

# The Ox

by [Thomas Banks](#) (June 2021)



*Cart with Black Ox*, Vincent van Gogh, 1884

**You will not** in my history  
Find out a tale of gladness;  
The yoke, the plough, the goad: here see  
The sources of my sadness.

A slave of herdsmen day to day,  
As were my sire and mother,  
Who died and payed, as I shall pay,

With blood some god or other.

But I remember one cold night  
When three men did reward me  
With kingly gifts, fragrant and bright,  
While they with prayers adored me.

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