

SI No.18

सम्हिता : (४,१,११.१)

तत्स॑ वितु॑र् वरै॑ण्यम् भर्गो॑ देवस्य॑ धीमहि॑ । धियो॑ यो नः॑ प्रचोदया॑त् ।

On the excellent splendour/glory of the God Savitu :, we meditate. Let our good thoughts/ prayers are stimulated/ activated by him.

The Gayatri Mantra is considered to be the Essence of the Teaching of the Vedas - the Veda Sara.

Om - Para Brahman, **Bhoo** : - Bhoo loka (Physical plane). It also refers to the body made up of the 5 Pancha Bhootas (5 elements). These 5 elements constitute Prakriti (Nature), **Bhuva** : - Bhuva loka - The middle world. Bhuva is also Praana Sakthi. However, it is the presence of Prajnana that enables the Praana Sakthi to animate the body. It is on this account that the Vedas have declared "Prajnaanam Brahma" (Constant Integrated Awareness is Brahmam), **Suva** : - Swarga loka (Heaven - the land of the Gods), **Tat** - Paramaatma, God or Brahman, **Savitu** : - That from which all this

is born, **Vavenyam** - Fit to be worshipped, **Bharga** : - The Radiance, the Spiritual Effulgence, the Light that bestows Wisdom, **Devasya** - Divine Reality, **Dheemahi** - We meditate, **Dhiya** : - Buddhi, Intellect, **Ya** : - Which, **Na** : - Our, **Prachodayaat** - Enlighten.

This is the famous Gayatri Mantra in all Vedas and known to us. Another way of translating this mantra :

(Om) Om (**Dheemahi**) We meditate (**Bharga** :) upon the Spiritual Effulgence (**Varenyam Devasya**) of THAT Adorable Supreme Divine Reality (**Savitu** :) the Source (**Bhoo : Bhuva : Suva** :) of the Physical, the Astral and the Heavenly Spheres of Existence. (**Tat**) May THAT Supreme Divine Being (**Prachodayaat**) enlighten (**Ya:**) which (**Na** :) our (**Dhiya** :) intellect (so that we may realise the Supreme Truth). Also: **Dhi yo yona : Prachodayaat** = Awaken my Discrimination, O Lord and guide me.

The Gayatri Mantra is the elaboration of the Pranava Sabda or Om. It (the Gayatri Mantra) is now held so venerable and valuable that initiation into the Adhyatmic life is

achieved by its contemplation. Gayatri is the Mother of the Vedas. The Gayatri Mantra is a Prayer that can well be spoken with desire by all people in all centuries. Repetition of this Mantra will develop the Intelligence.

The Gayatri Mantra is the Universal Prayer enshrined in the Vedas, the most ancient Scriptures of Man. **Gayatri is present wherever the Mantra is chanted.**

The Gayatri Mantra was discovered by Sage Viswamitra. The Gayatri Mantra enabled him to use rare weapons which bowed to his will when the Mantra was repeated with faith. Through the powers he attained, he was able to create a counterpart of this Cosmos also.

The Gayatri Mantra is addressed to the energy of the Sun - Surya. Gayatri has 3 names - Gayatri, Saavitri and Saraswathi. These three are present in each one of us. Gayatri is the master of the senses. Saavitri is the master of Prana (Life Force). Saavitri signifies Truth. Saraswathi is the presiding Deity of Speech (Vaak). These three represent purity in Thought, Word and Deed (Trikarana Suddhi). The Gayatri Mantra is addressed to the Immanent and Transcendent Divinity.

The Immanent and Transcendent Divinity has been given the name 'Savitu : ' It means "that from which all this is born".

This Mantra has infinite potentiality. It is a vibrant formula. It has immense powers, powers that are truly amazing, for the Sun is its presiding Deity. One who practices **purity and harmony of Thought, Word and Deed** will have Gayatri, Saavitri and Saraswathi residing in him. An appeal is made to the Divine to awaken and strengthen our Intellect, the **discriminating faculty** (Buddhi) in us.

The Gayatri Mantra may be considered to have 3 parts. The Mantra has all the three elements that figure in the adoration of God - Praise, Meditation and Prayer. The three parts may also be described as:

- (1) Praise to Savita. The Divine is first praised.
- (2) Meditation on Savita. The Divine is then meditated upon in reverence.
- (3) Prayer to Savita.

To one who chants the Gayatri Mantra regularly and with faith -

1. the Gayatri Mantra is the reliever of diseases – (**Sarva roga nivaarini Gayatri,**)
2. the Gayatri Mantra wards off all misery - (**Sarva dukha parivaarini Gayatri,**)
3. the Gayatri Mantra is the fulfiller of all desires – (**Sarva vaancha phalasri Gayatri.**)

The Gayatri Mantra should be chanted at dawn, noon and dusk. These times are also known as Sandhya Kaalam, that is to say, the meeting point between night and day, morning and evening, day and night. These times are beneficial for spiritual practices.

When the Gayatri Mantra is chanted, various kinds of powers will emerge in one. Hence *the Gayatri Mantra should not be treated casually.* The Gayatri Mantra implies the 4 Maha Vakyas or the 4 core declarations enshrined in the 4 Vedas.

The four Maha Vakyas are:

1. **Prajnaanam Brahma** - Consciousness is Brahman (Aitareya Upanishad of the Rig Veda)

2. **Aham Brahma Asmi** - I Am Brahman (Brihadaranyaka Upanishad of the Yajur Veda)
3. **Tat Tvam Asi** - That Thou Art (Chandogya Upanishad of the Sama Veda)
4. **Ayam Aatma Brahma** - This Self is Brahman (Mandukya Upanishad of the Atharva Veda)

By reciting this Gayatri Mantra in Ghana Form, people will be bestowed with infinite Benefits, stated above.

पदम्

तत् । स॒वितुः । वरै॑ण्यम् । भर्गः । दे॒वस्य॑ । धी॒महि ॥ धि॒र्यः । यः । नः । प्र॒चोद॑या
दि॒ति॒प्र - चो॒दया॑त् ॥

घनः

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प्रचोदया दितिप्र - चोदयात्

SI No.19

सम्हिता : (४,१,११.२)
चोदयित्री सूनृतांनाञ् चेतन्ती सुम तीनाम् । यज्ञन्दधे सरस्वती । पावीरवी कन्या चित्रायुस् सरस्वती वीरपत्नी धियन्धात् । ग्नाभि रच्छिद्रं शरणं सजोषा दुरा धक्कषड् गृणते शर्मयं सत् ।
Driver of the kindness (Soonrutaanam) and Instigator of devotion or right thoughts