

---

## **THE MILCH COW**

In an agrarian community the cow held a significant position. Again the milch cow occupied the highest rung in the ladder of nourishment. In this verse Sarasvati who herself is a milch cow, will give us the special yield. The yield is milk, ghee, honey and water. By now it is clear that although the Sarasvati River has been the triggering inspiration for the hymns, the rishis are not referring to the figurative river nor the cow. These are metaphorically used. He who recites or studies these pavamaaneeya, the essence extracted by the rishis, for him, Sarasvati herself will milk the yield. Paavamaaneeya are a collection of hymns addressed to the devata Pavamaana.

Water represents the life or pranic force without which no activity is possible. Milk represents the Truth once it is recognised. Ghee represents the same Truth once it is clarified by ones own efforts. Honey represents the Delight of this Truth when it is experienced as life itself. These hymns composed by rishis contain the extracted essence of Truth.

मण्डल ९ सूक्त ६७ ऋक् ३२ ऋषि वसिष्ठ देवता पवमान  
पावमानीर्यो अध्येत् ऋषिभिः सम्भृतम् रसम् ।  
तस्मै सरस्वती दुहे क्षीरं सर्पिर्मधूदकम् ॥

**He who recites the pavamaaneeya, which is the essence extracted by rishis. For him, Sarasvati milks milk, ghee, honey and water.**