

May 2013



CARE FOR COWS

I N T E R N A T I O N A L



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



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

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CARE FOR COWS

INTERNATIONAL

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Dear Friends,

"In modern civilization, men do not think milk to be important, and therefore they do not live very long. Although in this age men can live up to one hundred years, their duration of life is reduced because they do not drink large quantities of milk. This is a sign of Kali-yuga. In Kali-yuga, instead of drinking milk, people prefer to slaughter an animal and eat its flesh. The Supreme Personality of Godhead, in His instructions of Bhagavad-gita, advises go-raksha, which means cow protection. The cow should be protected, milk should be drawn from the cows, and this milk should be prepared in various ways. One should take ample milk, and thus one can prolong one's life, develop his brain, execute devotional service, and ultimately attain the favor of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. As it is essential to get food grains and water by digging the earth, it is also essential to give protection to the cows and take nectarean milk from their milk bags.

The people of this age are inclined toward industrial enterprises for comfortable living, but they refuse to endeavor to execute devotional service, by which they can achieve the ultimate goal of life by returning home, back to Godhead. By digging for water, even in the desert, we can produce food grains; when we produce food grains and vegetables, we can give protection to the cows; while giving protection to the cows, we can draw from them abundant quantities of milk; and by getting enough milk and combining it with food grains and vegetables, we can prepare hundreds of nectarean foods. We can happily eat this food and thus avoid industrial enterprises and joblessness.

Agriculture and cow protection are the way to become sinless and thus be attracted to devotional service. Those who are sinful cannot be attracted by devotional service.

A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, Srimad Bhagavatam 8.6.12 purport

The CFC Staff

Care for Cows is a Charitable Trust registered in India, USA, and Switzerland.





GOD TENDS COWS

verses from Sri Brahma Samhita

I worship **Govinda**, the primeval Lord,
the first progenitor **who is tending the cows**,
yielding all desire, in abodes built with spiritual
gems, surrounded by millions of purpose trees,
always served with great reverence & affection
by hundreds of thousands of laksmis or gopis.

PURPORT: By the word *cintamani* is meant "transcendental gem." Just as Maya builds this mundane universe with the five material elements, so the spiritual (*cit*) potency has built the spiritual world of transcendental gems. The *cintamani* which serves as material in the building of the abode of the Supreme Lord of Goloka, is a far rarer and more agreeable entity than the philosopher's stone. The purpose tree yields only the fruits of piety, wealth, fulfillment of desire and liberation; but the purpose trees in the abode of Kṛṣṇa bestow innumerable fruits in the shape of

checkered divine love.

Kama-dhenus (cows yielding the fulfillment of desire) give milk when they are milked; but the *kama-dhenus* of Goloka pour forth oceans of milk in the shape of the fountain of love showering transcendental bliss that does away with the hunger and thirst of all pure devotees. The words *lakṣa* and *sahasra-sata* signify endless numbers. The word *sambhrama* or *sadara* indicates "being saturated with love." Here *lakṣmi* denotes *gopi*. *Adi-purusa* means, "He who is the primeval Lord."

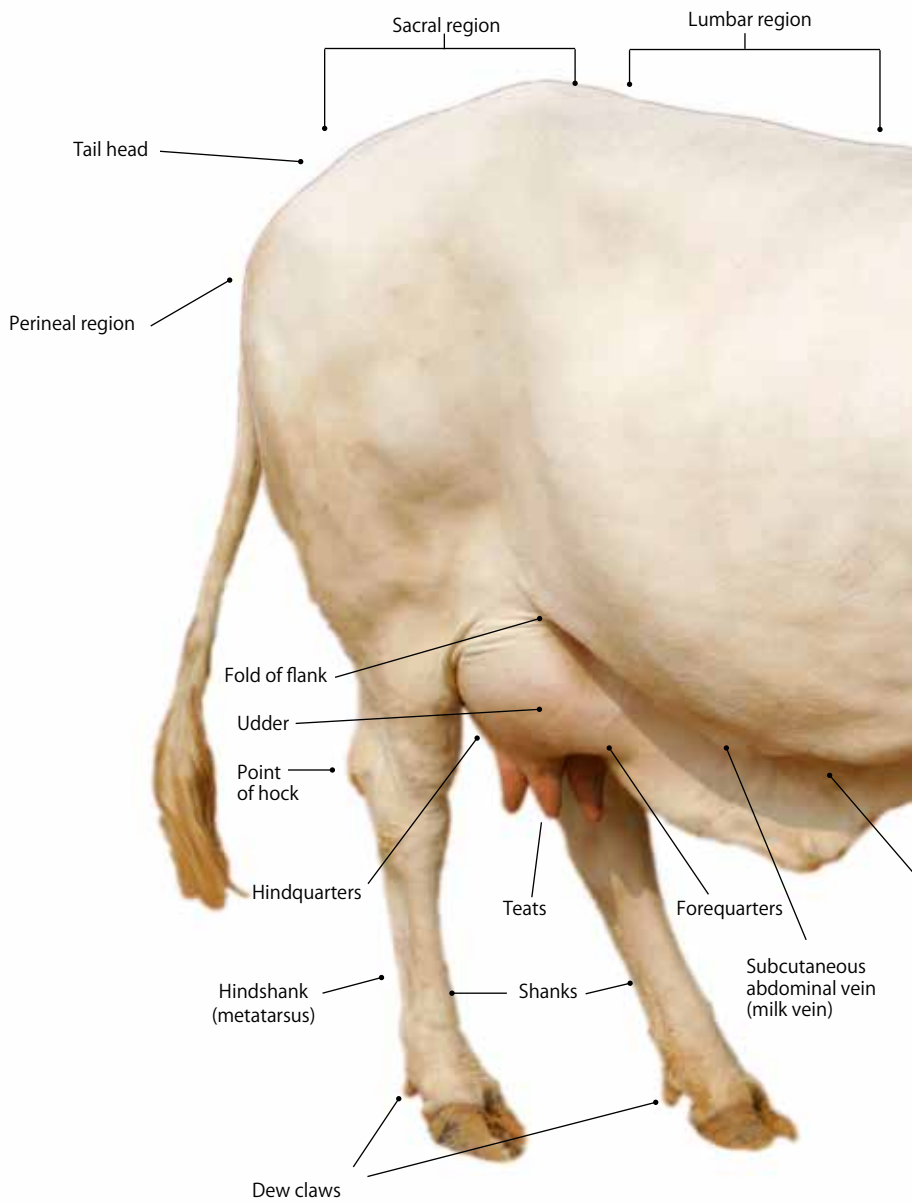
I worship **Govinda**, the primeval Lord, who is adept in playing on **His flute**, with blooming eyes like lotus petals with head decked with peacock's feather, with the figure of beauty tinged with the hue of blue clouds, and His unique loveliness charming millions of Cupids.

PURPORT: The matchless beauty of Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Lord of Goloka, is being described. Kṛṣṇa, the all-pervading cognition, has a spiritual form of His own. The form of Kṛṣṇa is not a fanciful creation of imagination formed after visualizing the beautiful things of the world. What Brahma saw in his ecstatic trance of pure devotion, is being described. Kṛṣṇa is engaged in playing upon His flute. That flute by his enchanting musical sound attracts the hearts of all living beings. Just as a lotus petal produces a pleasant sight, so the two beautiful

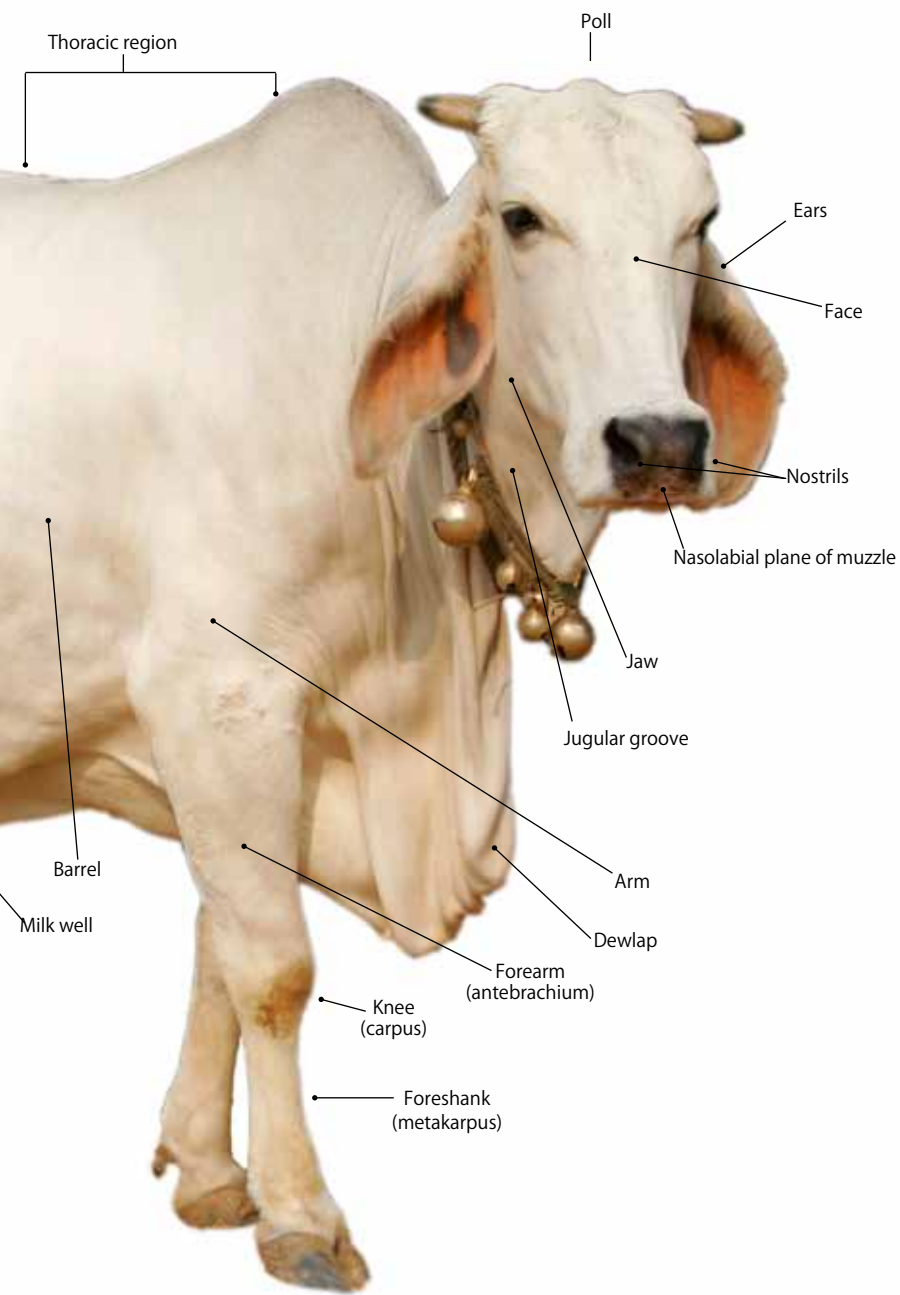
eyes of Kṛṣṇa who causes the manifestation of our spiritual vision, display the unlimited splendor and beauty of His moonlike face. The loveliness that adorns His head with peacock feather figures, the corresponding feature of the spiritual beauty of Kṛṣṇa. Just as a mass of blue clouds offers a specifically soothing, pleasant view, the complexion of Kṛṣṇa is analogously tinged with a spiritual dark-blue color. The beauty and loveliness of Kṛṣṇa is far more enchanting than that of Cupid multiplied a millionfold.

—Sri Brahma Samhita verses 29-30

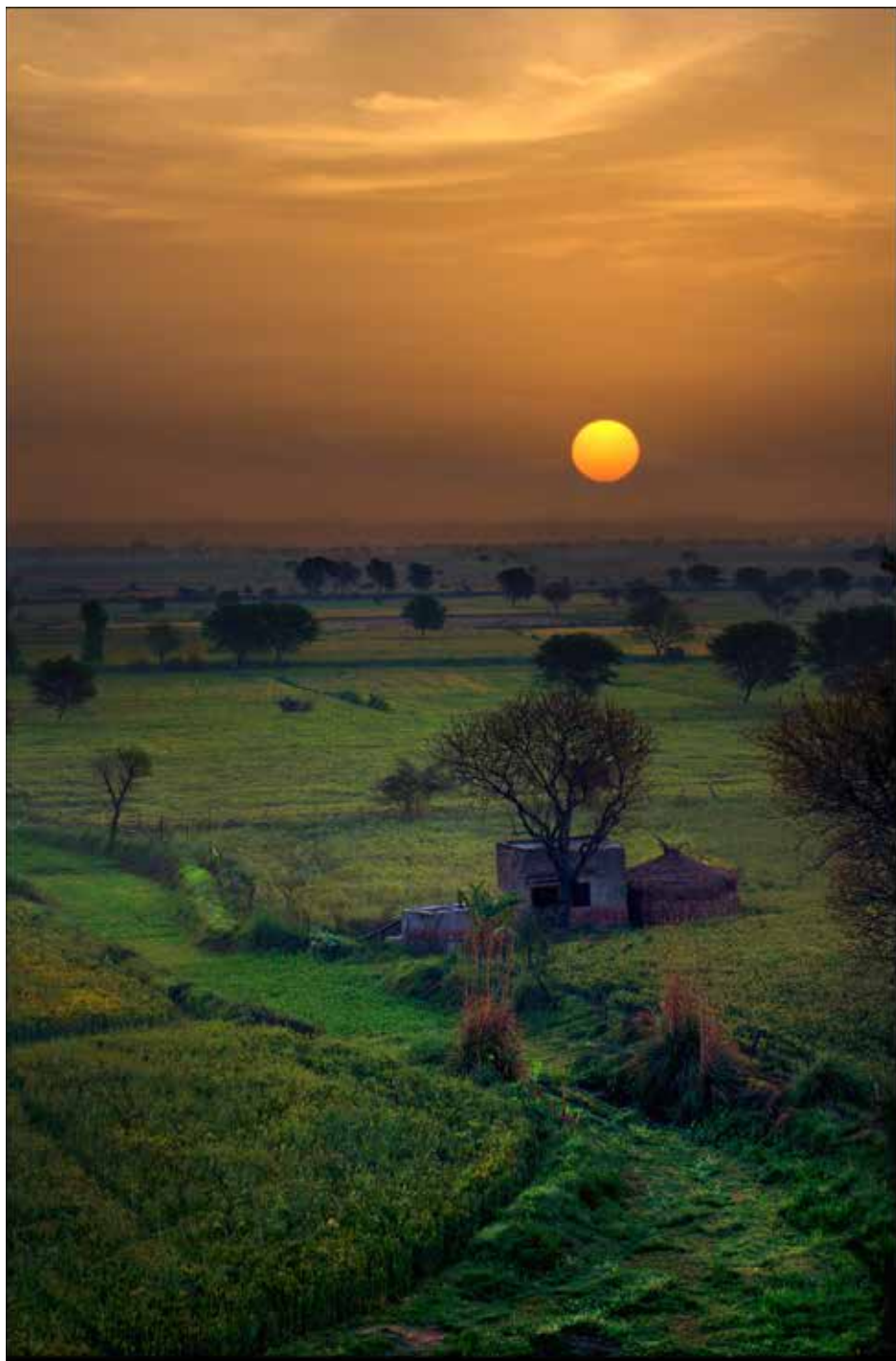




PARTS OF THE COW



Species: Tarparka



Sunrise over Wheat Fields of Kiki Nagla

Wheat Harvest Festival



Wheat is the main staple in the diet of the Vrajabasis. It not only maintains them but it serves to nurture their cows and buffaloes as well as the abundant uninvited Nil Gai (antelope). In the Vrindavan area wheat is harvested during April-May. It's a time of solidarity for the villagers as the work is mostly done by hand and requires the help of the young and old.

It's a time of celebration as the winter has ended and the new abundant crop of wheat announces income and replenishment of what remains from the previous harvest.

Once the wheat becomes golden, all other work stops while grandparents, husbands, wives, children and virtually anyone else grab their hand-sickles and head for their fields.

The first stage is to cut the stalks and gather them into bundles and lay them to dry in the sun. By the end of April the sun is already strong and



The wife cuts the wheat as her husband ties the bundles with stalks of wheat.



Nil Gai grazing in the wheat fields before the harvest.



Wheat is Life





it takes only a few days for it to dry the bundles. Then they are stacked in the middle of the field.



An elderly man begins to stack the dried bundles of wheat in his field.



Separating the wheat berries from the stalk also used to be done by hand but nowadays it is done by a tractor-powered thrasher which separates the berries and simultaneously crushes the stalks into fodder (busa) for the cows and buffaloes.





← Next the wheat berries are placed into jute bags and transported by tractor or bullock cart to the grain market for selling.

Every householder knows how many kilos of wheat berries they require to maintain their families for the next year and that portion is carried to the respective homes and placed in dry storage areas for grinding as needed. To prevent weevils from infesting their valuable stock, ashes from the cow dung paddies used for cooking fuel are sprinkled among the berries.

← Once the grains are moved out of the fields, a new stage of the harvest festival begins. The cows, buffaloes, goats and sheep are set free to graze in the vacant fields eating whatever herbs they can find and of course the many wheat berries that lay scattered in the fields. The cows can roam free now in the pastures throughout the summer and monsoon seasons.

The work that remains for the villagers is storing the busa and with each passing day the sun gets stronger inspiring the villagers to rest during the day and tend to that work during the cool nights. The women bundle the busa in large cloths and carry them on their heads to their respective cows sheds while singing songs about Radha and Krsna.

Alternatively the men build straw huts (burji) for storage.





All that remains to be done after the busa is stored is to grind the wheat in stone mortars as above. Then one may add to the whole wheat flour salt, whey, buttermilk or water then knead it into a smooth mass and roll it out into flat bread (roti) and cook them on a fire kindled by cow dung. Add sabji, dhal, chutney, yogurt and pickle and you have a perfectly nutritious meal which will keep one healthy, satisfied and free from the unlimited perils of commercially processed foods.

Enjoy simple living and high thinking!





Roti with greens





Moghul Emperor Akhbar in 1586 A.D.

Emperor Akhbar consulted the then Moulvees and enacted the Law prohibiting cow slaughter. The copy of this enactment is still safe in the Gwalior sansthanam (library). The substance of the Law is:

"All animals are useful and the whole society profits with His creation. Out of all, cows are most useful and beneficial. Humans and animals live on food (grains and other products). For these, oxen (children of cows) are needed to plough the land. There are many benefits from cows. For all human and animal existence cows are the real source. Therefore cow slaughter is prohibited in my kingdom. If anybody violates this law their fingers will be chopped and also be hanged."



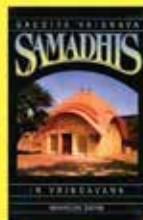
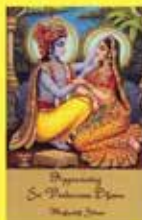
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Thank You From the Cows



The cows send their heart-felt thanks to those who assisted during April 2013

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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