



श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण मन्दिर



SHRI LUXMI NARAYAN TEMPLE

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Go-Daan (The donation of a cow)

The origins of go-daan is as ancient as Sanathan Dharma itself.

1. In the Raamaayan of Goswami Tulsidaas, he says (Baalkaand; Doha 100, Shiv Paarvathi Vivaaha)

दासीं दास तुरग रथा नागा । धेनु बसन मनि बस्तु बिभागा ॥

अन्न कनकभाजन भरि जाना । दाइज दीन्ह न जाइ बखाना

The various auspicious gifts that are given are mentioned in this verse- Servants, horses and chariots, elephants and COWS, jewels, grains gold and other rainments.

2. In the Garud Puraan, Preta Kaanda (Discussion between Krishna & Garud on Vrishotsarga)

गरुड उवाच

अपि साधनयुक्तस्य तीर्थदानरतस्य च ॥

अकृते तु वृषोत्सर्गे पल्लोकगतिर्न हि ॥

Garud said: Even if he has the means and is fond of pilgrimage and charitable acts, he cannot reach the heavenly abode (parloka) if he does not perform Vrishotsarga- the giving in charity of a cow or a bull.

3. Mahabharat

'The gift of a cow is truly regarded as a superior gift. Cows, by yielding milk, rescue all the worlds from calamity.

Verily, if one gives even one cow and a calf to an appropriate person at the right time, one is sure to see that cow approach one in heaven in the form of a river of sacred water capable of granting the fruition of every wish"

-This quote is from the Mahabharata. Spoken by Bhisma as he lay on his bed of arrows at Kurukshetra

in answer to Yudhisthira's questions on the giving of gifts

Since the arrival of Indians here in South Africa, history shows that many of us have continued to perform Go-daan whenever we visit India on pilgrimage. In South Africa itself, many of us symbolically do Go-daan using a murthi of a cow, together with money at any various times but more especially when performing shraadh and kanya daan. The importance of this act of Go-daan is highlighted throughout our scriptures.

For the followers of Sanathan Dharma, the Shri Luxmi Narayan Temple- Mobeni has prepared this tract as well as a Viddhi for the actual performance of Go-daan. In Thornville, Kwa-Zulu Natal, a very wel kept Goshala (Cow protection centre) is now available so that this rite can be performed with full attention to detail according to the viddhi.

Yajmaans can go to the Goshala, together with the family priest and purchase a cow, donate it to their priest, who in turn must donate it back to the Goshala. In this way, the yajmaan, the priest and the goshala will benefit.

This now makes it possible for those who cannot visit India, to carry out this auspicious rite, right here in South Africa. It now becomes affordable and yajmaans are encouraged to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Yajmaans can have a clear conscience that the cow that they are donating is taken care of in a 5-star environment. Yajmaans are also allowed to bring along fresh produce and prasaadh, which they can feed to the cows.

The godaan viddhi is available on our website www.luxminarayantemple.org.

For arrangments to use the Goshala, you may contact Pt. Bob Maharaj on 033-2510 723.

Feedback and input is expected from all paid, registered members of this organization. You may direct your feedback and input to rishipaul.m@gmail.com or contact any member of the executive.

No part of the viddhi may be reproduced without written permission of the Shri Luxmi Narayan Temple- Mobeni heights.

Besides other members of our committee, special thanks must go to Pt. Rishi R Maharajh & Pt. VH Maharaj (Kanhaiya) for their guidance and extra efforts in trying to present a working document to you.

This project was initiated by the executive so that you, (purhoits) will encourage yajmaans to carry out this Puja while understanding the underlying benefits. I trust that our work will come in handy and will be put to good use.