Cow (Gau) Pooja Yoga Dharma: *NOT Animal Worship*:*Foundational Principles, Structure, and Meanings*

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The Natural World – *How to relate it to the Human world?*

- One of the Most Foundational Existential Questions:

- How do we see the world, and how to organize our lives?

A. Sacred as Interconnected, Interrelated, Interdependent to Humanity:

(Vedic Worldview)

Consequences:

- Establishing Sacred Non-exploitable and harmonious relationships with the humanity;
- Entitlement for reverence, preservation, non-polluting use and healthy growth;
- Promoting devotional aspect that can lead to experience of the sense of wonder, beauty, and mystery of the very existence, as well as the divine bliss.

B. Non-Sacred, Disjointed, Separate, Non-Related to Humanity:(Abrahamic Worldview)

Consequences:

- Using resource for human consumption and profit.
- Promoting a deep sense of domination, exploitation, and aggressive usage of natural resources;
- Driving other species to extinction;
- Polluting the land, air and water resources;
- Polluting and corrupting the humanity's integral relations with the natural world;
- Making means for human suffering and destruction.

Vedic versus Christian View on Nature:



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- *Purusha (Atman), part and parcel of Paramatman*

Pure, changeless, eternal, seer, self-knowing, ineffable bliss, etc.

- Nature of Prakriti:
- Avyakta (unmanifest) and Vyakta (manifest)
- Yoni, transcendental source or 'womb",
- Creative, dynamic matrix, web of inter-connectivity and relationships,
- Ever mutable, evolves the material world out of itself,
- Cyclic, non-linear, dynamic,
- Unified whole, hierarchical,
- Diversified, plural and very complex,
- It goes through the cycle of existence, sustenance, and dissolution,
- The Primary dynamic attributes(Gunas): Sattva, Rajas, Tamas, and their Mixture.

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Please note:

One of the foundational doctrines of the Vedic wisdom: [unique and universal]

"The Prakriti is the creative matrix of our existence [under the control of Purusha and Purushottama : Gita-chapter -13] that manifests through the web of yogic connectivity and interdependent relations between the divine, human and non-human beings, and the material world."

contemporary scientific statement:

"The nature manifests a universal web of creative connectivity and mutual correlations between its all members, living and non-living."

Please Note: In the contemporary Reductionist and Materialistic Paradigms of Physical sciences, the concepts of Atman and Parmatman are missing.

The notion of consciousness is slowly making in-road. The primary reasons include inexplicability of the strangeness observed in the world of Quantum Physics.

The Vedic Sacred World:

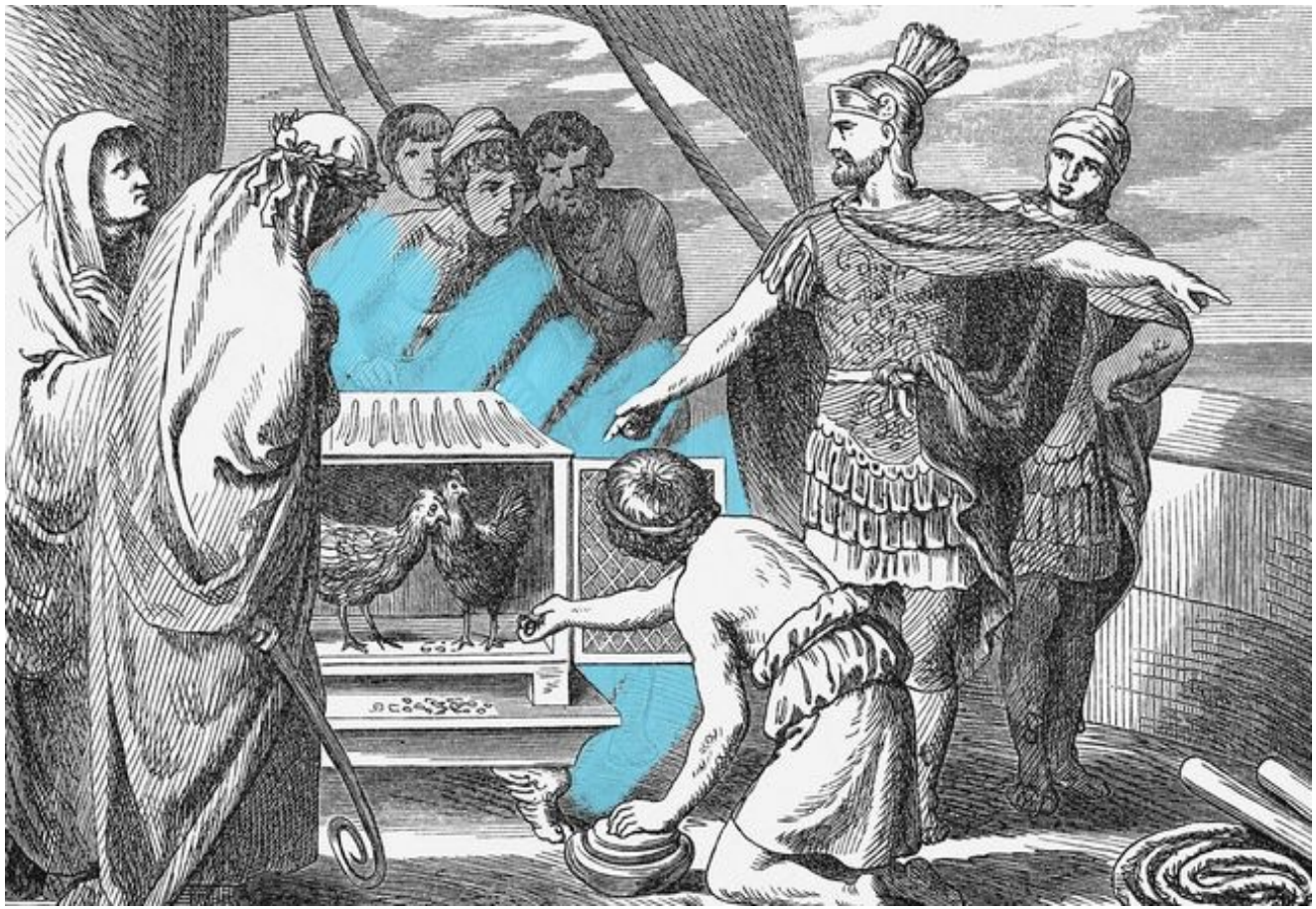


- Sacred(Pavitra?)
- What it is:
- made Holy by religious association; entitled for reverence; used for religious purpose. (Oxford Dictionary)
- Pavitra: The entity entitled for reverence, preservation and growth; devotional aspect that can lead to experience the wonder, beauty, and mystery of the very existence, and the divine bliss.
- Examples:
- Devatas and Devis; living saintly persons
- The entire existence (Prakriti, Cosmos);
- All the five primary Tattvas: Aakaasha (Space?) ,Vaayu (Air?) Agni(Fire?), Aapas(Water?), Prithvi(Earth?);
- Natural world: Forests, Trees, Fruit trees; Shrubs, Medicinal Plants;
- Rivers, Sarovars (Ponds) and Mountains; Holy Teerthas; Temples, Shrines, etc.
- Animals and Birds;
- Scriptures and Books of all kinds of wisdom;
- The Cow, Tulasi plants, Peepal and Banayan trees, Ganga, Yamuna, Saraswati, Kaveri and all other rivers;
- Etc.

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The ‘sacred chickens’ of ancient Rome made predictions about the future.

The most notable cautionary tale about not heeding the fowls’ warnings came in 249 BCE. According to the ancient scholar Cicero, one Roman consul commanding a fleet of ships dismissed some bad omens before going into battle. When he was told the chickens wouldn’t eat, he ordered them thrown overboard, commenting, “Let them drink.” He was soundly defeated, and later recalled by the Roman Senate.



Pavitrata: (Legal Recognition)

- Great News:

- **Madras High Court (2026)recognizes Thamirabarani river as a "legal person", prohibits immersion and dumping;**

  - **Uttarakhand High Court (2017): Granted "human entity" status to the Ganga and Yamuna rivers;**

  - **Madras High Court (2022): Recognized "Mother Nature" as a living being, reinforcing the legal stance that protecting nature is a necessity;**

  - **Punjab and Haryana High Court (2020): Declared the Sukhna Lake in Chandigarh a living entity;**

GAU-Calf(Cow-Calf) Bharatiya

- Brahma-Cow(America)

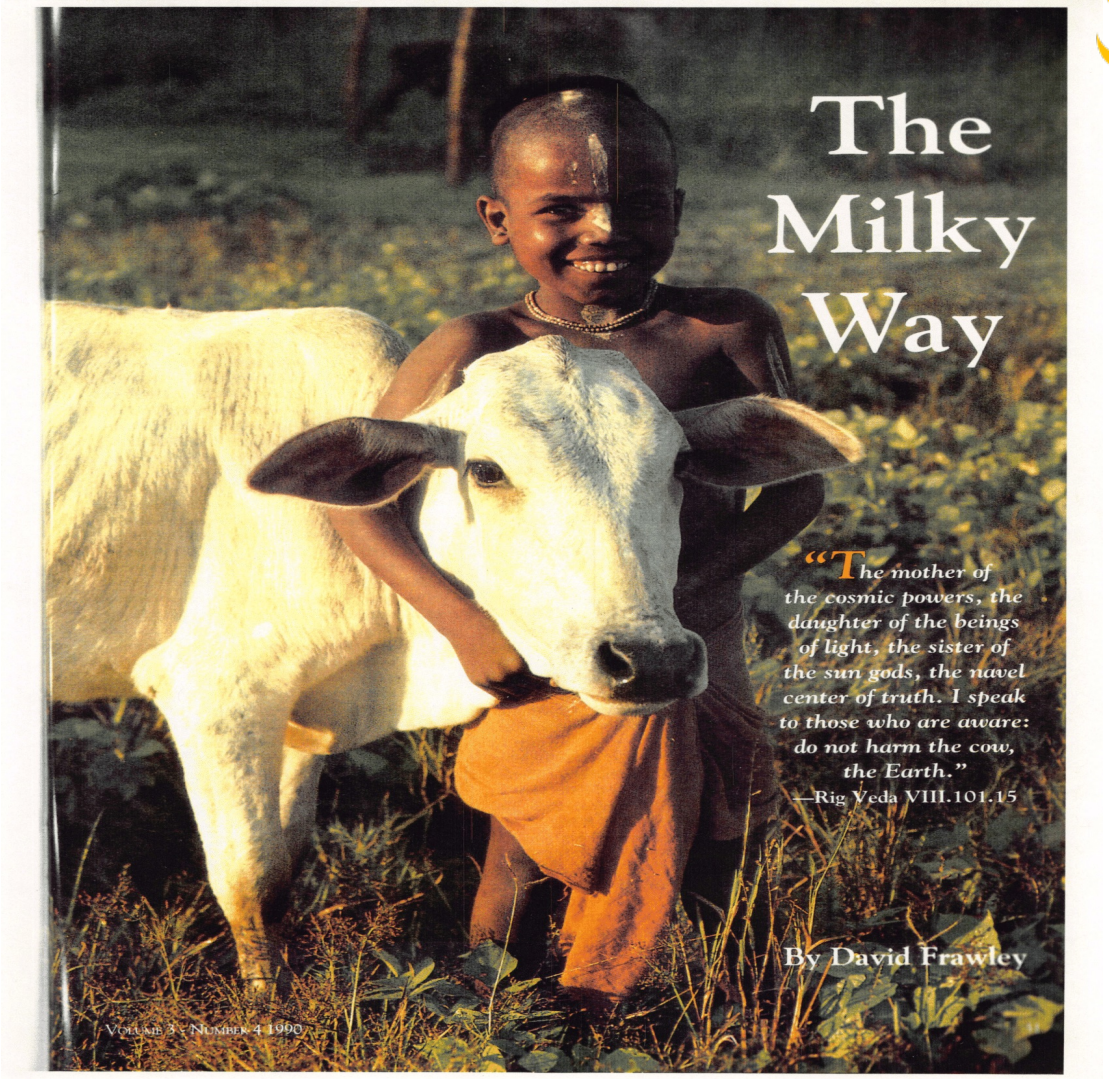




- Cow-Deity(Embodying the Divine beings)

Mother Cow:

“ The mother of the cosmic powers, daughter of the beings of light, sister of the sun gods, the navel center of Truth. I speak to those who are aware: do not harm the Cow, the Earth.” (*Rig Veda VIII.101.15*)



Go (Mother Cow)

Basic Terms for cow: Aghnyaa, Usraa, Usriyaa, Dhenu, Gau, Go, Vasa, etc.

Cow: the female principle to create and sustain life; material vital energy,
Re-establishment of the world order,
visionary wisdom (dhih),

"O Indra and Varuna, be the lovers of this dhih like two bulls of a cow, may she yield us milk with thousand streams---" Rig Veda: 4.41.5)

The cow as the Economic Wealth:

(i) Health: Nourishment through milk, and variety of food dishes, variety of medicines from milk, urine, dung and more.

(ii) Wealth: various products- Agriculture, plowing, farming; bartending, gift, ceremonial giving, etc.

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Important Notes: (*Major Ref. Vedas, and "Concept of cow in the Rigveda' Doris Srinivasan,Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi, 1979)*

- The word Gau (Go) represents the actual cow created when the world took shape.

- Cow is the only creature who gives of herself continuously and abundantly in all the vital area of human life in this world and beyond.

- Gau or Go is the most inclusive term for "cow" in Rigveda. The prominent descriptions of cow can be found in the Vedas, Brahmanaas, Epic and Puraanic texts, Saahityic literature in various language-to just name a few. It is not easy to document and discuss as the Cow is so pervasive in the entire Vedic wisdom traditions and practices.

- " Importance of the cow is seen not only in the many references to her practical uses. ----frequency with which the activity of the cow is compared to the gods, and to the events which describe natural, ritual and cosmic phenomena."

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- The most significant image of Cow in the Rig-Veda is that of pouring out of a flood of milk-that means:
- Rays of light stream like milk;
- Cosmic Waters are like lowing cows which flow with milk;
- Rain is shed as milk from cows;
- Poetic vision is like a cow flowing with a thousand streams of milk;
- The breasts of a goddess are like the cow's udder;
- Like cow and her milk, light is thought of bright streams which sustains life;
- A feminine creative principle;
- Rain fructifies;
- Poetic vision translated into hymns yielding wealth, health and all well-being;
- The creative and sustaining principle embodying motherhood, fertility, and liberality (Dakshina, Speech and Vaac).

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- "The importance of the cows is seen not only in the many references to her practical uses. Another indicator is is the frequency with which the activity of cow is compared to the gods, and to the events which describe natural, ritual and cosmic phenomena."

" The Cosmic Waters which stream out Vritrasura are said to be like cows."

(RV1.32.11; 1.61.10)

" The mighty Indra, the slayer of the dragon, sent forth the flood of Waters to the ocean.

He (Indra) produced the Sun; he found the cows." *(RV 2.19.3abc)*

Continue---

- O Indra, Agni you fought now to gain Cows, Waters, Sun, the Dawns which were carried off.
- The directions, the Sun, bright Downs O Indra, the Waters, the Cows you again, O Agni, having a team. (p.88)

The Cow: as Aditi/Prithvi:

- Aditi is sky;
- Aditi is earth;
- Aditi is mother, father and son.
- Aditi is five kinds of all men who are.
- Aditi is all that has been born and shall be. *(Rigveda: 1.89.10)*
- *The Divine Cow is the Embodiment of goddesses .Vaac, Saraswati, Idaa and Bharati*

Please Note: Idaa- Representative of the sacral food,

Bharati: Sanctifying actions during rituals.

Most Significant:

- Go (Gau) represents here the actual Cow created when the world took shape.

Continue--- (Four Udders of Mother Cow)

- In Yajna: (the sounds)

- Svaahaaa,
- Vashata,
- Hauta
- Svadhaaa

“ The gods live on two of her udders, mankind on the hauta;

the father on the Svadhaa---speech yields milk and the milk is speech”.

(Chhandogya Upanishad)

- In Purushartha:

- Dharma-Kshetra
- Artha-Kshetra
- Kaama-Kshetra
- Moksha-Kshetra

Continue--- (Cow and Tulasi Worship)

The field of Sacredness



Continue---Kaamadhenu -devine cow:

Of weapons, I am Vajra; of Cows, Kaamadhuk;
Of progenitors, I am Kandarpa; of serpents, I am Vaasuki.

(Bhagavad Gita10:28)



Continue--- (Krishna-Gopala-Govinda with Cows)

The total manifestation of 'GO' in Bhagavan Krishna's Divine Leela.
Please recall:
the multidimensional polymorphous inherent nature of 'Go'
encompassing divine, human, and natural worlds.



Gopashtami *pichhvai*
Late 18th century
Paint on cotton
230 × 217 cm

Continue---

Killing of the cows: It deeply means-

- Killing the life forces,
- Killing the principle of Ahimsa,
- Killing the Purusharthas,
- Killing the field of Rita (Sanatana dharma),
- Killing the most-gentle, most-loving and most-giving creature, and
- Killing all the social relations,
- Destruction of Vedic-World.

- " The cows are sacred, and they bring wellbeing to all. All the worlds are situated in cows." (Agni Puraana)

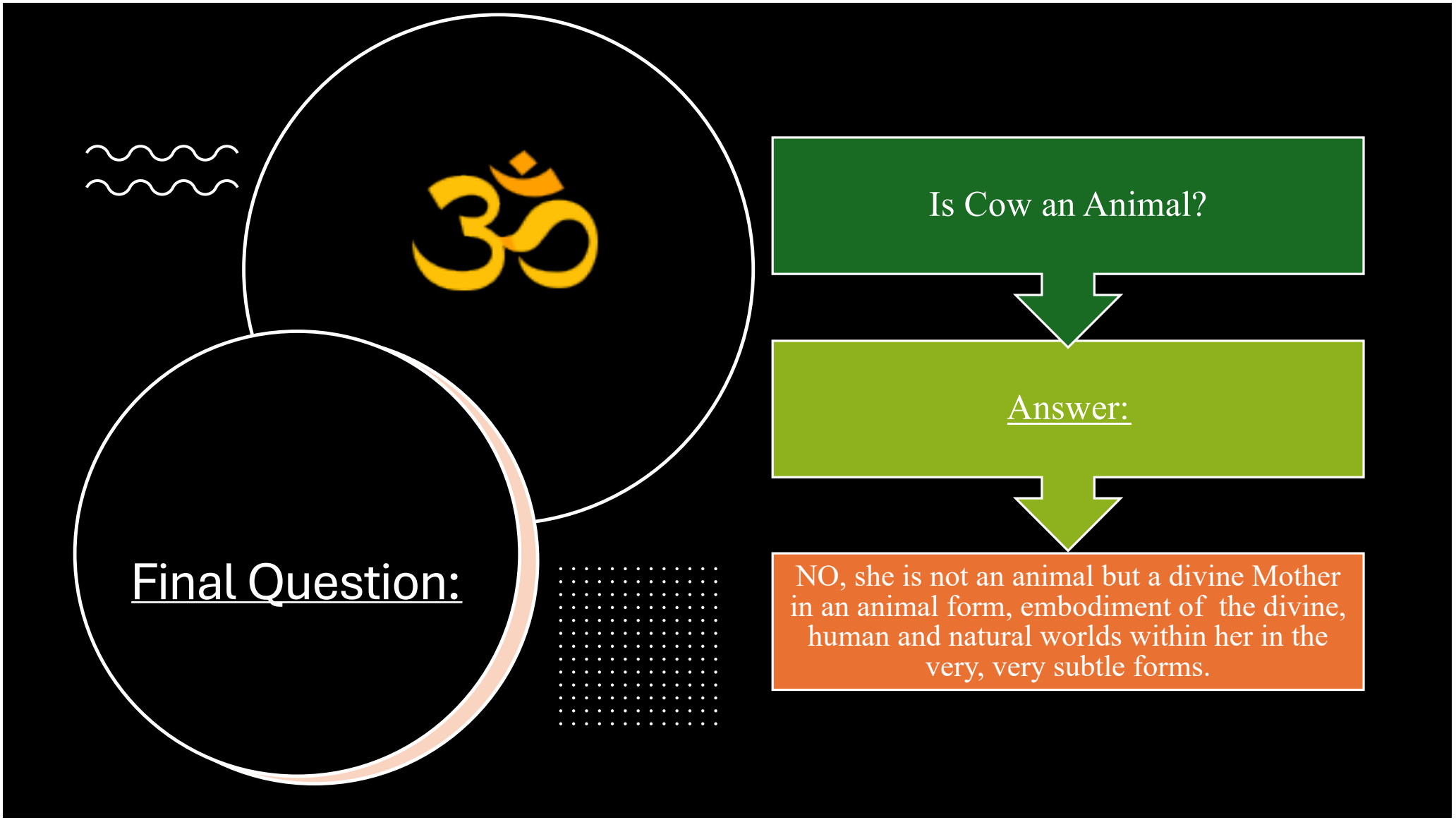
Continue--- (on Killing Cows)

- " I speak to all thoughtful persons: do not kill such a non-offensive and most loving Cow. (Atharva Veda: 4:21)

- " If you kill our cows, horses and men, we will pierce you by lead bullets so you cannot kill our heroes." (Atharva Veda: 1-16-4)

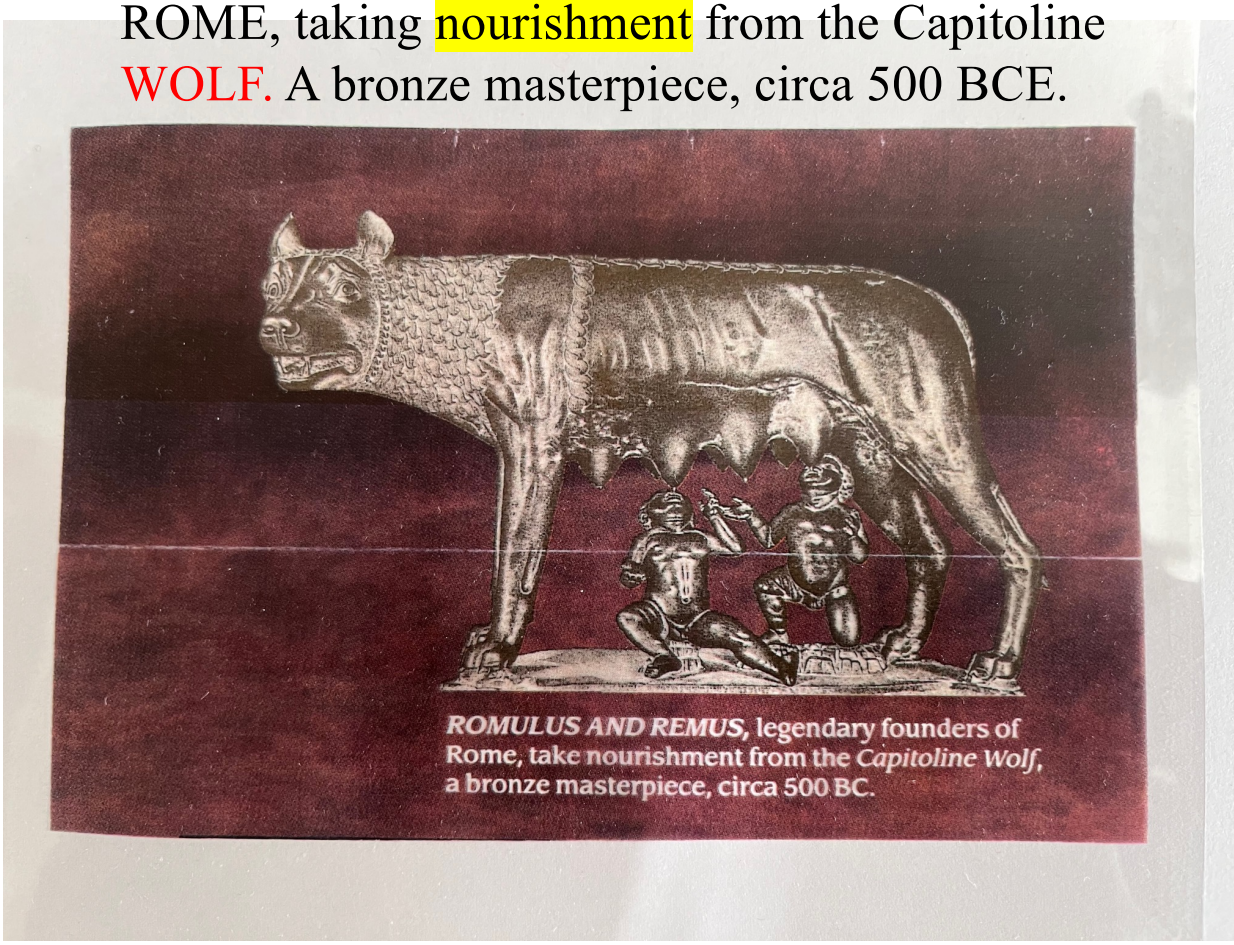
So, Cow worship also means:

- Worshipping all mothers and femininity;
- Providing bold injunction not to harm, torture or kill other animals.


Final Question:
Is Cow an Animal?
Answer:
NO, she is not an animal but a divine Mother in an animal form, embodiment of the divine, human and natural worlds within her in the very, very subtle forms.

Continue--- (Compare and contrast with COW)

ROMULUS and REMUS, legendry founders of ROME, taking nourishment from the Capitoline WOLF. A bronze masterpiece, circa 500 BCE.



Continue---

My most sincere recommendations:

1. Your temple and the center must install a Gau-Murti with a Prana-Pratistha, and start her puja too.

- One can arrange an annual Go-Puja celebration on the Gopashtami day.

2. A sizable component of the annual temple budget must be assigned to establish appropriate educational program that should include the foundational principles of Vedic wisdom traditions to be articulated with evolved narratives suited to the contemporary and future generations.

- Specifically, all the questions/concerns about the core of very temple existence and puja structures and procedures must be answerable along with their relevance and effectiveness for reestablishing lost wisdom of the Vedic Samskriti.
- Just a Note:

My above suggestions may be worth nothing to the temple administration and the audience. *But I have to follow my own Dharma as an Yogadharma Aacharya.*

Continue---



- Concluding Dhih-Inspired Thoughts:

as they are: Beautiful, Wonderful, Mysterious and Aanandamaya

- Vedic Chants with the authentic Rituals are the Original Founding Sources of:

(i) The Natya-Sangeeta-Kavya-Alankaara Shastras.

(ii)They embody conceptual, linguistic, cosmological, mathematical, and deepest levels and dimensions of the the very existence.

(iii) Dynamic Harmony of the varying degrees between all the realms -Karmakanda, Gyanakanda and Upasana Kanda- must be fostered and maintained, in general.

"SATYAMEVA JAYATE"!

Continue---



Let us sing together; let us dance together; let us learn together; let us eat together; let us serve together; let us celebrate together…

Otherwise, life is absurd, meaningless, purposeless ?

Yatra Yogeshvara Krishna…

RISE UP to get rid of Mental Slavery, and deep dark ignorance and engage in Karma Yoga, and reestablish an enlightening Murtipuja Yoga Dharma tradition, but with the suggested innovations.

Thanks a lot! And begging for your forgiveness; and requesting your blessing.

~ A Banazaaraa, an Awaaraa, A homeless Wanderer,

Shive Chaturvedi (in the Seva of Vedic Rishis)

SATYAMEVA JAYATE

Continue---



- Please sing together the following mantras:
- ॐ सह नाववतु ।
  सह नौ भुनक्तु ।
  सह वीर्यं करवावहै ।
  तेजस्वि नावधीतमस्तु मा विद्विषावहै ।
  ॐ शान्ति शान्ति शान्तिः ॥
- Let us together (-saha) be protected (-na vavatu) and
  let us together be nourished (-bhunaktu).
  Let us together join our mental forces in strength (-veeryam)
  for the benefit of humanity (-karvaa vahai).
  Let our efforts at learning be luminous (-tejasvi)
  and filled with joy and endowed with the force of purpose (-vadhita mastu). Let us never (-maa) be poisoned (-vishaa) with the seeds of hatred for anyone. Let there be peace and serenity (-shaantih) among all.