KARTIKA FESTIVALS

HISTORIC COURT DECISION

GO RAKSHA KATHA

NEW ADMISSIONS
Govardhana Puja and Gopastami are the two festivals during the month of Kartika (Oct.-Nov.) which are centered around celebrating Mother Cow, Sri Gopal’s favorite creature. This is the fifteenth year Care for Cows has observed these festivals and this time we had a record turn-out. Our conviction is that the more Cows are treated with reverence and respect, the more successful and meaningful our lives become as we come closer to fulfilling the goal of human life.

Sometimes people ask, “Why is the Cow Sri Krsna’s favorite creature?”

While there are many answers, we offer that it is because of her ideal sattvic character which manifests as living for the benefit of others. Their milk, dung and urine are extremely beneficial for human society and their joyful presence creates an atmosphere of peace and happiness. To serve them is to undergo salubrious therapy which results in one developing the same ideal qualities.

The purpose of human life is to develop love of God, and when that is achieved it manifests as love for all beings. When Cows are provided their necessities and revered, they reciprocate and this results in the development of one’s own capacity to love. Association with Cows assists in bringing one closer to the attitude required for developing love of God.

It is a known fact that Cows are the most sattvic of all animals. Bhagavad-Gita describes the sattvic qualities of the brahmans as peacefulness, self-control, austerity, purity, tolerance, honesty, knowledge, wisdom and religiousness (Bg. 18.42).

Service to Cows is a catalyst which assists in bringing these qualities into the forefront of one’s life.
To fulfill His purpose of protecting cows the Supreme Personality of Godhead Krsna, Who is the source of all incarnations, descended to earth and exhibited the pastime of lifting Govardhana Hill to protect His dear Cows and Devotees from the wrath of Indra. This famous pastime is described in Chapters 24-5 in the Tenth Canto of Srimad-Bhagavatam.

After Gopal Krsna convinced His Father Nanda Maharaja that worship of Govardhana Hill was superior to the worship of Indra, the latter became angry and sent the clouds of universal destruction to harass Vrindavan.

The cows and their protectors shivered from the excessive rain and wind, and pained by the cold, approached Lord Govinda for shelter. They pleaded:

“Krsna, Krsna, O most fortunate one, please deliver the cows from the wrath of Indra! O Lord, You are so affectionate to Your devotees. Please save us also.”

Since Krsna has vowed to protect His Cows and
O King, for the sake of PROTECTING THE COWS, brahmanas, demigods, devotees, the Vedic literature, religious principles, & principles to fulfill the purpose of life, the Supreme Personality of Godhead accepts the forms of incarnations. (Srimad-Bhagavatam 8.24.5)

Devotees, He demonstrated His transcendental potency by lifting Govardhana Hill with His left hand and held it aloft just as easily as a child holds up a mushroom.

Then He called out: “O Mother, O Father, O residents of Vraja, if you wish you may now come under this Hill with your Cows. You should have no fear that this mountain will fall from My hand. And don’t be afraid of the wind and rain, for your deliverance from these afflictions has already been arranged.”
Pacified, the cowherd community entered beneath the hill, where they found ample room for themselves and all their Cows. Lord Krsna, held up the hill for seven days as the people and Cows gazed upon Him with great delight.

The Visnu Purana states:

“Lord Krsna held up the mountain while His praises were chanted by the residents of Vraja, all of whom now had the opportunity to dwell together with Him, and who glanced at Him with joyful and amazed eyes. Thus the cowherd men and women were all elated, and out of loving affection they opened their eyes wide.”

The pastime of the lifting of Govardhana Hill to protect the Devotees and Cows is celebrated each Kartika and even today the sincere participants also experience the joy of the most fortunate Vrjabasis who entered under the Hill.

The following photos of the Govardhana Puja and Gopastami festivals testify that those who take shelter of Krsna and make even a frail attempt to protect His Cows, experience elation even today.
Interacting with cows makes one joyful.

text by Paul Musu

photo by Nirambari Devi Dasi
Above: Cowherd girl Urvasi Dasi delights in serving members of the Gir herd in New Govardhana, Australia.

Left: Nadiya Dasi (USA) touches hearts with Kushum in Kiki Nagla.

Radhe Syama Dasa offers arati to Pushpa as she meditates on the lotus feet of Sri Gopal.
Left: Janardana Dasa from Australia befriends one of the calves born this year.
Below: Radha Krsna Dasa of the Vrindavan Akhanda Kirana Party grooms Kushum and Jala Keli who offer full blessings.
Right: Mother Prajna poses with an admirer.

Below: When one brushes a cow with affection, they liken it to being licked by their mother.
An important part of the festivals is to feed Cows sumptuously. Here the Cows accept bananas and laddhus made from gur, wheat bran, barley and the husks of chick-peas... a winter favorite.

By feeding cows suitable grains and other things for their pleasure, one experiences happiness as this simple act pleases the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Below: A detail of the replica of Govardhana Hill made from rice, halava, various dried and fresh fruits.
The performance of kirtana is a most important activity in the observance of these festivals. One of Sukadeva Gosvami’s final instructions to Pariksit Maharaja is: My dear king, although Kali-yuga (the present Age) is an ocean of faults, there is still one good quality about this age: Simply by chanting the Hare Krsna mahamantra one can become free from material bondage and be promoted to the transcendental kingdom. Srimad-Bhagavatam 12.3.51

Devotees from all over the world gathered at Care for Cows to celebrate honoring the Cow and chanting the holy names of the Lord. Below, the world-reknowned kirtaneer Vaiyasaki Dasa leads the kirtana.
Kirtana Premi Dasa of the Vrindavana Akhanda Kirtana Party leads a melodious kirtana as the Go Puja is performed.

Below: A sumptuous feast is offered to the international attendants.
Historic Decision

Maharashtra High Court Stays Slaughter of 12,000 Bulls on Muslim Rashtriya Manch Plea

By Virag Pachpore  Mumbai, October 2:

In a historic order the Mumbai High Court Tuesday stayed the slaughter of 12,000 bullocks while giving its ruling on the plea filed by Muslim Rashtriya Manch (MRM) challenging the Maharashtra Government order of July 31, 2014.

Muslim Rashtriya Manch Cow Protection Cell challenged the order of the Maharashtra Government on the grounds that there was no mandatory provision regarding qurbani (sacrifice) of bullocks on the occasion of Eid ul Aza or Bakr Eid.

The Government of Maharashtra sanctioned slaughter of additional 12000 bulls vide their order No. PVA-2014/PR No. 243/PDM-3 dated July 31, 2014. The said order allowed the Deonar abattoir to kill additional 12,000 bullocks on the occasion of Eid to be celebrated between October 6-8, 2014.

Mohd Faiz Khan, Convener of MRM Cow Protection Cell and Irfan Ali Pirjada, State Co-Convener of MRM filed an intervention in this regard in the Mumbai High Court through their advocate.
Shiraz Qureshi, who is also an activist of MRM.

The petition said that there was no mandatory provision of ‘qurbani’ of a bull or any member of the cow progeny only for the festival of Eid. Citing the judgment of the Apex Court in State of West Bengal vs Ashutosh Lahiri and others case, which said, “the slaughtering of cow or its progeny is not found to be a pious obligation for the purpose of the present festival (Eid ul Aza)”.

Quoting another reference from the judgment of the Constitutional Bench of the Apex Court in the case of State of Gujarat vs. Mirzapur Moti Qureshi Kassab Jamaat and others, the petitioners further brought out to the notice of the Court that the Supreme Court had upheld the ban on slaughtering of cow and its progeny in the case of the petitioners attracted the attention of the court towards the fact that there is no religious provision of cow slaughter in Islam.

The petitioners argued that it was not possible to medically examine 12000 bulls in three days with the insufficient veterinary doctors available in Mumbai. On an average it takes 30 minutes to conduct medical examination of any animal before it is sent to slaughter house. By that rate one doctor can only examine 16-24 animals per day.

It also pointed to the Hindu mythological and religious importance attached to the bull which is considered as the mount of Lord Shiva. Every Shiva Temple has the figure of ‘Nandi” bull and is revered by the millions of Hindus world over.

The petitioner stated that the Government Resolution cited above was “unreasonable, arbitrary and issued with ulterior motive to please a particular community for securing votes in the ensuing assembly elections in Maharashtra.

The MRM also stated that illegal slaughter houses flourish during the festival of Eid ul Aza in areas like Govandi, Mumbra, Madanpura, Bandra, Behrampada, Nala Sopara etc. with the tacit connivance of the authorities.

The petition further stated that these activities were offensive to the religious sensibilities of the local people and were completely in violation with the laws pertaining to preention of cruelty to animals and environment laws.

The MRM also demanded that the slaughter houses should be directed to maintain proper equipment and certification for slaughtering animals within the limits of the laws that guide such an act.

The MRM also quoted from the fatwa (religious diktat) issued by Dar-Ul-Uloom Deoband against the slaughter of cow and its progeny during the festival of Eid.

After hearing the arguments, the High Court Bench comprising Justice V M Kanade and Justice P D Khode stayed the government order regarding slaughter of 12000 bullocks during the festival of Eid.

Meanwhile, a delegation of MRM Cow Cell called on the Governor of Maharashtra Vidyasagar Rao and sought his intervention in stopping this order. The delegation included Adv. Shiraz Qureshi, Mohd Faiz Khan, Irfan Ali, Pravin Pandey, Kantilal Jain, Pankaj Bafna and others.

The Governor gave a patient hearing to the issues raised by the delegation and assured them of suitable action.

Similar petition was submitted to the High Court of Goa seeking ban on additional slaughter of cow progeny during the Eid Festival. The Goa High Court last week heard the petition and ordered status quo.
The following is a testimonial by Gopakumar Dasa, an Ayurvedic practitioner from Israel who promotes the therapeutic use of cow dung and urine.

Visiting the holy places of India to nourish our soul can be a wonderful experience but dealing with the cold nights and pollution in India can make our stay miserable. Especially when we develop a cough which interrupts everything we do.

Last year by the mercy of the Vrindavan cows, I found an easy and wonderful remedy which cured me and my wife from cough and congestion.

Burn a small piece of dry cow dung in your room and add turmeric powder to it. Inhale closely especially from your mouth for at least 2-3 minutes and let the smoke spread in your room so you can inhale it gently for few minutes more. The golden smoke of the turmeric will heal your breathing tract and stop the cough.

If you repeat this every few hours, it will purify the air and protect your breathing tract from developing any infection especially bronchitis. Furthermore, it will allow you to sleep without coughing.

The good news is that Care for Cows has kindly adopted this idea and now has easy to use, golden turmeric dhoop sticks available.

Please try it when you visit India especially when you feel that the cough is taking over, so it won’t get worse. And of course please visit a doctor to do a normal health check up.

Important note: If you are an asthmatic patient this remedy will not help. Please check for other natural remedies.

Hare Krishna and wish you all a happy and healthy pilgrimage.

Your servant,
Gopakumar das
Ayurvedic consultant
gopaayu108@gmail.com

Contact kurmarupa@careforcows.org for ordering Care for Cows Turmeric Dhoop
Beautiful Rukmini was the first we asked to model the new name tags and she got carried away...

Kaushik was more modest and sober.
Over the years we have tried several types of identification tags which do not last long. They either get lost or become illegible after a few months.

Our latest attempt is a cotton web belt with two D-rings as a buckle. Brass plaques with the name of each resident are riveted onto the belt and even when they tarnish, the name can still be read.

At present we use only two colors (red and green) but will soon contact suppliers who have several colors.

The red belts indicate those residents who have been adopted for life and the green belts are for all others. If these prove to last, we will then have different colors for cows, bulls and oxen.

Please wish us luck. Those of you who keep cows please let us know what has worked best for you.
It is said that when Janaka Maharaja visited hell the inmates felt such relief by his presence that they asked him to stay there for some time. To satisfy their request the king stayed and everyone hailed his glory.

Janaka Maharaja then inquired from Yamaraja regarding the sin he had committed which caused him to have to visit hell.

Chitragupta offered, “Janaka Maharaja is a selfless saint and great yogi. His list of pious credits is long indeed. However, he once committed the sin of driving a cow away while she was going for water.”

Even though Janaka Maharaja’s intention was to prevent the cow from getting stuck in the swamp he had to suffer punishment for the offense -- he had to see hell. So we should be very careful not to harm a cow in any way.

We should never stay in any place where Hari, Dharma, Guru or the Cow are insulted. If we find ourselves in such a place, we should not heed what is being said and leave that place immediately.

Once during the Mughal rule in India the young Shivaji accompanied by his father was enroute to the Mughal emperor’s palace. On the way they saw a butcher abducting a cow and noticed that all the Hindus were standing like mute spectators. Suddenly, Shivaji who was hardly ten-years-old drew his sword and first freed the cow and in the next shot cut the butcher’s head off! This is bravery.

In ancient times there were such large herds of cows that the dust raised by their hooves would obstruct the sunshine. It is said in Mahabharata, Anusasana Parva that King Yudhishthir had ten thousand gosadan-govarg. What is a varg? One varg constitutes eight lacs of cows. It means that the cow population exceeded that of humans.

It is also stated that there were many gosadans some hosting one, two and three hundred thousand cows.

When Grandfather Bhishma instructed Yudishthir Maharaja regarding the dharma of charity, salvation and statecraft he also narrated the glories of cow protection in detail.

On one occasion Yudhishtir Maharaja arrived in the presence of Grandfather Bhismadeva on a special chariot drawn by bulls the size of eight elephants. However, after hearing the Grand sire’s narration on the glories of cows King Yudhishthir refused to return to his capital on that bull-driven chariot considering that he should not employ such exhausted beings as his carriers.

While one may use bulls for cartage and transportaion, it is a sin to overburden or subject them to excessive ploughing or abuse by whipping. Shastra clearly declares that bulls should be goaded gently with leafy branches.

In my childhood, there were two bulls named Pannalal and Patangilal. They were so strong and furious that no one could hitch them to a
cart even when offered a handsome sum to do so. Though many men tried, no one succeeded. Those bulls won every race they were so swift. During those days people had a passion for decorating their bulls with gold and silver ornaments. They took pride in decorating their bulls. It is very unfortunate that things have changed so drastically today.

The cow is connected with our country’s prosperity. The earth requires gober and go mutra and today she is deprived of these precious things.

People who oppose cow protection actually oppose god, religion, guru, and the holy Vedas. We may have to deal with them in practical matters but we should never be accomplices to or support their nefarious activities. To do so means we participate in cow-killing. We must be very diligent in this regard.

Lord Shiva’s flag is marked with the image of a bull which indicates Lord Shiva adores cows. He is also one of the gwarias of Goloka Dhama.

The truth is that cow-killing was started by the non-Hindus to humiliate the Hindus. A friend of mine is a well-educated man who has read the Bible and Quran and states that in either there is no sanction to kill cows.

When non-Hindus came to this country, they searched our scriptures to find a common thread in our faith and prayers and found it to be go-raksha. Thus to demoralize the Hindus they started killing cows but when they contacted the air and water of the holy Ganga and Yamuna, a positive change took place in them and some were inspired to ban cow-killing.

There is a story about the Mughal emperor Humayu who was once served beef. He became enraged and ordered his chef to be whipped. On being asked why, he said that his mother had died when he was very young and that he had consequently grown-up on cow’s milk... that he was not so ungrateful to eat the flesh of the cow whose milk once nurtured him. Now god knows the truth behind this story but this is what we hear about him.

By the influence of Sri Haridas ji, Tulasi das ji, and Surdas ji the Mughal emperor Akbar banned cow-killing. Especially in Brajbhumi there was a ban in any type of killing. Then during Jahangir’s era there was initially fanaticism but later he also banned cow-killing owing to the influence of Baba Mahesh das ji.

Once Shah Jahan asked his consultants why the attempt to forcefully convert Hindus to Islam had failed. They answered that until he stops the Hindu saints and ascetics from wandering village to village organizing religious campaigns and discourses, Hindu Dharma will persist no matter how much cruelty is imposed.

So Shah Jahan outlawed the practice but Baba Maluk das contravened the royal order and travelled across India with his associates. On reaching Delhi Shah Jahan detained him and put him in jail. But then a miracle happened. The handcuffs of the Baba and his associates opened by themselves and all the restraining officials were dumbfounded and couldn’t stop the Baba from leaving.

After Malook das Baba promptly headed to Vrindavan, Shah Jahan felt a burning sensation all over his body and not finding any relief, he resorted to search out Baba Malook who ordered him to ban cow-killing. There is proof that saints of sixteen akharas protected cows.

So the fact is that several Mogal rulers had banned cow-killing albeit for a short time owing to the influence of saints. It was also expected that after the Britishers left India, there would be no further cow-killing unfortunately that was not the case. The
atrocities done to our cows are not hidden. Cow-killing also prevailed during the British rule in India but yet there was a surplus of milk products. It was because the saints kept wandering in groups and promoting Dharma. These groups of saints were called Jamaat and had 1,000-2,000 saints in each. They wandered all over India and organized large prayer gatherings and many people would come to see them. One specialty of the Jamaats was that they travelled with cows and when people saw them, heard their discourses and participated in kirtan, they were inspired to follow their teachings and thus respected cows.

Nowadays these activities have diminished, so there is a need to revive the practice of large-scale religious campaigning, kirtana, recitation of Ramayana, Bhagavad-Gita to once again reinstate the importance of cows. If this practice is revived, then protecting cows is not difficult. The ascetics, the pure-hearted great souls should work efficiently in this direction.

Numerous saints have been killed in the campaign to stop cow slaughter. One saint came to our ashrama Khak Chouk and testified how an assembly of saints protesting cow slaughter had been assassinated on Gopastami day. Some were cremated while others were buried and yet others were left to rot in the gutters. Such atrocities did not occur even under British rule.

So it is our responsibility to dedicate ourselves to god’s service and do protect and nourish our cows. There is much power in prayer. Perform japa and recite stotras and propagate cow protection.

May god bless all of us with good senses.

Four New Calves

More of our second-generation cows have given birth. Left and below is Kamala who is Hladini’s first calf. She is petite, a bit shy, very curious and quite healthy.

Below she is featured after completely captivating Cheung Kwai Ying, lovingly called Angel, from Hong Kong.

Angel was so overwhelmed that she decided to sponsor Kamala for life. Please welcome both of them to Care for Cows.
Above and right is Leela and her first calf Kavita who is quiet and mischievous. Kavita & Hamlesh from U.K. are sponsors of Leela and offered to sponsor Kavita as well.

Below our gentle cowherd Vijay examines Gopinath for ticks as his mother Sitali looks on with concern. Gopinath is energetic, noble and fearless. He is sponsored by Anandini devi dasi
Above and right is our champion milker Vrinda with her second bull calf who has been named Tilak by his anonymous sponsor. Vrinda is half Tarparka and half Nagori and Tilak’s father is Bolanath, our pure-bred Tarparka.
Care for Cows has been using wheel barrows for several years primarily to pick up gober and move it to the compost and garden areas. We have gone through several types all of which have their weaknesses. We have now contracted some metal workers in Mathura who have hand fabricated the Karuna wheel barrow which is simple, durable and meets our tested requirements. It can handle loads or 150 kilos effectively and the replacement wheels and bearings can be easily obtained anywhere in India.

We can take orders and ship them to anyplace in India. The cost is Rs.7,500. Shipping is extra. Contact kurmarupa@careforcows.org for orders.
New Admissions

Malika is recovering from a hip injury and dog orv fox bites.

This injured six-month-old female calf was found on the side of the road unable to get up. She was carefully loaded on our truck and brought to our facility. After three days she could be lifted to a standing position and remain for an hour with assistance. After a week she could stand by herself and walk with assistance. Now she can take care of herself and has been adopted by Kisori Radha devi dasi from New York. She has been named Malika and is well on her way to recovery.
Right: This ten-month-old bull was competing for eatables in a rubbish heap on a cold winter day. A bystander saw him get trounced by a larger abandoned bull and he appeared to give up. He called Care for Cows and we brought him to our facility. He was not injured but only hungry and malnourished. He appears to be half Gir and is recovering well.

Both calves are on a program allowing them to eat all they can. They are kept in a warm room and placed in the sun when ever it shines.

He has been named Shyamaa by Vidyayati devi dasi from England.

Both of them are gentle and show much gratitude for having been saved from the streets of Vrindavan during the coldest part of the winter.
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