

Dec. 2011



CARE FOR COWS

I N V R I N D A V A N

**CELEBRATING
GOPASTAMI**



**RESCUE
ATTEMPT**

NEW SHED NEARS COMPLETION

Jaya Sri Guru! Jaya Sri Gopala!
Jaya Sri Go Mata!

Dear Friends,

What follows is the dedication
of a book entitled *The Cow*
-- *The Mother of Prosperity* by
Ralph A. Haynes, an American
cow lover from the 1930's.

The Cow
One of the greatest blessings
to the human race

**No nation or people has
become highly civilized
without her.**

**She possesses the best
human food on Earth.**

**She makes this health-
building, strength-giving
food from grass and coarse
plants.**

**She produces not only
food for her young and
her keeper's family, but a
surplus besides to sell.**

**Without her agriculture
is not permanent or
prosperous, people are not
healthy or happy.**

**Where the cow is kept
and cared for, civilization
advances, lands grow richer,
homes grow better, debts
grow fewer.**

**Truly, the cow is the Mother
of Prosperity.**

**For Better Cows
Better Cared for
Ralph A. Hayne**



Care for Cows in Vrindavana
is inspired by His Divine Grace
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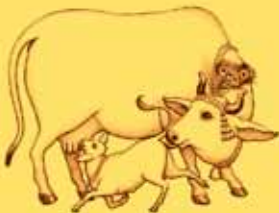
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CARE FOR COWS

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GOPASTAMI

What follows is a portion of Chapter Ten of the *Gopala-pūrvā-campū* by Srila Jiva Goswami which describes Kṛṣṇa's first days supervising the calves which is the event celebrated on **Gopastami**.

"1. I worship the last part of the *kaumāra* period experienced by Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma, in which they have given up drinking from the breast, are growing constantly and becoming more and active their eyes are constantly open for new games to play and their mouths always filled with laughter, their curiosity is boundless and they seek out their friends to enjoy their company and they grow more interested in surveying the calves.

"2. Balarāma's skin was white, but he wore blue cloth, Kṛṣṇa was swarthy, but his cloth yellow. They had become expert in learning to blow the buffalo horn and eager to play in the company of their friends, the two princes astonished in many ways.

"3. By this time, they had gradually come to wear a cloth all the time. For example: Kṛṣṇa wore the cloth in which his mother had carefully dressed him, but quickly undid it himself, considering it to be a bondage. Then again he would ask for and wear it, but with little regard for modesty, considering half a cloth to be enough.

"4. When he had arrived at this age, then Rāma and Kṛṣṇa would both go all the time with their father while he pastured the cows and wander all about the woods.

"The two boys, Rāma and Kṛṣṇa, went into the woods climbing into the arms of affectionate uncles and into those of their father. They asked the identity of everything they saw there, and bestowed joy on everyone.

"5 There, even though they were held back by the elders, they played very competitively with each other, trying first to simultaneously bring a pair of cows, then two pairs and

then a group of six cows under control. Afterwards, they would run quickly after each other through the herds, separating the cows who had gotten mixed in with the oxen, and boldly controlling recalcitrant cows and bulls by taking hold of their horns. Then they would catch the animals in groups of five.

"6. After a few days had thus passed, when the queen of the Vraja became aware of these activities, she chastised her husband in words born out of her love [for Kṛṣṇa]: 'What is this unheard of activity that you are doing, then?' Being somewhat distressed and embarrassed, Nanda started to deceive the boys and go to the forest [alone], giving his permission to each of the two boys' mothers to affectionately restrain them from going themselves.

"7. Being thus restrained, the two boys became [even more] anxious to go out, and so they cried. Feeling like this, they soon decided to go secretly to see their father, and they left the house, but not being able to determine the path [taken by Nanda], and giving joy to his friends, they went outside the settlement and joined the boys taking care of the calves there and took pleasure in playing and caring for the calves with them.

"8. When the king and queen soon realized that the two boys had done this several times,

even though they felt glad, they feared for possible future difficulties and decided between them. 'If the two boys are not able to remain tranquil without staying with the cows, then let us allow them to take care of the calves in the immediate vicinity of the settlement.'

"9. Then the king wisely conferred together with his brothers and others who knew the mantras, and had an exact time for the ceremony determined by the knowers of the tantras. Then the invocation of the auspicious day was recited, and finally the boys were initiated into the care of the calves.

"10. Many other older cowherds also took a holiday and feeling happiness in their minds, made their own little boys become calf-herders with the two brothers. At the beginning of the day, Balarāma and Kṛṣṇa were made beautiful by their mothers who bathed and dressed them, gave them food to eat, clothes to wear, decorated them with jewellery and gave them sticks, ropes, flutes and horns to carry.

"11. When sandals were brought to him to wear, Kṛṣṇa immediately rejected them, 'No, no, certainly not. If we wear shoes then the essence of our religious duty of respect for cows, the wealth which has come down to us through the generations, will be adversely affected.'"

CELEBRATING



GOPASTAMI



Madhava Priya Devi celebrates Gopastami by feeding cows one of their favorite fruits -- bananas. Here she is saluted by Laksmi who she has sponsored for the past five years.



Above: The calves anxiously await their share of *laddhus* and bananas



Left: Sura Dasi gracefully accepts the honor of being worshiped on behalf of the herd.

Right: Daneshvara Dasa performs Go Puja as the 200+ guests perform *kirtana*.



Above: On Gopastami many young ladies dress as *gopas* for the pleasure of Krsna.





Left: Amala Purana Dasa of the Sri-Sri Krsna-Balarama Kirtan Party leads *kirtan* in the barnyard as the cows and guests participate.

Below left: Guests shower affection on the residents of Care for Cows. The white bull is our prize Tarparka sire who was donated to us by Panchartna Dasa of Jaipur.

Below: Nanda Kisore Dasa is the nephew of the famous cow protector Satish Kumar of Go Raksha Dal Punjab. Here Nanda Kisore proudly holds a new-born calf named Krsna.





Left: Guests feed the herd *laddhus* and bananas. The best way to get the blessings of cows is to feed them well.



Above and Left: Kesava Dasa plays harmonium and sings the glories of the Lord for the pleasure of the cows.



Right: After the cows are fed and groomed to their satisfaction, the human guests are offered a seven-course feast in honor of Krsna and Balarama's first taking the calves out to pasture.





The crane hoists the first section of the metal dome-roof and sets it in place.



OUR NEW COWSHED AT KIKI NAGLA NEARS COMPLETION



After several delays the ProFlex domed-roof is completed. A group of thirty men and women, including a kitchen crew, worked tirelessly to get the roof in place in two days.

The new shed is 50 ft. by 150 ft. and will feed 200 cows at a time.

The roof is 22 ft. high at the apex and creates a feeling of being outside. It is guaranteed to last twenty-five years and will provide our herd shelter from the sun and rain while allowing for ample circulation of fresh air.

The interior will provide feeding sections for residents of different age groups.







Above: Members of the herd look forward to graduating from their temporary bamboo shed to the spacious new facility.

Below: Kesi Nisudana Krsna Dasa inspects the construction of the feeders underneath the spacious dome.



CAITANYA SWAMI VI



Caitanya Swami (center), Mr. Nair (right) and Kesi Nisudana (left)



SITS CARE FOR COWS



Caitanya Swami and 350 of his followers from Kerala, South India recently spent two weeks in Sri Vrindavan Dhama. They were hosted by our close friend Mr. Nair, Managing Trustee of the Che Shekhar Mandir near Sundrakh village.

Caitanya Swami previously visited Care for Cows and states that we have inspired him to create a similar shelter for cows in Kerala. He is gravely concerned that though Kerala is 100% literate and affluent, due to the influence of Christianity and Islam the citizens are losing their Vedic roots and many have taken up the bad habit of meat-eating. Maharaja stated that Kerala is one of the few states where cow-slaughter is legal and



wants to create awareness about the virtues of cow protection. He is confident that if he creates a *goshalla* where visitors can interact with gentle, loving cows, their hearts may be inspired to give up the foul habit of meat-eating and return to their culture.



WISH-FULFILLING COW

by Nagnajiti

Last year at this time you might have read about how my pelvis was fractured when a huge bull tried to mount me in the middle of the Parikrama Path (CFC Newsletter November 2010). That incident put me in distress but thanks to Care for Cows, I've survived.

After being reunited with my calf and recovering from the fracture, I was told that Rasamandala Devi from Australia

had volunteered to sponsor me and my calf and that she had named us Nagnajiti and Ambuja respectively. Needless to say, I was grateful but wondered what would inspire someone from so far away to sacrifice a portion of their earnings to maintain a mother and son she had never met.

Later I heard through the grapevine that Rasamandala Devi was cultivating a secret desire in her heart to retire from all

material affairs and live in a holy place in India. That she carefully planned how to extract herself from her family responsibilities and career and that she had made a two-year plan to accomplish this.

Since she had selflessly sponsored me and Ambuja as well as six others, I decided to reciprocate with her and open some doors so she could fulfill her dream.

We cows have connections, you know. We are dear to Sri Gopal Who can accomplish any task so I requested Him to fulfill Rasamandala's desire and guess what? She is here looking after me

Below: Nagnajiti and Ambujan



and Ambuja personally!

When you row someone across the river, you also get to the other side.

Excerpt from Kalyan Magazine by Ashok Kumar Gupta

Sri Hari. In 1976 during my first year in Sanatan Dharma Vidyalaya, Kanpur I was going to a place called Gwaltoli to see my aunt and celebrate the Raksha Bandhan festival. On the way I passed a pork shop and saw two butchers tying a pig in preparation to kill it. It was 9:00 a.m. and as soon the pig understood the ill intentions of her captors she panicked and began squealing with all her strength. Her distress caught the attention of some cows and buffalos who were passing by on the way to graze in a nearby field.

Upon hearing the pig's pitiful voice, one cow became enraged, pointed her horns towards the two butchers and attacked. Seeing the angry cow attacking, both butchers fled to save their lives while the cows chased them for a considerable distance.

One sympathetic witness untied the pig who swiftly disappeared. When go-mata returned from chasing the butchers she was greeted by the cheers of the people who had gathered at the pork shop. In great happiness they cried "Go Mata Ki Jaya!" again and again. I paid my humble obeiscences to go-mata and reflected on how she is merciful to all living beings. All glories to go-mata.

HOMEOPATHIC VETS SERVE



Our old friend Wenda Shehata from England is travelling around India with three Homeopathic veterinarians encouraging *goshallas* to use homeopathic treatments. Since we have suffered from poor results using olopathic medicines we are anxious to change over.

Dr. Tim Couzens is the vet who spent almost a full day offering free advice on how to treat several members of our herd. Left he examines Gopi who has a chronic lung problem. She was suffering from high fever and he administered a homeopathic remedy which was very effective in bringing her temperature to normal.

He prescribed a treatment and told us to keep her as warm as possible as the November nights are getting colder. On the right she can be seen wearing her winter coat.

Dr. Couzens and Wenda provided Care for Cows with an extensive list of common diseases and corresponding homeopathic remedies. We are treating several



Dr. Tim Couzens & Wenda Shehata examine Rathi



Gopi follows Dr.'s orders to stay warm

members of the herd with success. The wonderful advantage of homeopathy is that there are no ill side effects.

Below Wenda and Tim prepare some specific combinations of remedies for some of our patients.





Below our curious calves examine the medicines and help unpack them.



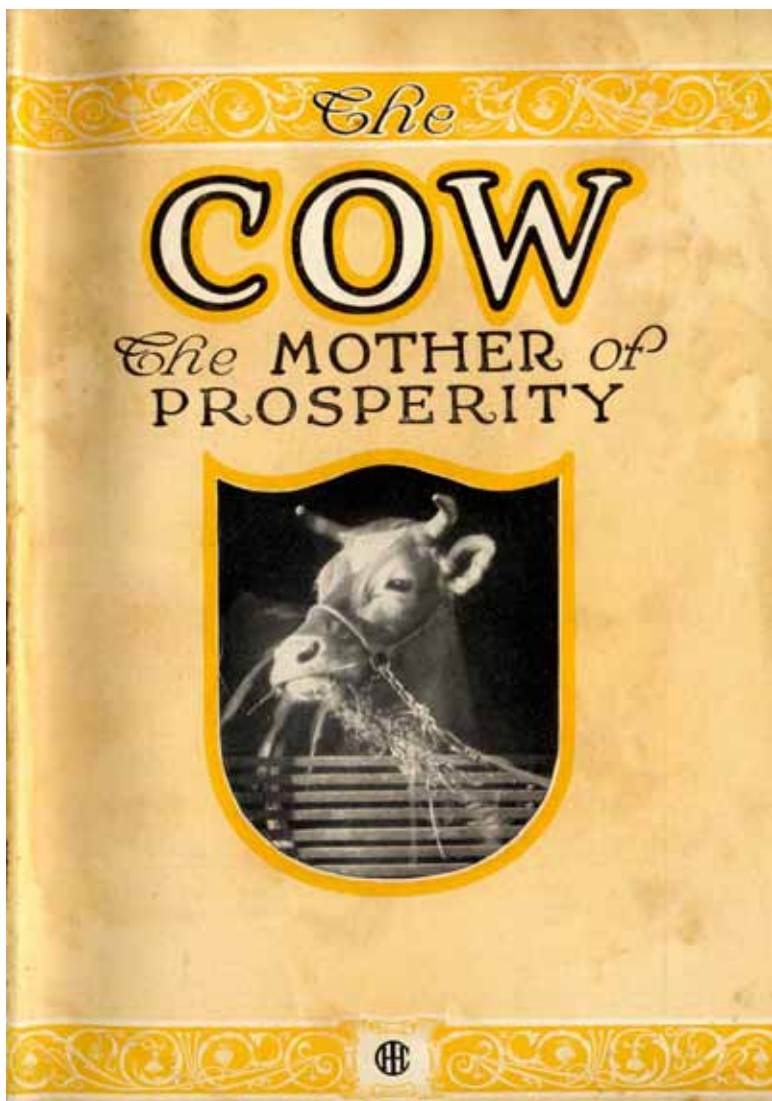
RESCUE ATTEMPT

We got a call that a calf had been lying on the road for two days and immediately sent two men with our vehicle to fetch her. She was so weak she could not hold up her head. She had injuries and swelling on her left side indicating she had been struck by a vehicle.

Fortunately she has a good appetite so she is eating more than her share and getting stronger day by day. Upon arrival she could not even sit up, what to speak of stand by herself. After three days of care she is able to get up alone and walk around the barnyard. Looks like she's going to make it.







Recently Balabhadra Prabhu from the International Society for Cow Protection (<http://www.iscowp.org/>) sent me a copy of the above book by Ralph A. Hayne which was published during the 1930's. I am impressed that Mr. Hayne, an American Cow lover

who, although not a vegetarian, has such appreciation for cows. His book has much practical information on cow care so I intend to publish a few pages each month for those of you who are interested.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF A GOOD COW?

We can't always tell a good cow by her shape or "good points."

Occasionally a cow with very few "good points" turns out to be a good milk producer.

Occasionally a cow with about all the "good points" is a poor milk producer.

Most dairy cows have the "good points" described on the following pages; so in selecting dairy cows let's get as many of the "good points" as we can, but remember that after all, the milk and feed scales, the tester and a carefully kept record furnish the only **sure sign** for judging the worth of a cow.

If we already have or want to start a herd of "dual-purpose" cows like the cows on page 72, to furnish milk and maybe raise calves for beef, we can't get all the good dairy points shown on the following pages. Dual-purpose cattle are a combination of beef and milk and while many cows of the dual breeds are great milk producers, we can't expect them to be so lean and meatless as the strictly dairy breeds. (See dual breeds, page 72.)

FIRST, WALK AROUND THE COW, A FEW STEPS AWAY FROM HER, AND LOOK HER OVER.



A good dairy cow usually has a neat head and neck, her eye is bright, her middle or barrel is deep and roomy to hold lots of feed. She is wide across the hips and her udder is large.



If she has a dull eye, coarse head, thick neck, slim body, steep rump, little udder, is narrow across the hips and stands with front and hind legs close together, better not buy her.

WE CAN FIND OUT A LOT ABOUT A COW BY LOOKING AT HER HEAD

GOOD POINTS



Here's a good head; large, bright eyes, indicating health; face medium length free from flesh; broad nose, large nostrils that take in plenty of air, big mouth that goes with a good feeder.



Another good head; notice the large nostrils to furnish oxygen for the lungs; the strong jaw that can chew a lot of feed to make milk.



The ears, like the skin on the cow's body, should have a velvety feel. Most good cows have a yellow, waxy coating on the inside of the ears.

BAD POINTS



A bad head with a dull eye, pointed nose, small nostril, small mouth and weak jaw; such a head indicates a weak constitution and is rarely found on a good cow.



A big, coarse, "steer" head on a cow indicates poor dairy quality, although some high-yielding cows have big, rather coarse heads.



When a cow hangs her head and her eyes are dull and ears droopy, look out—she may have tuberculosis. Anyway she is not a good cow to buy or own.

STAND IN FRONT OF THE COW, A FEW STEPS AWAY FROM HER, AND TAKE A LOOK AT HER FRONT END. IN THIS WAY WE GET ANOTHER LINE ON HER CONSTITUTION.

GOOD POINTS



We want the cow's legs like this one's, square under her and wide apart, making room for a good chest.



This good cow, we can see from in front, is thick through the girth, has well sprung ribs, and big roomy barrel that will hold great quantities of feed.

BAD POINTS



We don't want a cow that stands with front legs close together, indicating lack of chest and heart room.



This inferior cow is narrow through the girth, has flat ribs and small middle. Such a cow hasn't heart room or room for feed. She is a poor milk producer.

STEP TO ONE SIDE AND LOOK AT HER NECK



A good dairy cow's neck is usually neat, rather slim and curved down a bit on top. This cow has an exceptionally fine head and neck.



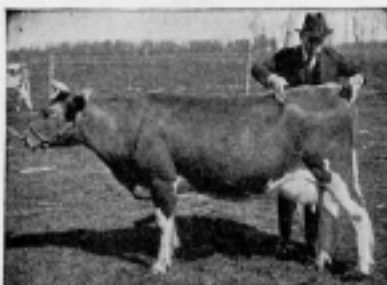
Don't select a cow having a coarse thick neck with a lot of extra skin or dewlap under the neck; she's apt to be a disappointment.

STEP BACK A FEW PACES AND TAKE A SIDE VIEW OF THE COW

GOOD POINTS



Her back should be straight from shoulders to root of tail and she should have good length of back to make room for her big middle.

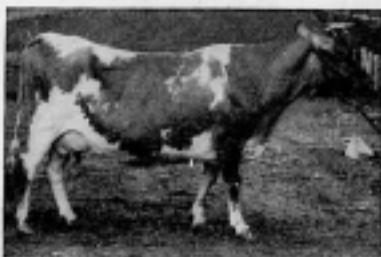


The top line of her rump should be straight when viewed from the side and long from hip bones to pin bones.



Two important things in a cow are a strong constitution and great capacity for feed. This good cow has both; note how deep she is down through the big barrel that will hold feed to make 70 pounds of milk a day.

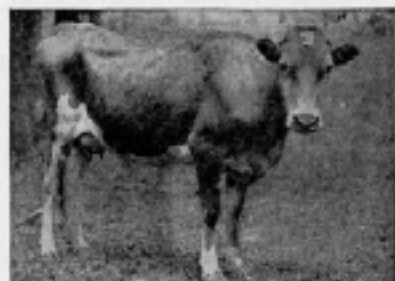
BAD POINTS



A good milk producer may have a low back but it indicates weakness. She had better have a straight back. Cows with big middles may sag a little in the back when they get old.



This short ugly, steep rump spoils the looks of the cow. Such cows usually have poorly shaped udders.



Don't select a cow with a small middle. This cow has a little "tucked up" middle showing that she is not a big eater, and her udder indicates that she is a poor milk producer.

ALWAYS TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT THE COW



Some good dairy cows, especially when they are milking heavily, have shoulders that taper up to the withers on top.



We can't disqualify a cow if her withers are not sharp. This good cow is soon to freshen. She's round and smooth over the withers.

A good cow when dry, or a heifer, may have round withers and still be a good milk producer. However, thick shoulders and withers may indicate a tendency to make meat instead of milk out of the feed.



Run the hand over her back bone. Many good cows have prominent back bones with the sections or vertebra not closely joined. The loin should be level and wide.



Look down on her back and get a view of her thickness through the heart, note the spring of her ribs. The ribs must be well sprung to make a roomy middle.



The skin should be soft and pliable. Hard, tight skin indicates poor blood circulation or that the cow is out of condition.



A good cow's ribs are usually far enough apart so that a person can lay two or three fingers between them.

STAND BEHIND THE COW AND NOTE THE WIDTH AND SHAPE OF HER HINDQUARTERS



**GOOD
POINTS**

This good Guernsey cow is wide across the hips.

**BAD
POINTS**

Don't select a cow with narrow hips like this one has.



She is wide between pin bones.

Nor one narrow and pointed across pin bones.



This Holstein's thighs are wide apart, making room for a large udder.

The cow with thighs thick and close together has not room for a large udder.



This Jersey's hind legs stand wide with plenty of room for udder between the hocks.

Hocks that stand close together take up room that should be given to the udder.



EXAMINE THOROUGHLY THE UDDER, TEATS AND MILK VEINS

Never buy a cow without first milking her to be sure that her udder is healthy and sound and every teat working.

GOOD POINTS



Good udder; large, smooth, hangs level, reaches well out in front and well up between thighs in the rear.



Good teats; right distance apart, large enough to be easily milked.



Should be large veins over the udder to carry a full supply of blood.



Milk veins in front of the udder should be large and prominent. The amount of milk depends on the blood going through these veins.

BAD POINTS



Low-hanging udder; gets bruised and dirty. A good cow may have it, but it's not the right kind.



A bad-shaped, pointed udder like this one won't hold much milk.



Teats so small we can't get hold of them are mighty hard to milk.



We don't want a cow with one or two big teats and the others small. We don't want a cow with an irregular shaped udder of any kind.



GET THE BLESSINGS

by Mike Jones

For human happiness, one must care for the animals, especially the cows. Vasudeva therefore inquired whether there was a good arrangement for the animals where Nanda Maharaja lived. For the proper pursuit of human happiness, there must be arrangements for the protection of cows. (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 10.5.26 Purport]

I spent two years in India and some of my dearest memories involve mother cow. From day one I was impressed that amongst the hustle and bustle of the incessant traffic, the cows could remain undisturbed and peaceful as if in meditation. They are a great example for those of us trying to keep our minds fixed on Krsna even amongst the chaotic conditions of Kali-yuga.

I was fortunate to have closer contact with many of the cows I crossed paths with. While staying in Shaphura, a small village in Madhya Pradesh, a very friendly cow would visit daily for leftover prasadam. It was always a joy to see her eagerly waiting outside the gate. Once she had finished she always let me stroke her and take her blessings, often licking me with affection.

The photo above was taken in

Bheda-ghat, MP. I was on a japa-walk with my brother Nitin when we came across a beautiful herd of cows. As I petted one of them, she started to rub up against me showing great affection. I was amazed at how comfortable she was approaching a stranger with such love. A gentleman remarked that if we show animals love they reciprocate. I had experienced this several times, but this cow was very special to me. This went on for over five minutes and I felt very blissful to receive her mercy.

A few days later I sat next to the sacred Narmada river to chant. My eyes were closed when I felt something rub against me. Seated on a low wall, I turned and was face to face with a very large cow. I was a little intimidated at first knowing I could easily be knocked into the river. I should have known there was no need to be worried though. She rubbed up against me, letting me pet her for a while and then went on her merry way.

It was a beautiful experience and I felt the great happiness one receives from a cows blessings. They have so much personality and it is clear why Sri Krsna loves them so much. I hope I have more opportunity to serve the cows. Hare Krsna.



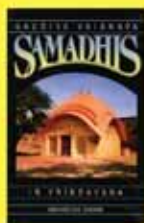
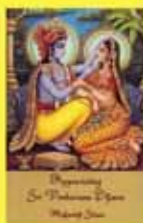
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Thank You From the Cows



The cows send their heart-felt thanks to those who assisted during November 2011

A Gerdziuniene	Janaki Romano	Paolo Musu
Adi-sakti devi dasi	Jason Hopkins	Parker Williams
Aditi Sathye	Jayadeva Dasa	Prashanthan Sreedharan
Amit Goswami	Johan Wallander	Pure Heart
Ananga Manjari and Haresuari	Kaivalya Sundari Dasi	Rahul Sharma
Angelika Levina	Kantilal Shivlal	Rajeev Bharol
Anil Kumar	Karl-Johan Pettersson	Ramesta Dasa
Anna Paljczuka	Karunika Dasi	Rasamandala Dasi
Anuradha Kovelamudi	Kirupanithi Pooranavelu	Ravi Gopal
Ariel Telford	Kitri Waterman	Rohini Suta Dasa
Artem Polygalin	Krishna Priya Dasi	Sanjiv Keswani
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Gaurangapriya Dasi	Nalini Gogar	Viveck Baluja
Go Sevaks of Kerala	Nayan Ruparelia	Vladimir Shlepkov
Hamlesh Motah	Nealesh Narayan	Yajnavalkya Dasa

May cows stay in front of me; may cows stay behind me; may cows stay on both sides of me. May I always reside in the midst of cows. —Hari Bhakti Vilas 16.252