

*The Golden Calf*  
vs.  
*The Fattened Calf*

The Golden Calf  
led God's children  
astray;  
the Fattened Calf  
celebrated the child's  
return.

The Golden Calf  
was motivated  
by fear  
and was an expression  
of idolatry;  
the Fattened Calf  
was prepared  
out of joy  
and was an occasion  
of jollity.

The disgruntled people  
joined in adoration  
of the Golden Calf;  
the begrudging brother  
refused participation  
in the Fattened Calf.

A bedraggled Aaron  
was forced to make  
the Golden Calf;  
a merciful Father  
made the arrangements  
for the Fattened Calf.

Worship of the Golden Calf  
reflected the obduracy  
of a stiff-necked community  
and was a form  
of slavery;  
partaking of the Fattened Calf  
symbolized the gratitude  
of a thankful family  
and was a type  
of liturgy.

In life, therefore,  
when we pursue dead-ends  
by violating virtue and values,  
we are clamoring  
for a Golden Calf,  
otherwise known as  
our Sacred Cow.

If, however,  
we stay on the path  
towards our benevolent Father,  
we are invited to the feast  
of the Fattened Calf,  
whom we call  
the Lamb of God.

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September 23, 2007  
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