

## **THE TOWN and THE HIGHWAY**

When we are on a journey from a remote place, the sight of an approaching town is very heart warming. We realise that there, in the town we can cleanse ourselves, board and lodge and take advantage of unlimited provisions with comfort and security assured.

Sarasvati is being compared to a town made of iron. She can help us achieve this sense of security and comfort. Moreover the town that she provides is one made of iron, i.e. strong and not easily destroyed. This sense comes only when we journey towards or strive for the sighting or recognition of the Truth. The knowledge or type of knowledge that we indulge in must be ultimately one that is strong like iron. This is not the iron of fanaticism. This is not the iron of blind faith. It is a perception of Truth that is so sound that is unassailable. This is PRAGNA. The result is a mind that provides its own security in times when there is a possible threat. It also provides comfort when it needs. The state of mind attained thereafter is one that is strong and unassailable and not easily shaken up.

In the second line she is compared to a major chariotway *ratyaa* into which all roads merge. In this case where other rivers merge. The powerful river can take on other rivers. Take on implies both take in and take over.

Most of us fall into the category of people who are running only after speculations of the truth rather than go deep within where lies the substratum of all TRUTH. In a way it seems that a baazaar in the name of Spirituality has been set up with the many philosophies and religions as many stalls. These stalls are manned by vendors of many kinds selling one product - Spirituality. Most of us are shopping from stall to stall looking for the best deal.

The clarified mind needs no longer to shop. The knowledge that reposes in a clarified state of mind is a dynamic river-like- knowledge not a stagnant one. To such a person discoveries of various truths are like streams that may come and go. He can accept these easily without becoming overcome by them. The power of his own understanding of the Basis of Truth will win over the limited scope of sporadic and time or place oriented speculations of the Truth..

मण्डल ७ सूक्त ९५ ऋक् १ ऋषि वसिष्ठ देवता सरस्वती

प्र क्षोदसा धायसा सस्रा एषा सरस्वती धरुणमायसी पूः ।

बाबधाना रथ्येव याति विश्वा अपो महिना सिन्धुरन्या ॥

***The purifying, supporting and of unlimited flow, this Sarasvati is an iron town. Like a major chariotway with her mighty waters she takes on all other river- waters.***