

From the Word Go

Not long after the start of the cycle, Purusha,
finding no joy in being alone, swollen with desire
into dimensions of a couple embracing in copulation
split in two to create the first man and first woman.

He immediately wanted her but *How can that be*
she asked and the gods agreed *for he created me.*
I will hide she said and turned herself into a cow.
But he turned himself into a bull and mounted her
and from that mating came all the world's cattle.

Then she became a mare but he became a stallion,
she was a jenny and he a jack. He mounted her
and from that mating came all single-hoofed animals.

Then she was a nanny and he a billy, she a ewe
and he a ram, and from that came all sheep and goats
and so on with bears and tigers, bees and butterflies
until all the world's animals came into existence.