

# MY SACRED BULL



## Nature nurtures our actions

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There is "participation" in everything that happens, or doesn't happen, around us. This is nothing short of a profound sense of reciprocity — one that may also express what is obvious.

Your hand is able to touch things because it is a touchable thing by itself. It is also a part of the tangible world that it explores. This holds good for your eyes, too. You "spot" things that are themselves apparent — the glossy surfaces, the hues, the printed photograph in a book, a piece of granite, or the turquoise sky.

When you "stroke" the sparkling surface of granite, you "feel" yourself being touched by the glistening stone. Likewise, you see the world around you, it is a visible experience. It is like feeling yourself seen from the outside. You experience things, see, touch, hear, and also taste things, primarily because your body is included in the sensible field. Our body has its own textures, sounds, and tastes to contend with and experience, all right, but they are all there — a part of the whole, and a sum of the parts.

We can perceive things because we are part of the tangible world in which we live and also see, feel and experience. You may relate to this uniqueness of perceiving the world through yourself. When you walk in nature's best gardens, you gaze into the green canvas and shaded depths. You smell the freshness of grass, the serenity of the leaves. You feel refreshed with the breezy fragrance in the air. You may also suddenly feel that the trees are looking at you — a feeling of being watched from all sides.

When you are "touched" by someone you love, you feel as if it is part of the sensuous — the exchanges and changes that arise from your conscious physical self to the conscious feeling deep within. It is a fascinating feeling, a gift of nature in you,

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and of nature itself. You can't quite explain this extraordinary feeling, but you sure will feel it intensely. This form of experience is strange, fascinating and somewhat puzzling to our so-called civilised ways of knowing. Yet, it becomes evident as soon as you accept the give-and-take nature of direct "participation" and "perception" — to touch is also to feel yourself being touched, or to see is also to feel yourself seen.

It's rightly said that a person "living" with nature is never alone. Why? Because one is as conscious of one's surroundings as the surroundings are of him. Remember, your surroundings are offended as much as you are when others don't treat you well. Nature needs to be treated with respect, the same kind of respect that you expect from others.

These are perceptual feelings. When consciously acknowledged, they greatly influence our behaviour. If, for instance, you think that your locality is beautiful, and sensitive, you will take care that your actions are just as conscientious and polite. This will stay with you even when you are far away from your surroundings. The reason is: You think you belong.

Philosophers rightly call this the new 'environment ethic' — an uplifting thought that leads us to respect and pay attention to the lives of our fellow human beings, as also the optimal health and well-being of the rest of nature, the flora and fauna. Needless to say, this thought is truly imperative if we were to bring about renewed attentiveness, or "participation" to all that expresses our common sense. For, it is our living land that sustains us today, and also tomorrow.

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