

* Om *

Gayatri.

SHRI BHAGWAT BHAKTI
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ॐ भूर्भुवः स्वः तत्सवितुर्वरेण्यं
भर्गो देवस्य धीमहि । धियो यो
नः प्रचोदयात् ॐ ॥

OM BHUR BHUVAH SVAH
TAT SAVITUR VARENYAM
BHARGO DEVASYA DHIMAHI
DHIYO YO NAH PRACHO-
DAYAT. OM.

In the Gayatri mantra there are 9 names viz. 1. *Om*, 2. *Bhuh*, 3. *Bhuvah*, 4. *Svah*, 5. *Tat*, 6. *Savituh*, 7. *Varenyam*, 8. *Bhargo* and 9. *Devasya*, through these nine names the Lord is praised. *Dhimahi* is meditation of the Lord

Dhiyo yo nah prachodayat is prayer. Herein there are five halts or stops viz. 'Om' is the first stop; "*Bhur Bhuvah svah*" the second; "*Tat savitur varenyam*" the third; "*Bhargo devasya dhimahi*" the fourth; and "*Dhiyo yo nah prachodayat*" the fifth.

While chanting or doing japa of the *mantra*, we should stop a little at every stop or halt. Here is the *Shabdārtha* of *Gayatri*. *Om* = All pervading and protector of all. *Bhuh* = Truth or Existence Absolute. *Bhuvah* = Consciousness or knowledge Absolute. *Svah* = Bliss Absolute. *Tat* = That Infinite Supreme Being. *Savituh* = Creator of all.

Varenyam = The most desirable (praise worthy) One. *Bhargo* = Destroyer of all sins, Pure Effulgent Being. *Devasya* = Of the Shining Lord, who is the Bestower of Light and Happiness. *Dheemahe* = We all meditate. *Dhiyah* = The intelligence. *Yah* = That Lord. *Nah* = Our. *Prachodayat* = May inspire us for the attainment of righteousness, wealth, desired objects and salvation, and withdrawing us from the world may He direct us to our *Real Self* and grant us pure intelligence.

Savita is the presiding Deity of the Gayatri mantra, fire (*Agni*) is the mouth, *Vishwamitra* is the

Rishi and Gayatri is the metre. It is recited in the investiture of sacred thread, practice of pranayama and japa.

The Gayatri is the primitive mantra. What to say of other scriptures even in the Vedas there is no other mantra in which we find, praise of God, meditation and prayer, all three are contained in one and the same mantra. In the usual worship of God we praise Him in the beginning, meditate in the middle, and pray in the end. In the Gayatri mantra praise, meditation, and prayer, all the three are contained. It is the Gayatri mantra alone that

can be commonly prescribed for all the Hindūs. The Lord commands in the Vedas "Let one mantra be common to all." Hence the Gayatri should be the one mantra for all the Hindus.

The secret lore of the Upanishads is the essence of the four Vedas, and Gayatri with the three *Vyahritis* is the essence of the Upanishads. He is the real Brahmin who knows and understands the Gayatri thus. Without its knowledge he is a Shudra, though well versed in the four Vedas.

What Gayatri is, the same is *Sandhya*, and what *Sandhya* is, the same is Gayatri. *Sandhya* and

Gayatri are identical. He, who meditates on Gayatri, meditates on Lord Vishnu. The Japa of all the four Vedas together with the Angas bears the same fruit as does the japa of Gayatri.

Gayatri is the Mother of the Vedas and the Destroyer of sins, There is nothing more purifying on the earth, as well as on the heaven, than the Gayatri.

Lord Manu says "*Japa yagna* is ten times more fruitful than the *Vidhi yagna* (ordinary sacrifice), and in (*Japayagna*) if only the lips move (*Upansu Japa*) it is hundred times more fruitful and the Mental japa

(*Manasic Japa*) is thousand times more fruitful.

A man can repeat Gayatri mentally while lying, sitting, walking, (i. e. in all states.) There is no sin of commission or omission even if it is repeated thus. One gets heaven and liberation if it is recited regularly. One should perform *Sandhya* four times a day with the Gayatri in the morning, noon, evening and mid-night.

This single mantra if repeated four times a day brings salvation (Kalyan or Moksha). It is a mantra of the Vedas. It is the Lord's command. It destroys sins. It imparts the light of knowledge.