

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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Thomas Banks has taught literature and Latin for many years in Idaho, Montana, and North Carolina, where he currently lives. Other writings of his have appeared in *First Things* and the *St. Austin Review*.

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