



Sacrificial Significance of Goat in Various Religions



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ABSTRACT:

Goats can be economically beneficial with religious perspective also. As goats can fetch good price when they are sold for religious sacrifices as practiced in different religions i.e. Hindu and Islam. In Hinduism almost all castes offer goat as a sacrifices to satisfy and appease various gods and deities. Not only non-vegetarians but vegetarians also offer goat to fulfill their

desires by the Almighty in their respective religions. Goats can be butchered or left alive to God. So rearing goats and selling for religious sacrifices of different regions can enhance your economic standard and abolish poverty.

KEY WORDS:

Religious practices, Customs, Traditions, Sacrifice etc.

INTRODUCTION:

Goat keeping can be done for various purposes. Goat keeping is beneficial in all the ways. You can do it as a main occupation or as a side business also. In both the ways it is economically beneficial. Traditional goat farming or enclosed goat farming are meant for selling for meat / mutton, milk, manure or fur/wool also. Besides these benefits goats are also sold for religious sacrifices in different religions to fulfill your wish or desire by satisfying or pleasing the god or deity in the respective religion.

Both Hindu and Islam religions treat goat as a sacred animal to be offered to the Almighty. As Dr. Shaikh I. M. (2020) points out in his research paper titled “Rearing of Kurbani Bokad (Sacrificial Buck) for Bakri-Eid (Religious Sacrifices): An Advanced Technique in Agriculture” how goat has religious importance. Similarly this research paper highlights that goat has religious significance not only in Islam but also in various sects and castes in Hinduism. This research paper also brings out the importance of goat in religious as well economic perspective as goat is considered sacred in both the religions.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

The researcher along his colleagues undertook a survey of various religious practices in different communities, castes and religions of sacrifices or sacrificial practices. We visited and interviewed number of people and devotees, priests of all religions. The researcher with his colleagues visited a number of places of worship i.e. Temples, Dargahas, Peerbabas, Bakri-Eid various fares and festivals round the year. We also surveyed various weekly animal bazars and interviewed various buyers of goats and asked their purpose of buying goats. Similarly various proprietors of various enclosed goat farms were also approached to procure the data. The collected data was analyzed and observations, results and conclusion were drawn.

OBSERVATION AND RESULTS:

The in-depth study, data brought forth the following results: Goats can be sold for meat/ mutton as well as religious sacrifices to please the god- Goddess or deity after fulfilling your wish or desire in both the religions. Religious people and even vegetarian one offer a goat to the almighty after fulfilling one wish or desire. Goat is preferred to other animals and fowls because it is meek in nature. It is preferred to hen or cock because

goat is a four legged animal. Goat is preferred to a cow or heifer because beef is banned in Hinduism like pork in Islam. Sometimes a buffalo is sacrificed before goddess Kali at Dasara but buffalo is considered sanctimonious because it is carrier of Lord Yama the death god in Hinduism.

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Similarly in Islam goat is sacrificed as per the myth instead of one's own son to please Allah on the occasion of Bakri-Eid festival. In all sects and castes of both the religions these customs are followed. Both the rich and poor observed these rites and rituals willingly and full of joy. Nobody dares to disobey these customs. So naturally most of the people buy a goat for religious sacrifice.

Goat is sacrificed because as mentioned above it being a meek animal and when a guilt or a crime is imposed on somebody an innocent person is considered as a scape goat. Similarly when a goat is sacrifice in any religious custom it is called Ajabali because it cannot protest or oppose.

CONCLUSION:

As most of the people are god fearing they generally succumb to most of the religious practices and are prone and prey to these dogmatic customs. They may be sacrificing a goat or any animal before god may it be out of superstition or blind faith but their devotion cannot be challenged. This faith in god or their devotion can be tapped for economic purposes. So when they buy goats for religious sacrifice it is as much significant as selling a goat for meat or mutton, milk, fur or manure as ultimately it culminates in good financial profit and it enhances the living standards of the goat seller or keeper by eradicating his poverty.

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