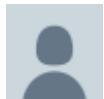


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It is said that the one who bears the dust thrown from the hoof of Gaumata on his head, as if taking a bath in the water of the teerth sthalam and getting rid of all sins.



Ved and all other Hindu scriptures venerate the cow. The Vedic dictionary, Nighantu, gives amongst other synonyms of 'Gau' [or cow] the words 'Aghnya', 'Ahi', and 'Aditi'.

Yaska the vedic decoder and commentator on Nighantu, defines these as-

Aghnya — the one that ought not to be killed
Ahi — the one that must not be slaughtered.

Aditi — the one that ought not to be cut into pieces.

These three names of cow signify that this is an animal which should not be put to tortures. These words appear frequently throughout the Veda in context of the cow.

But in due course the falsehood of killing cows spread far and wide and they became even more deep rooted when western scholars with their half baked knowledge of Sanskrit transliterated these interpretations of commentaries of Sayanacharya .

in the name of translating the Ved.

The Gau Suktam :

Rig Ved 6.028

This entire sukta describes the glory of cow as follows :

(also occurs in Aharva Ved 4.1.)

"The cows have come and brought us good fortune, May they stay in the stall and be pleased with us; May they live here, mothers of calves, many-colored, and yield milk for worship on many dawns.

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"The Lord protects and befriends the worshipper,

and makes gifts and does not take away what is one's own; Increasing his wealth forever and evermore He puts the devout in an impregnable fortress.

11

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(also occurs in Atharva Ved 4.21.3)

"They are not lost, nor do robbers injure them, nor the unfriendly frighten

nor wish to assail them; The master of the cattle lives together along with these, and worships the divines and offers gifts."

"The charger,

whirling up the dust, does not reach them, they never make their way to the slaughtering stool, The cows of the worshipping man roam about over the widespread pastures, free from all danger.

11



(also occurs in Atharva Ved 4.21.5)

"To me the Cows seem Bhaga, they seem Indra, they seem a portion of the first-poured Soma. These present Cows, they,

O ye Indra. I long for Indra with my heart and spirit."



"Ye cows, you fatten the emaciated, and you make the unlovely look beautiful, Make our house happy,

you with pleasant lowings, your power is glorified in our assemblies."



"May you have many calves,

graze on pastures and drink pure water at drinking places; May not the thief master you, nor the wicked, and may the darts of the fierce Lord leave you aside."



"May there be a close mixing up,

May Soma, the herbal juice, mix with cows' milk And may this manly vigor be, O for your heroic might.

11

Now let us see how Rig Ved portrays the status of cow and prohibits slaughtering of cows :



.....Rig Ved 4.1.6

"Excellent is the glance.

of brightest splendor, which the auspicious deity bestows on mortals. The deity's glance, longed-for even as the butter, pure, heated, of the cow, the milk cow's bounty."



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5

Rig Ved 7.68.9

"With his fair hymns this singer, too, extols you, waking