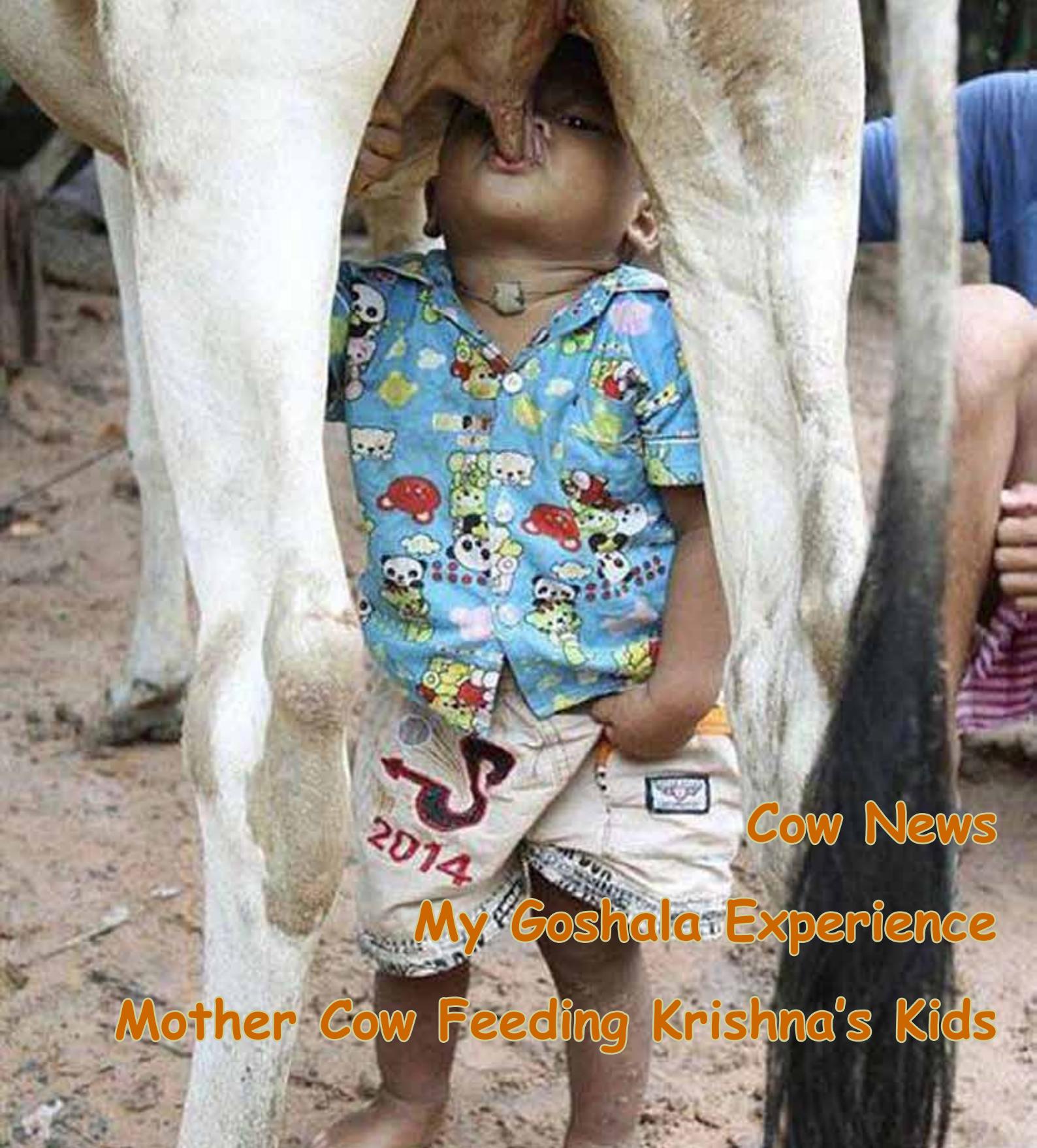




Voice of Cows

The Newsletter of
Bhaktivedanta Swami Goshala Vrindavan

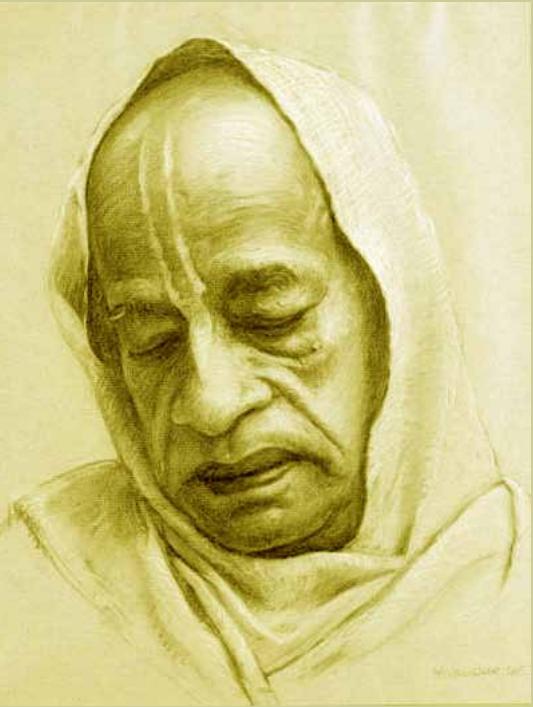
August 2013 - Vol 13 - Issue 8



Cow News

My Goshala Experience

Mother Cow Feeding Krishna's Kids



Back to Vrindavan Village

This verse hints at the perfection of human society even within this material world. The miserable conditions of this material world can be corrected by a sufficient supply of milk, yogurt, honey, ghee, molasses, food grains, ornaments, bedding, sitting places and so on. This is human civilization. Ample food grains can be produced through agricultural enterprises, and profuse supplies of milk, yogurt and ghee can be arranged through cow protection. Abundant honey can be obtained if the forests are protected. Unfortunately, in modern civilization, men are busy killing the cows that are the source of yogurt, milk and ghee, they are cutting down all the trees that supply honey, and they are opening factories to manufacture nuts, bolts, automobiles and wine instead of engaging in agriculture. How can the people be happy? They must suffer from all the misery of materialism. Their bodies become wrinkled and gradually deteriorate until they become almost like dwarves, and a bad odor emanates from their bodies because of unclean perspiration resulting from eating all kinds of nasty things. This is not human civilization. If people actually want happiness in this life and want to prepare for the best in the next life, they must adopt a Vedic civilization. In a Vedic civilization, there is a full supply of all the necessities mentioned above.

SB 5.16.25 purport

When one possesses more wealth than necessary, he certainly becomes very proud. This is the situation of men in modern civilization. According to the Vedic culture, *brahmanas* do not possess anything, whereas *ksatriyas* possess riches, but only for performing sacrifices and other noble activities as prescribed in the Vedic injunctions. A *vaisya* also earns money honestly through agriculture, cow protection and some trade. If a *sudra* gets money, however, he will spend it lavishly, without discrimination, or simply accumulate it for no purpose. Because in this age there are no qualified *brahmanas*, *ksatriyas* or *vaisyas*, almost everyone is a *sudra* (*kalau sudra-sambhavah*). Therefore the *sudra* mentality is causing great harm to modern civilization. A *sudra* does not know how to use money to render transcendental loving service to the Lord. Money is also called *laksmi*, and *Laksmi* is always engaged in the service of Narayana. Wherever there is money, it must be engaged in the service of Lord Narayana. Everyone should use his money to spread the great transcendental movement of Krsna consciousness. If one does not spend money for this purpose but accumulates more than necessary, he will certainly become proud of the money he illegally possesses. The money actually belongs to Krsna, who says in *Bhagavad-gita* (5.29), *bhoktaram yajna-tapasam sarva-loka-mahesvaram*: "I am the true enjoyer of sacrifices and penances, and I am the owner of all the planets." Therefore nothing belongs to anyone but Krsna. One who possesses more money than he needs should spend it for Krsna. Unless one does so, he will become puffed up because of his false possessions, and therefore he will be punished in the next life, as described herein.

SB 5.26.36 purport

**His Divine Grace
A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami
Prabhupada**
Founder-Acharya
International Society for Krishna Consciousness

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Cow News

By Gauranga Das

On 31 May 2013 at 5:30am after Tulasi Puja, we went to the Goshala. As we walked in the sun was about to rise. This was the first time we went there so early, but wished I had a camera because I wanted to share some of the beauty with you. My Gurudeva often instructed me to "absorb yourself in the transcendental atmosphere", and later he said this means to appreciate things here. It is very easy to appreciate the beauty of our Goshala park, with the wonderful Tulasi house, and the Samadhi's and the huge trees, flowers, hill, grass, rockery and pond, creepers and the cows.



When I first arrived in Vrindavan in 2006, I learnt to scratch cows in a place people don't usually do, it was around and in-between the horns. Sometime two cows or bulls will butt heads lightly as if fighting, but without aggression. Often we saw this and wondered why they do it. Recently we realised they do this for exercise etc, and to resolve their itch in that area. If they find a piece of stray metal or tree, or pole or car review mirrors, which they can scratch on; they position their heads onto the object scratch. Just some cow news.



a smaller one, but then then two other bigger ones came in aid of the smaller one. And they bullied the first aggressor bull. These are not ordinary animals. Many people have seen and experienced intelligence in them.

After this morning we went to the Goshala many times. And at this time you can hear the meowing of the peacocks that live in the tall trees there. In this season, summer, the sun is first seen as a white ball, which gradually gets shinier and brighter.

Here is a news snippet we found recently.



From the Deccan Herald newspaper, of Saturday 29 June 2013.

Muslim community in Mathura hold anti-cow slaughter convention
Mathura, June 10, 2013, PTI :

In a rare gesture, Muslim community in Mathura has taken a pledge that they would not allow cow slaughter in the district.

"The Muslims of Mathura are not in favour of cow slaughter. It is the handiwork of outsiders

who kidnap cows from here at night and then slaughter them," said Abdul Zabbar, convener of the anti-cow slaughter convention held at Islamia Inter College here last evening.

"Cow slaughtering was started by Britishers in order divide both the communities. The country got independence owing to Hindu-Muslim unity," Sant Ramesh Baba, who was the first to start crusade against mining in hillocks of Barsana about two decades ago, said.

"I am sure that none of the Muslim in Mathura is involved in cow slaughtering since 99 per cent of the Muslims here do not consume beef," claimed SP leader and social worker Ashok Agrawal.



Several Muslim leaders present during the convention jointly pledged that they would not allow cow slaughtering in the district and would start a crusade against it.

Then we also saw something disturbing in another paper. In spite of there being so many people here who love and care for cows, India is world's biggest beef exporter now.

Times of India Apr 1, 2013, article headline reads "Beef exports up 44% in 4 years, India is top seller"

Please pray this tragedy gets reversed.



My Goshala Experience

by Bhaktin Jordanna

Those who have been to Vrindavan understand that for all of its nectar and phenomena, its material covering can be an assault on the senses. With every turn, you encounter the noise of traffic and pop music, the sights of commercialism and litter, the smell of sewage, and the harshness of the extreme weather. Even the transcendental experiences of the temples can be overwhelming at times. It seems as if the peaceful pastoral landscapes and the mysterious secluded forests of Krishna's pastimes are gone forever. However, there was one place I found the tranquility I require to maintain peace of mind: the Bhaktivedanta Swami Goshala.



such friendly cows. From the smallest calves up to the largest breeding bulls, all were very forward with their affection. If they see you walking close to them, they immediately come over to investigate by looking, listening, sniffing and sometimes even licking. Of course, they also welcome a ladu or a scratch behind the ears.

I spent the most time with the calves and came to know them by their personalities. Most of us urban and suburban folk from the Western world do not have much experience with these creatures and so we tend to think that a cow is a cow is a cow, and we imagine dull, stubborn animals devoid of personality. From that perspective, it is apparent how this attitude supports the pervasive desire to eat, use and otherwise exploit them, but just a few minutes with these beings will reveal their unique traits, not dissimilar from our cats and dogs.

Of all the places I visited in Vrindavan, the ISKCON goshala was amongst my favorites. Fortunately, it was a 5-minute walk from my bhavan behind Krishna Balarama Mandir. I would go there often, sometimes for seva, other times to chant, or just to visit. I developed a deep affection for those cows, especially the calves. They are amongst my favorite brajabasis! Never before have I encountered



When I would bring newcomers to the goshala, I would introduce the cows according to their natures, "This one is very shy", "this one is a licker", "this one is wild and crazy", "this one will try to eat your sari". This is also what makes time spent with the cows playful and fun. They love to be fed, pet and brushed....and they let you know. When you are in the pen with the calves, they compete with one another for your attention. Sometimes if one of them feels that she is not getting enough attention, she will headbutt you or bite your sari to get you to scratch her chin or brush her hindquarters. One time, one of the gates to pen was left unlocked and all the calves made a mad dash to escape like a bunch of naughty children. I have never seen cows run like that before! It was a funny event to witness for my friends and me, and even the cowherd boys were amused at their giddiness. Then we all worked together to round them up and return them to the barn. There was a sense that we all felt as though we were partaking in the pastimes of Krishna and the gopis.



Aside from the joys of being with the cows, the goshala has other special features: lovely



gardens and grassy knolls where devotees come to share katha, play mrdanga, or read; a beautiful shrine to Tulasi devi which provides an auspicious setting for japa; and the newly established samadhi of Yamuna devi, as well as those of other exalted devotees that have departed. These aspects of the grounds contribute to its meditative atmosphere.

I visited the goshala on many occasions, for many purposes. It is my wish

that the devotees in Vrindavan will also come there to enjoy its many assets, as a retreat from the modes of the city. Furthermore, I sincerely desire that the devotees come to appreciate the goshala, not only as a place of refuge for themselves, but as a sanctuary for the cows, and to recognize the spiritual significance of cow protection. I pray that the devotees realize that the future of the goshala and cow protection is in their own hands, and to open their hearts, hands and pockets in this service. Lastly, I ask that all the devotees take the inspiration that they receive from this special place to support and create cow protection in their own communities. **Hare Krishna.**

Cow Dung Facts and Statistics

By Madan Gopal Das

The dung available from one fully grown cow/ bull is around 5.4 tonnes per annum. So the dry dung will be around $5.4 \times 0.30 = 1620$ kg per annum. This is equivalent to 712 kg of dry wood. This amount of wood comes from 6 large trees. So by keeping one old cow or bull alive we protect 6 large trees per annum from felling.

Around the beginning of 20th century states in India where cow slaughter was banned only used cow dung cakes for the pyre to give agni samskar to dead bodies as per Vedic custom. So that much forest was saved as that many trees were not cut. A tree has great value when it is alive. It decreases pollution, maintains rain cycle, turns CO₂ into O₂ etc etc. It also provides shade, fruits and flowers. Also as forests were cut down to provide fuel we saw that many medicinal herbs easily available in forests were lost because of deforestation.

By the killing of one old bull we deplete the number of cow dung cakes required for the funeral pyre of 10 people per year. So if a bull is allowed to live for 10 years beyond the age of slaughter then he can provide for 100 peoples funeral pyre thus protecting many full grown trees.

In Vedic culture there are 16 samskaras. These samskaras are meant to put a person in the right state of consciousness or mind. In performing all the samskaras correctly cow dung is required. So in the absence of dung the Vedic culture cannot exist.

Also most of ayurvedic medicines are to be prepared on slowly burning cow dung cakes. Without using the dung cakes the medicines don't get the proper medical properties. Actually on one side government is making a show of giving encouragement to ayurveda and on other side allowing cow slaughter thereby creating shortage of cow dung cakes. This is nothing but duplicity.

Ayurveda cannot exist without cow dung and urine. If such medicines are made on a coal fire or using electricity then it is like running a petrol vehicle on kerosene. It can't work and even if it works it won't work properly. Similarly ayurvedic medicines have to be made on cow dung cakes only to have full effect.

For example; for hundreds of years mid wives in Indian villages had been using cow dung fomentation on pregnant women, small babies and women who had just delivered babies. These mid wives used to give cow dung cake fomentation to babies and just delivered women with burning dung which would take care of all their health. But with absence of cow dung cakes the health of so many ladies is sacrificed. Because of the loss and absence of this lakhs and crores of ladies are inflicted with diseases associated with child birth and a painful life thereafter till death.



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.



Pramila Devi From USA adopted Revati Priya



Swapna Shahji from UAE adopted 12 cows and sponsored Go-puja

Sponsor Krishna's cows in Sri Vrindavana Dham 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
Maintain Goshala for one day	20,000
Medical expenses for one month	25,000
Feed the full herd for a month	5,00,000
Developing of Grazing land for the cows per acre	1,00,000

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