

Relevance of Cows in Religion - -



Sanatan Dharma (सनातन धर्म) is a divine code of conduct established by the dearest lord. There are various Shrutis Smritis Dharma Shastras who glorify the divinity of cows & fruits of serving them. Cows (गऊ माता), are a symbol of abundance & all sanctity of life on earth, that serves the beings like a mother without asking much in return. It is a part of Ancient traditions to avoid/ reject consumption of beef.

People across faiths & religion often misguide others that cow protection should not be done. I am providing some proofs for one & all please. I request knowledgeable dharma gurus to share their thoughts regarding the same please.

|| Jai Gau Maata ||

Hinduism is based on the concept of omnipresence of the Divine, and the presence of a soul in all creatures, including bovines. Thus, by that definition, killing any animal would be a sin: one would be obstructing the natural cycle of birth and death of that creature, and the creature would have to be reborn in that same form because of its unnatural death.

Historically, even Krishna, one of the most revered forms of the Divine (Avatar), tended cows.

"The mantras used for Vedic rituals such as Swaha and Vashat without which no Vedic rites are complete are eternally established in cows. Cows verily are the fruit of all Vedic rituals because all Vedic rituals are dependent upon the ghee from cows for the performance of sacred rituals which benefit all of creation. Thus the protection of cows is the greatest dharma or eternal duty for all living beings. The country or nation where cows are protected and live without fear of slaughter becomes exalted and the sins of that country are evaporated. Cows constitute the stairs that lead to heaven. Cows are adored in heaven. Cows are goddesses competent to grant every righteous wish and desire. Verily there is nothing in the worlds more elevated or superior to cows."

-- Jagannatha Das, Sri Gaudiya Vedanta Samiti
Brahma Madhva Gaudiya Vaisnava Sampradaya

Cows in scriptures:

1) SRIMAD BHAGVAD GITA

Dhenunam asmi kamadhuk

-- Among cows I am the wish fulfilling (kamdhenu or surabhi) cow. (Verse 10.28).

2) SRI CHAITANYA CHARITAMRITA, Adilila, Chapter 17, verse 166.

Caitanya Mahaprabhu confirms:

O-ange yata loma tata sahasra vatsarago-vadhi raurava-madhye pace nirantar

-- Cow killers and cow eaters are condemned to rot in hell for as many thousands of years as there are for each hair on the body of every cow they eat from.

It is further written - Those who fail to give cows reverence and protection and choose to foolishly oppose and whimsically ignore the injunctions of the Vedic scriptures by selling a cow for slaughter, by killing a cow, by eating cows flesh and by permitting the slaughter of cows will all rot in the darkest regions of hell for as many thousands of years as there are hairs on the body of each cow slain. There is no atonement for the killing of a cow.

3) MANU SAMHITA, chapter 4, verse 162 :

-- A guru, a teacher, a father, a mother, a brahmana, a cow and a yogi all should never be killed.

4) RIG VEDA:

Cattle were important to Rig Vedic people & several hymns refer to more than ten thousand cattle.

Rig Veda 7.95.2, and other verses (e.g. 8.21.18) also mention that the Sarasvati region poured milk and "fatness" (ghee), indicating that cattle were herded in this region.

In the Rig Veda, the cows figure frequently as symbols of wealth, and also in comparison with river goddesses, e.g. in 3.33.1cd, Like two bright mother cows who lick their young, Vipas and Sutudri speed down their waters.

According to Aurobindo, in the Rig Veda the cows sometimes symbolize "light" and "rays". Aurobindo wrote that Aditi (the supreme Prakriti/Nature force) is described as a cow, and the Deva or Purusha (the supreme being/soul) as a bull.

The Vedic god Indra is often compared to a bull. Rivers are often likened to cows in the Rigveda, Vyasa said: Cows are sacred. They are embodiments of merit. They are high and most efficacious cleansers of all.

5) ATHARVA VEDA

Cow's body is represented by various devas and other subjects.

In VIII.6.23 we find: Those who eat cooked or uncooked flesh, who eat eggs and embryos are following an evil addiction that must be put to an end.

6) HARIVAMSHA

The Harivamsha depicts Krishna as a cowherd. He is often described as Bala Gopala, "the child who protects the cows." Another of Krishna's names, Govinda, means "one who brings satisfaction to the cows." Other scriptures identify the cow as the "mother" of all civilization, its milk nurturing the population. The gift of a cow is applauded as the highest kind of gift.

The milk of a cow is believed to promote Sattvic (purifying) qualities. The ghee (clarified butter) from the milk of a cow is used in ceremonies and in preparing religious food. Cow dung is used as fertilizer, as a fuel and as a disinfectant in homes.

7) PURANAS

The earth-goddess Prithvi was, in the form of a cow, successively milked of various beneficent substances for the benefit of humans, by various deities.

8) SRIMAD BHAGVATAM, Canto 11, chapter 5, verse 14 :5)

"Those who are ignorant of the absolute truth and believe they are virtuous although wicked and arrogant who kill animals without any feeling of remorse or fear of punishment are devoured by those very same animals in their next birth."

9) MAHABHARATA,

Anusasana-parva, 115.43 -116.45:

That wretch among men who pretending to follow the path of righteousness prescribed in the Vedas, would kill living creatures from greed of flesh would certainly go to hellish regions.

Anusasana-parva, 114.6, 115.6 it states:

As the footprints of all moving, living beings are engulfed in those of the elephant, even thus all religions are to be understood by ahimsa which is non-violence to any living being by thought, words or actions.

Cow Protection in Other Religions --

In Christianity --

Old Testament of the Bible which applies to both Christians and Jews in Issaih, chapter 66 verse 3:

"He that killeth an ox is as if he slew a man. He that sacrifices a lamb is as if he slit a dogs neck, he that offereth it as an oblation is as if he offered swines blood, he that burneth it as incense as if he blessed an idol. Yea they have chosen their way and their soul delighteth in their abominations."

In Islam --

A full chapter of the Koran deals with cow protection. There is not even a single sentence in the whole holy Koran, which could be interpreting an order slaying of cows. Instead of that the Koran clearly and strictly forbidding cows or any milch animal. On the occasion of Ed-ul-Zuha, they only sacrifice a goat or a lamb, while in India, on that day a large number of cows are sacrificed by the Muslims. Is it to follow the teachings of Koran?

According to this story, Yahudi, after leaving Misr, celebrated a function and adopted new religious rites:

Musa, the Yahudi-messenger, went to see his god at Jwalagiri (Koh-e-noor). Many days passed but he didn't come back and his followers started worrying; then Sthana Salamati, an aged Yahudi, advised the other followers to pray to the cow-idol for Musa's early return, and the merciful Almighty showed His wonder in that Musa reached there, as soon as they prayed before the cow-idol. Then Musa told them that God Yahoba, had asked him to offer a cow; but the followers didn't obey. He became laughing stock, as they realized that cow-worship had worked, a wonder, and sacrificing a cow, therefore, would invoke the wrath of God.

An Incident is narrated in Sur-e-Hind wherein it is said that once two heavenly messengers visited earth to meet the so-called God's messenger, Abraham, of the Israeli community. Before them, he (Abraham or Ibrahim) served cow's meat; they didn't even dare to touch it (Sur-e-Hind, 69.70).

Thirdly, this very instance is told in Sur-e-Zariyat (26-27).

Excepting these three instances, we do not find any reference of cow-slaughtering in the whole Koran. So without any hesitation it should be made known to all to enlighten them.

--Saptahik Sarvdehik, March,11,1984.

Paigambar Saheb and many other personages have abstained from taking beef, if not, any other sort of flesh. They have preached against and prohibited the killing of useful animals. Mohammedanism out of India is more ancient, more true to type and genuine; even then there is no such practice of killing cows. In the history of quarbani cow-sacrifice does not occur so much. Goats, sheep and camels etc are sacrificed but not the cows. The late-lamented Hakim Ajmal Khan, M. Chhotani, Maulana Abdul Bair and other Muslim luminaries of Islam repudiated the claims of fanatic section of Islam about the indispensability of cow-slaughter..."

“Only to provoke the wrath of Sikhs and Hindus and to wound their feelings, Mohammedan conquerors, in the dark ages, inflicted this insulting and arrogant practice of cow killing...”

Dr Leitner in the Asiatic Review, 1893, explained the fallacy as under:

“BAKRA means goat in Arabic, if it is spelt according to original text. But it changed its spelling as it traveled to India; from ‘K’ (kee) it changed to guttural Quaf, and was unfortunately, interpreted as cow.

- -Dr Syed Mahmud, Ph.D. in his book Cow Protection under Muslim Rule—A Historical Survey, published by the Bombay Humanitarian League, Bombay. Has written:
- “Akbar issued orders totally prohibiting the slaughter of cows throughout his vast dominions. There is a detailed mention of it in the Ain-i-Akbari and other books. These orders were not obligated in the times of his successors but remained in force. Though, is possible that in the reign of later kinds they were not so rigidly enforced. Jahangir not only abrogated these orders but further ordained that on Sunday, the day on which Akbar was born, on Friday, the day on which he himself ascended the throne, on the days of eclipse of the sun and of moon, no animal whatsoever is killed and there should be no hunting on these days.”
- SECRET WILL OF BADSHAH BABAR TO PRINCE HUMAYUN

“O son, the kingdom of India is full of different religions. Praised be the Almighty God that He bestowed upon thee its sovereignty. It is incumbent of thee to wipe all religious prejudices off the tablet of the heart; administer justice according to the ways of every religion. Avoid especially the sacrifice of the cow by which thou can capture the hearts of the people of India; and subjects of this country may be bound up with royal obligations.

“Do not ruin the temples and shrines of any community who the laws of governments. Administer justice in such a manner that the king be pleased with the subjects and the subjects with king. The cause of Islam can be more promoted by the wound of obligation than by the sword of tyranny.

“Overlook the dissensions of the shias and Sunni, else the weakness of Islam will manifest. And let the subjects of different beliefs be harmonised in conformity with the four elements (of which) the human body is harmoniously composed, so that the body of the kingdom may be free from different diseases. The memoirs of Taimur, the master of conjunction (i.e. fortune) should always be before the eyes, so that thou mayst become experienced in the affairs of administrations.”

1st Jamadi-ul Awal, 935 A.H.

THE FIRMAN OF JALLALUDDIN MUHAMMAD AKBAR SHAH

“GRANTED to the Jains in gutting the Rights of Worship and the exercise of their religion and doctrine throughout out Empire and dominions. One can kill an animal on those mountains of Shantrunjaya in the Palitana state in Kathiavar. It is but proper that the Jain should perform his devotions with composure of heart. Let no one ever oppose or make objection to the decree. Let the orders contained in the Firman be acted upon and carried out.”

The second edict is from the Emperor Jahangir in similar terms:-

“The third Firman is from Shahjahan who confirms the preceding documents. Then we have another granting greater liberty. He emphasizes that every year new order shall not be demanded but that those whom it concerns shall not serve from what is here commanded.”

According to Islamic Gorakshan, later Mughal sovereigns of India such as Muhammad Shah and Shah Alam prohibited cow-slaughter.

--Travels in the Moghal Empire, Bernier

(Dr. Syed Mahmud, Ph.D. who obtained a facsimile copy of the said wills, preserved in the Bhopal State Library)

All the foregoing account vividly shows as to have careful even the mighty Moghul sovereigns were in not hurting the feelings of Hindus.

- FATWA OF MISRA GOVERNMENT

“THE GOVERNMENT HAS PUBLISHED LEGAL FATWA BY THE HEADS OF THE FOUR MUSLIM SECTS RECOMMENDING MUSLIMS NOT TO KILL MORE THAN ONE SHEEP ON THE OCCASION OF THE BAKRAID FEAST WHICH FALLS ON THE 8TH INSTANT.”

--Egyptian Mail Cairo

3rd Oct, 1910

HAKIM AJMAL KHAN

“BAKRA-ID is the religious festival in which Mussalmans perform pilgrimages around their holy places in Mecca. At this festival, they have to sacrifice in pursuance of the sacrifice of Abraham, the Mussalmans of India being too far away from Mecca, go to the city of Ajmer. But neither the text of the Koran nor tradition enjoined the slaughter of the cow. In Turkey, Egypt, Syria, and Persia where a cow might be slaughtered without offence to any one a sheep are preferred.”

- Questioned about the reasons, why the Indian Muslims prefer the cow to any other animal in their sacrifice, the Hakim continues:

“Simply because the goat and the sheep are much more expensive in India than the cow, the Mussalman cannot afford the price of a sheep. But the Koran specifies that the sacrifice is not necessary for the poor. Mussalmans are so poor that they cannot afford even a cow. The poor Muslims resort to the sacrifice of cows, because all people are not actuated by commonsense and good feelings.”

These two extracts practically conclude that neither Koran nor Arabic tradition has anything to say about the fundamental importance of cow-slaughter in Islam on sacrificial occasions.

The late-lamented Hakim Ajmal Khan, a moulvi of no mean scholarship and erudition, in a pamphlet under the title of “Hindu-Muslim Unity” comprising the presidential address to the All India Muslim League, Amritsar in 1919, published by the Cow Protection Society, 43, Banstolla Street, Calcutta, state as under:-

“We are, and should be full cognizant of the fact that cow-killing seriously annoys our fellowmen. But before holding out any assurance to them, we must first see in what light our religion views this question. We must also determine the extent to which the Qurbani is enjoined upon us irrespective of course, of the slaughter of the cows. According to Islam Qurbani or sacrificial offering is incumbent on Muslims. Now, is a matter of choice to fulfill this observance by sacrificing camels, sheep, goat, or cow, which simply means that any of these animals can be fit for offerings? Crores of Indian Muslims must be strangers to the slaughter of the camels, for the fulfillment of this observance, but none of them can possibly be accused of the slightest religious omission.

- “On the contrary, Mussalmans of Arabia, Syria, Egypt, Tripoli, Asiatic Turkey have been faithful to this observance without ever having slaughtered a cow, and I am confident no erudite theologian or Mufti can maintain that these Mussalmans have failed to observe the Sunnal (practice of the Prophet) or have been guilty of any religious shortcoming. If any Mussalman dares to call religiously legitimate practice illegitimate, he certainly commits a sin. I concenter it appropriate at this stage, to recount some of the Ahadees (religious practices) according to which the sacrifice of animals other than the cow is entitled to preference. For instance, Ummti Salmah (the Holy Prophet’s venerable wife) says that the Prophet once observed ‘if any of you see the crescent heralding the month of Zil Hijjah and desires to sacrifice a goat..., etc which obviously indicates that the Arabs were in the habit of sacrificing goats. According to another tradition our Prophet said that ‘of all sacrificial animals sheep was preferable; if we reserve sheep alone for the offering, we will be complying with this tradition.’ He then exhorts the Indian Muslims to take the initiative instead of being advised by their Hindu neighbours, and by thus using judicious discrimination in

the selection of the sacrificial animal which will be in the best accord with Islamic tradition, bring about an era of peaceful relation within India and enhance national reputation abroad”.

(The above mentioned wills of Mughals and views of Hakim Ajmal Khan are derived from Romance of the Cow, by D.H.Jani,Gold Medalist, published by The Bombay Humanitarian League, Bombay, in 1935)

Above all, in Saudi Arabia, the cow-slaughters are sentenced to death. The marriages there are providing successful—yes, without slaughtering cows.” If Indian Muslims resolved not to kill any cow and live as one entity like any other India, then this country,e.g., Bharat will be more prosperous than our expectations”, says Prof J,N. Bismil of the Jamia Milia, Delhi in his long article in the Aryajagat, in 1984.

So nowhere cow-slaughtering is justified. It is sheer invaders’ own imagination, only to destroy the culture and religion of others in the land of their settlement, zealously and rabidly implemented by those who not very long ago, were converted to Islam in India.

-- extracts from<http://rblnigam.spaces.live.com/Blog/cns!75619FE61A7DE621!156.entry>

So from these examples it can be clearly understood that cow killing and cow eating were definitely not sanctioned by the Vedic scriptures to the contrary they were condemned; and also according to the authority of the Bible, Quran cow killing is not sanctioned in the Christian/ Islam religion either.

COWs : SCIENCE beyond SCIENCE

1) Modern science acknowledges that the smoke from cow dung is a powerful disinfectant and an anti-pollutant. Its urine is also used for religious rituals as well as medicinal purposes. The supreme purificatory material, panchagavya, was a mixture of five products of the cow, namely milk, curds, ghee, urine and dung. The interdiction of the meat of the bounteous cow as food was regarded as the first step to total vegetarianism.

2) Cow milk is the most compatible with human mothers milk then any other species in existence. This is because the DNA of the cow was specifically constructed to be harmonious with mammalian human DNA. So it can be clearly understood that cow DNA was designed so humans could benefit from cows products being milk, cheese, butter, cream and yoghurt.

3) Cow milk contains Aurium Hydroxide (AuOH) all the time, as long as it grazes in Sun. Her urine too. This is a Gold compound. Carbolic acid and Aurium Hydroxide together in her urine give antibiotic, antiviral and antibacterial properties to cow urine. The presence of AuOH is detected by scientists. Even human urine (pregnant moms) contains this a little when colostrum is formed. Yellowish color of colostrum, and that of cow milk, cow ghee is due to this.

The Urine (whether human or Cow) is itself an amazing liquid, the chemical names of all components still unknown to scientists. The list of contents named so far is available in one of the messages on Self Urine therapy on ayurvedaonline,

How Gold compound forms in Cow is a mystery for scientists to solve, since they discovered it. But one more thing is also amazing. Like our hair, her horns absorb cosmic energy(electric charge), which is delievered to her brain. If you pass your hand on her spine, you will note vibrations. One of Nadis in her spine is given the name Suryaketu nadi, since it absorbs energy from sunlight. It is believed that Gold compound formation is due to sunlight.