

## The Hindus never ate beef\*

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\*except  
charmakars (cobblers) did,  
bhattas (soldiers) did,  
natas (actors) did,  
and so did Dasas & Medas & Vratas & Bhillas,  
all sunk their teeth afresh,  
when served cow's flesh,  
&  
they were joined by (drum-beat) Vedic Gods,  
Indra was fond of bull's meat,  
& Agni loved both bull and cow,  
& old books even suggest how  
& what kind of cow should be  
sacrificed for which God, see  
that you get  
a dwarf ox for Vishnu,  
& a big horned bull for Indra,  
& a black cow for Pushan, & etc. etc.,  
so that whenever the Gods were in the mood,  
"verily the cow [was] food,"  
and secretly, even now,  
the Bhakts who have a beef but still eat it,  
they always heave a sigh of relief,



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knowing their Vivekananda  
(they don't know how to treat it, it shakes their belief)  
liked Biceps, Bhagwad & [yolo] Beef.

(thanks to B.R. Ambedkar and Ram Puniyani)

**Akhil Katyal** is a writer and translator based in Delhi where he also teaches literature. His writings have appeared widely in national and international journals and anthologies. He has translated the works of Mangalash Dabral, Wislawa Szymborska, Agha Shahid Ali, Om Prakash Valmiki, Dorothy Parker and Langston Hughes, among others. He finished his PhD from SOAS, University of London in 2011.

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