

The Glories of Go Seva

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Obeisances to Lord Kṛṣṇa, who is the pleasure of the cows, the land, and the senses, and who is a swan swimming in the Mānasa lake of the goddess of fortune's thoughts.²⁶

I offer my respectful obeisances to the Supreme Absolute Truth, Kṛṣṇa, who is the well-wisher of the cows and the brāhmaṇas as well as the living entities in general. I offer my repeated obeisances to Govinda, who is the pleasure reservoir for all the senses.²⁷

Lord Kṛṣṇa would offer obeisances to the cows, brāhmaṇas and demigods, His elders and spiritual masters, and all living beings - all of whom are expansions of His supreme personality.²⁸

O cows, you make unhealthy people healthy, and ugly people beautiful. By your auspicious sound, you also make our house auspicious. That is why your glories are sung in the assembly of righteous people.²⁹

One should gently scratch the body of cow, offer her a mouthful of green grass and reverently circumambulate her.

If cows are maintained nicely and comfortably, Lord Gopala will be pleased.³⁰

For one who worships and
 meditates on the earth,
 banyan trees, tulasi, cows,
 brāhmaṇas, and
 Vaisnavas,
 all his sinful reactions are
 diminished. By these activities
 one can please Kṛṣṇa,
 because these objects
 are auspicious for the world.³¹

The importance of the cows
 is described in these words
 of the Gītā-sukta: "Vedic
 yajnas are performed to
 worship the cows. The
 demigods rise out of
 respect
 for the cows.

The four Vedas, six Vedangas
 , and the pada method
 of recitation are all
 manifested from the cows.³²

The cow is the most important animal for developing the human body to perfection. The body can be maintained by any kind of foodstuff, but cow's milk is particularly essential for developing the finer tissues of the human brain so that one can understand the intricacies of transcendental knowledge.³³

The cow is the mother of the Rudras, and the daughter of the Vasus. She is the sister of the Adityas and a source of nectar in the form of ghee. To all thoughtful men I advise: Never kill an innocent cow.³⁴

May the cow come to our house and benefit us. May she happily stay in our cowshed and surcharge the whole atmosphere with her beautiful sounds. May the cow give us her milk early in the morning, to be used for the worship of the almighty Supersoul.³⁴

The cow are neither inauspicious, nor anyone can steal her, nor can any enemy give her trouble. By the help of a cow, a householder is able to give worship the Lord and charity to others. May she remain perpetually with them.³⁴

May cows become our
princible wealth. May
Indra give us wealth in
the form of cows, may
cows' milk mixed with
somarasa become the main
ingredient for performing
sacrifice. Those
who possess cows are
almost on the level of Indra.
I wish to faithfully worship
the Supreme Lord with the products
of cows.³⁴

O cows, may you have
many calves. May you get
sufficient food and may
you drink pure water
from a lake. May you
never fall into the trap
of miscreants, and
may the weapon of Rudra
always protect you.³⁴

O cows, who are not meant to be killed! I offer my obeisances to you, at the time of your birth and after your birth. I also offer obeisances unto your body, the hairs on your body, and to your hooves.³⁴

I offer my obeisances to the cow, in whose body Laksmi resides. I offer my respects to the beautiful cow, for she is pure, simple, and aromatic. I bow down before the cow, who is the daughter of Brahma. She is pure internally and externally and she keeps the whole atmosphere pure by her presence. I repeatedly offer my obeisances unto her.³⁵

When the churning of the milk ocean took place, five cows appeared from it. Among them, the best one was known as Nanda. I offer my obeisances to her again and again. O best of the surabhi cows, you fulfill all desires, and you are bathed by the waters of all the holy places. Therefore, O purifying agent, my repeated obeisances unto you.³⁵

I bow down to the cow, who pervades all animate and inanimate beings, and who is the mother of all who lived in the past, and who will live in future.³⁵

A person who serves the cow, and takes care of her in all respects, receives the most rare benediction from her.

Do not become envious of the cow, even in your mind. Always try to please her and serve her as far as possible. Offer respect and worship her.

A human being who joyfully serves the cow daily becomes fit to receive great prosperity.³⁵

O King, I do not see any wealth in this world equal to the cow. O protector of the subjects, hear and chant the glories of the cow, give cows in charity and see cows everyday.

The cow has been glorified in the sastras. The cow is the source of prosperity. There is no tinge of sin in her.³⁶

The cow always supplies food grains to the human beings, as well as the ingredients of sacrifice to the Lord. The cow is the mouth of sacrifice, she possesses divine nectar and releases it in the form of milk. The whole world bows down before her. ³⁶

In this world, the cow is equal to Agni, as far as her body and effulgence is concerned.

She is the source of brightness and the giver of happiness to all living entities.

Wherever cows live fearlessly, that place becomes sacred.

The cow is the staircase to heaven. She is also worshiped in heaven. She fulfills all of one's desires.

There is nothing superior to her. ³⁷

The cow, the land, and knowledge are very important objects. These things should be given in charity. The result achieved for donating these things is the same. These three objects can fulfill all the desires of human beings. The cow is accepted as the mother of all living entities. She gives happiness to everyone.³⁷

A person who wants advancement in life should always live in the company of cows. One should always keep a cow. She is very auspicious. One should show respect for and worship the cow.³⁷

One should not unnecessarily give trouble to or disturb cows. If one mistreats a cow and does not take care of her properly then by her anger that person becomes destroyed. The temple and many other places are smeared with cow dung for purification. A person who daily feeds a cow even a morsel of grass certainly attains the result of observing many vows.³⁷

One who offers obeisances to the cow and circumambulates her becomes liberated from all sinful reactions and enjoys heavenly pleasures. As Brhaspati, the spiritual master of the demigods, is worshipable, as Varayana, the Lord of Laksmi is worshipable, so the cow is worshipable for all.³⁸

By circumambulating the cow,
one attains the result of
circumambulating the whole world.

One should give cows in
charity and protect her in all
respects. A foolish person
who beats or chastises a
cow goes to hell. A person who
gives some food and water to a
cow attains the result of
performing the horse sacrifice.

There is no doubt
about it. Rare are those who
daily worship and serve
the cow.³⁹

By scratching the body of a cow
and by removing the dust and
worms from a cow's body one
removes all his sinful reactions.

One accumulates great piety
by feeding a cow. By
tending the cows in the
field, one becomes eligible to
live in heaven for countless
years. By building a cowshed
one becomes the king of the
whole province. Simply by
feeding her salt, one
attains good fortune.⁴⁰

The dust from cows' hooves purifies all sins. It doesn't matter if that dust is from a holy place or from a contaminated place, like Magadha or Kikata.

There is no doubt about it. The cow is all-auspicious, purifying and the giver of prosperity.

The place where the cow lives is purified. It is very auspicious to touch a cow because this destroys one's bad dreams and sinful reactions.⁴⁰

The Ganges personally lives in the head of the cow. Any place smeared with cow dung is considered pure. That is why the sacrificial arena and the cooking place are first smeared with cow dung. Lakshmi lives in cow dung, Ganga lives in cow's urine, Soma lives in cow's milk, yogurt and ghee, and Sarasvati lives in Gorocana. The ancient acaryas have accepted the cow as the form of Lord Visnu. The cow is fit to be worshipped, glorified and offered obeisances. A human being should feed the cows and serve her.⁴⁰

The cow is the support of all living entities, and the ocean of auspiciousness. The cow is the past and future. She nourishes the health of all living entities, and she is the root of prosperity. The piety one achieves by feeding a cow is never destroyed. ⁴¹"