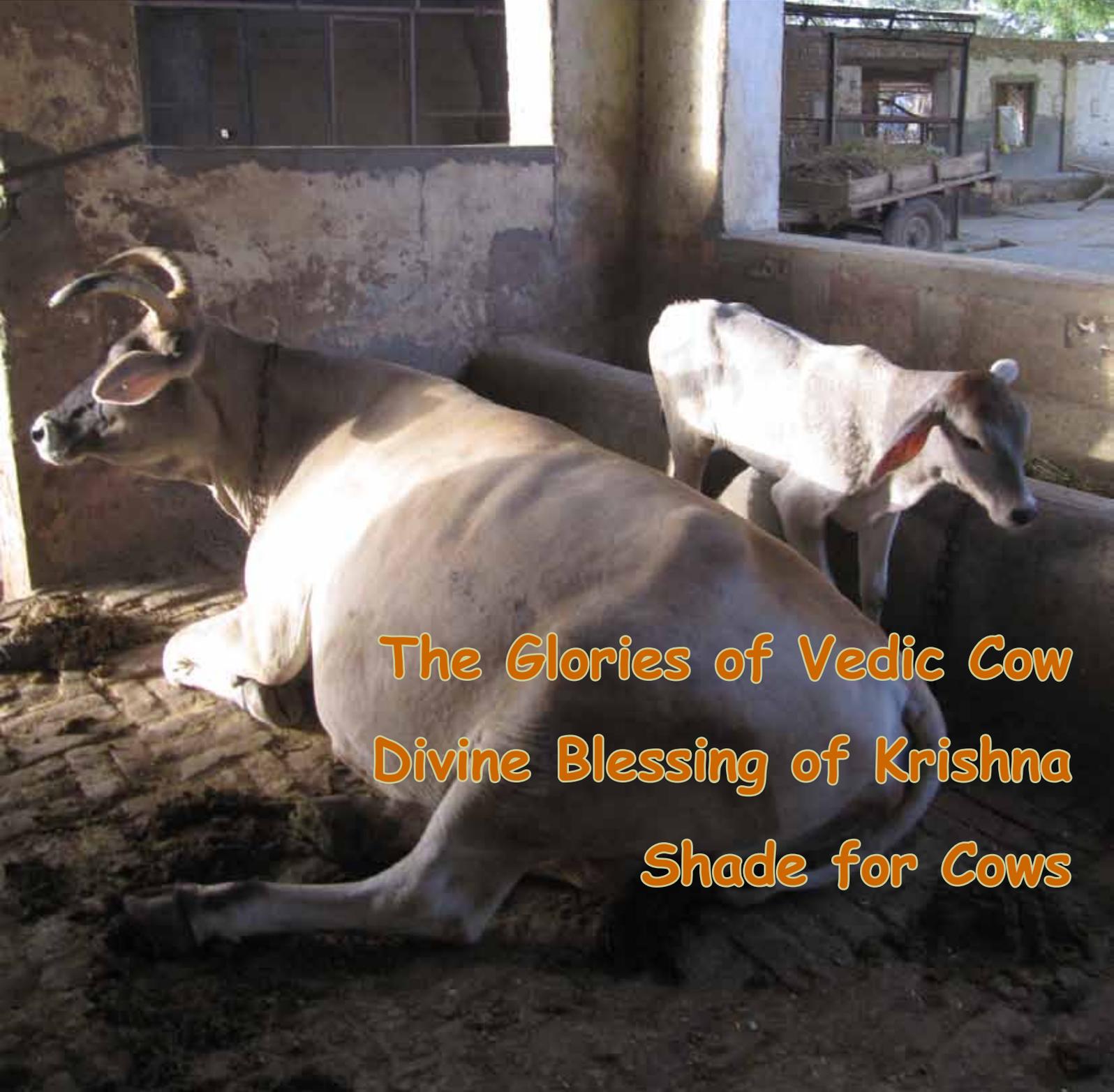




Voice of Cows

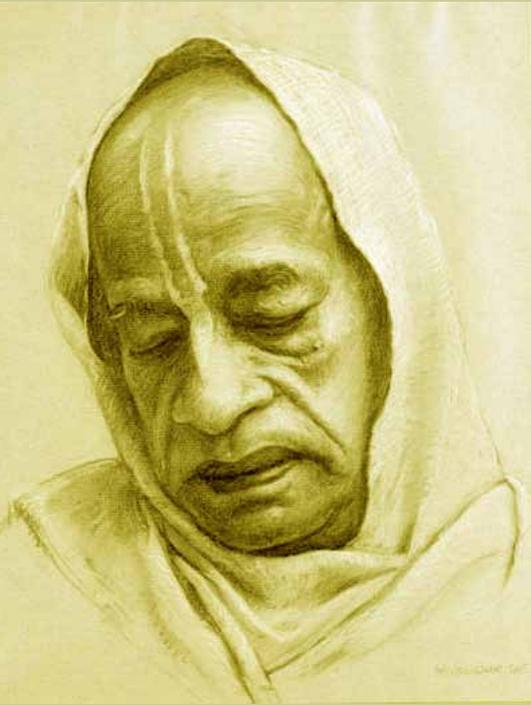
The Newsletter of
Bhaktivedanta Swami Goshala Vrindavan

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The Glories of Vedic Cow
Divine Blessing of Krishna
Shade for Cows

Back to Vrindavan Village



His Divine Grace
A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami
Prabhupada

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As far as the mode of ignorance is concerned, the performer is without knowledge, and therefore all his activities result in present misery, and afterwards he will go on toward animal life. Animal life is always miserable, although, under the spell of the illusory energy, maya, the animals do not understand this. Slaughtering poor animals is also due to the mode of ignorance. The animal killers do not know that in the future the animal will have a body suitable to kill them. That is the law of nature. In human society, if one kills a man he has to be hanged. That is the law of the state. Because of ignorance, people do not perceive that there is a complete state controlled by the Supreme Lord. Every living creature is a son of the Supreme Lord, and He does not tolerate even an ant's being killed. One has to pay for it. So indulgence in animal killing for the taste of the tongue is the grossest kind of ignorance. A human being has no need to kill animals, because God has supplied so many nice things. If one indulges in meat-eating anyway, it is to be understood that he is acting in ignorance and is making his future very dark. Of all kinds of animal killing, the killing of cows is most vicious because the cow gives us all kinds of pleasure by supplying milk. Cow slaughter is an act of the grossest type of ignorance. In the Vedic literature (Rg Veda 9.46.4) the words *gobhih prinita-matsaram* indicate that one who, being fully satisfied by milk, is desirous of killing the cow is in the grossest ignorance. There is also a prayer in the Vedic literature that states:

*namo brahmanya-devaya
go-brahmana-hitaya ca
jagad-dhitaya krsnaya
govindaya namo namah*

"My Lord, You are the well-wisher of the cows and the brahmanas, and You are the well-wisher of the entire human society and world." (Visnu Purana 1.19.65) The purport is that special mention is given in that prayer for the protection of the cows and the brahmanas. Brahmanas are the symbol of spiritual education, and cows are the symbol of the most valuable food; these two living creatures, the brahmanas and the cows, must be given all protection - that is real advancement of civilization. In modern human society, spiritual knowledge is neglected, and cow killing is encouraged. It is to be understood, then, that human society is advancing in the wrong direction and is clearing the path to its own condemnation. A civilization which guides the citizens to become animals in their next lives is certainly not a human civilization. The present human civilization is, of course, grossly misled by the modes of passion and ignorance. It is a very dangerous age, and all nations should take care to provide the easiest process, Krsna consciousness, to save humanity from the greatest danger. *Bg 14.16*

The Glories of Vedic Cow

The Brahmana Couple

By Madan Gopal Das

Once upon a time, a Sanyasi visited a very gentle Brahman Family. The Brahman Couple had no children and so they were a little unhappy. In spite of that, they were a very religious and devoted couple. The Brahman was quite well to do and prosperous. The Brahman couple received the Sanyasi very nicely and served him very nicely. Later neighbours of this Brahman couple came and listened to the Sanyasi with great devotion. In those days, people had great respect and faith in the saintly people, and the Sanyasi used to give the right kind of advice and lived up to the mark of a Sanyasi. After lunch the villagers and the saint started discussing on various topics.



While discussing various topics, the villagers glorified the Brahman by stating that, this Brahman is the most religious, gentle and humble in the entire village. However, they glorified the Brahman in his absence. They also informed the saint that he is most truthful, humble and always ready to serve the saints and guests at his house, however why is the personality of God upset with this great devotee, they inquired. Later in the evening all, the guests dispersed and the saint had decided to stay at the Brahman's house for the night.

The next day the saint expressed his desire to leave, but the Brahman replied, "How is this possible. You have come to our home and how can you leave without honouring Prasad (lunch) at our home. Please take lunch, have some rest and then you can go wherever you desire." The saint agreed. Seeing this, the Brahman couple joyfully offered obeisances to the saintly man. At that time the saint replied that both of you will soon see the face of your own son. The Brahman was little astonished and asked for the reason for such a benediction. The saint said



that by serving guests Lord Aryan is pleased. As both of you have always served all the guests so nicely for so many years, the Lord is pleased with you and so He is giving you a blessing through me. Please have no doubt in this matter.

The Brahman was astonished further and asked, "What is our duty now?" The Sadhu immediately replied, "Serving cows." After that, the saint left the home of Brahman. Later they got a cow along with a calf and were completely engaged in her service. Every morning they would bathe the

cow. They would get new fresh green grass and feed the cow with lots of devotion and love. They used to feed the cow nice cooked food and crops from their field. Thus, they would try to please the cow in all possible ways. Thus some days passed. The wife of Brahman would wash the feet of cow and use the water to clean her hair. She would drink this holy water and put it on her head. In evening time, she would light the cowshed with lights and prepare nice soft bedding from grass for the cow. She would get up very early in morning much before sunrise and clean the cow shed.

Because of the love and devotion of the couple, the calf and cow were very happy and became very healthy. Later after a few weeks, the symptoms of pregnancy appeared in the body of Brahmani. In due course of time she gave birth to a very beautiful child. Hearing this news the whole village was immersed in joy. All remembered the blessings of the saint. The result was that all the people started serving the cows with full heart.



I (Madan Gopal Prabhu) heard about this incident in my childhood. Then when I grew up I heard a similar story from scriptures. Maharaja Dilip in whose dynasty latter Lord Rama had appeared was similarly instructed by his family guru Vasistha. When Maharaja Dilip had approached his guru Vasistha for a similar reason of not having a child, Vasistha Muni also had instructed Dilip to engage in the service of the holy cow along with his wife.

As per the instruction received, Maharaja Dilip along with his wife Sudakshina accepted the instructions of Vasistha and started serving the holy cow Nandini with full faith and devotion. In order to protect her he started moving with her in forests, mountains, and on banks of streams etc. Then by using an illusory lion the cow, Nandini tested the king and then being please Nandini blessed the King and his wife to have an excellent son. Because of this, King Raghu was born and so the dynasty was known as Raghuvanshi...



The Divine Blessing of Krishna

By Parul Chandok

"Happiness is not so much in having or sharing. We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." - Norman MacEwan.

Rightly said by Mr. MacEwan. Happiness isn't a commodity that can be purchased or sold; neither is it an object which can be inherited. Happiness isn't available on the racks of a store or as some people say it is around us. According to me, Happiness is something which is within us and in order to seek it, we need to introspect and realize. On this very path of introspection and retrospection, there was one particular incident which happens to give a meaning to my life. Each morning, each of us get up and expect a lot from the day. Things like achievement of my goals, gaining something I desired for, or maybe getting back safely home. In this rollercoaster yet monotonous lifestyle of ours we happen to ask for one little thing, a desire to make someone happy, and this very wish of mine changed my thinking completely.

There have been many instances in my life which left traces of both good and bad memories but this one very particular incident impacted me deeply and made me perform the good deed. Some may take it in not - so impactful way, but it indeed influenced me a lot. A few years ago, on my way to a pilgrimage with my family to Shirdi and Pune, we met a family from Germany. A loving group of four,



including two young boys, was our travel buddies. Both the kids, bustling with energy and enthusiasm became everyone's centre of attention. As that family had shifted their base to India, with the religious intention, they told us about their home, schools and how they happily enjoy their time in the country. I personally had a very interesting conversation with those two chaps. They told me that they had adopted two-three cows in one of the Goshalas of Vrindavan and how eagerly they waited every evening after their school to go and meet them. The boys lived in Vrindavan and every day, they go to the Goshala where they spend quality time with those gentle animals and feed them. One could easily make out on their faces, the pure ecstasy and joy they gain when they do the service. How innocently, they with their simple gestures make a difference and it gives them happiness. From that time onwards I started thinking of the cows and calves and the pleasure of feeding them. The family got down at their destination and we continued our journey to Shirdi with the thought at the back of my mind that 'what a blissful pleasure it must to feed the calves and cows and I should do it at some point of time

in my life'. In Shirdi we visited the Sai temple and then went to Shani Dham, which is few kilometers away from Shirdi. While returning from Shani Dham in a taxi, all of sudden the taxi driver deviated from the main road to some road inside, towards a village. After enquiring, he said he has to get the LPG refilled in his car. After driving for a few kilometers he stopped outside a house in the village. Outside this house there was a cow shed which had 20-30 cows, and a care taker next to the shed was cutting food for the cows. I got excited to see that and started feeding the cows. The time that the driver took to refill the LPG in the car was utilized by me in feeding those cows and that is when I first experienced the amusement that one gets in serving cows. I was happy to have got the opportunity to do this act of feeding cows. On my way back, I self-introspected and also analyzed the situation which reflected that if one has good intensions of doing something, then that thought would be definitely honored by God. After this incident, I realized that God is encouraging me to do this kind act and I should adopt a calf.



Weeks passed, but that incident always remained in my memory. A few months later I, along with my family planned to visit a holy place, as my parents were eager to do the same. We finalized on Vrindavan. On my way to Vrindavan, after travelling for hours, we reached Vrindavan and the touristy journey began. We explored the famous temples and monuments, heard the popular folktales and enjoyed our time. But my visit wasn't over yet. As I had thought before, I wanted to do something and finally decided on adopting one of the calves at the Goshala in Vrindavan. My

act may not seem to be too philanthropic, but the amount of satisfaction I got is surely incomparable to anything else I have done. I went to ISKCON temple in order to find out about the Goshala, where I was well guided by everyone and they took me to the Goshala, where I adopted a 6 month old calf. I named her Nandini and soon became a proud parent. Nandini has now been an important part of my life since the past 2.5 yrs and to me she is not less than a human. I make sure that I visit her every 3months, feed and play with her, make her feel wanted and at the same time give my life a meaning. She may not be able to understand my joy or vice-versa, but all I know is that I get mental satisfaction in doing so and most importantly I feel happy. Yes, I feel happy. And this journey of my pursuit for happiness has now changed me as a person and made me give a meaning to my existence.

Those two small lads, whom I met on my train journey to Shirdi formed the backbone of my decision. And with the blessings of Krishna, I am able to add meaning to my existence by doing such a small act of serving Him by serving His cows.

**"Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Har Hare"**

New shade for Ashwini Shed Cows

The cows of Ashwini shed were facing the problem that there was not sufficient shade for them between 10am to 3 pm when the sun is really hot and just overhead. There was a small shade in the corner and we noticed that there were many cows trying to get under that small shade.

So we put our team of welders on to the job to extend the shade all along the length of the Ashwini shed and we are happy to see that now all the cows of Ashwini shed are peacefully standing in the new shade.



Vedas on cow shed construction...

" a person who constructs a cowshed to shelter cows from heat, cold, wind and rain, delivers seven generations of his ancestors"



Future projects:

We would like to construct a similar shade in Kanhiya shed's running area so that same facility can be provided to the other cows as well.

Thanks from Krishna and Balarama's Cows



We would like to take this opportunity to show our appreciation and thanks to those who have donated to the Goshala or have adopted a cow or a calf, their names are listed below with the name of the cow they have adopted.



Malati adopted by Ambika Prasada Sharma on 15 July 2012



Nandalala adopted for life by Atul Gupta & Family

**Sponsor Krishna's cows in Sri Vrindavana Dhama
and obtain boundless mercy!**

Sponsorship Opportunity	Amount INR
Adopt a cow/bull for one year on a monthly basis	1,500 per month
Adopt a cow/bull for one year	18,000
Adopt a cow/bull for life	1,80,000
Adopt a calf for life	2,70,000
Feed a cow/bull for one year	14,600
Maintain Goshala for one day	15,500
Medical expenses for one month	15,000
Feed the full herd for a month	4,54,000
Purchase of Grazing land for the cows per acre	6,00,000

If you visit our website, www.goshala.com and click on the **Cow Adoption** page you can then choose your cow or bull for adoption and the type of sponsorship as listed above. Or you can click on the **Sponsorship** page to make other donations as listed above, then click on your selection and simply follow the instructions on screen.

If you are unable to make donations online then you can deposit your donation directly into our bank account, there are separate accounts for national and international deposits, so please use the correct account depending on if you are in or outside of India.

Bank	Axis Bank Ltd.	Khasra No.1283, Chatikara Road, Near Nandanvan, Vrindavan, District-Mathura. U.P. India
Inside India	Account Name	ISKCON - Goshala A/C
	Account No.	9100100-1456-3822
Outside India	Account Name	ISKCON - Foreign A/c
	Account No.	9100100-1456-5239
	Swift Code	AXISINBB086
	IFSC Code	UTIB0000794