

## SARASVATI -THE MOTHER

Om is the affirmative and the Assent. ॐ

The first source of nourishment for the human is the mother's breast (stanah). Here one finds pacification not only for the pains of hunger but also for the agonies that life outside the womb brings. This is the first morphological part of the mother that means everything for the infant (shasayoh).

The hungry infant lies near and waits. The breast is quiet, and full.. When these two conditions come together the apex of the lower triangle of man moves towards the apex of the inverted triangle of the divine. When man makes the effort, towards the divine then providence, the breast, begins the release of its contents in the form of knowledge, grace and bounty.

The river with its body of water is the life- line of an agrarian community where civilizations thrived on its banks. What instinct drove man to its edges? It is not enough if he went to dip in it. He exerted himself to be able to use it for his manifold needs. The skinny infant after a few days of feeding begins to fill out. The giving mother plumps the young. The crying child knows what is best for it. So too the good and wise know where to go, to get the right nourishment. Those that live far away from the river do not do as well. Her streams are there to nourish all, the man, the beast and the tree. A pyramid of human needs were satisfied by the life giving waters (pushyasi vaaryaani). Man purified himself and his surroundings with it. He quenched his thirst. He sustained on it for growth. Only the good know the precious value of the river's water. They know of the many treasures and possibilities that the River- Mother yields. She is indeed a giver of fine gifts. She is the state of plenty, the state of refuge, and the state of giving endlessly (ratnadhah, vasuvidyah, sudatrah).

Sarasvati uncovers her full (mayorbhuvah) breasts bare, for our nourishment. In her is the wealth we are looking for. May we all become fine people to deserve the gifts that she can yield. The hungry child knows only of his all consuming hunger. The child's need is Here and Now. His is the cry that stimulates the flow. Cry we shall for Knowledge Divine! His is the touch that sends the flow. Touch we shall with our heart and our soul!

मण्डल १ सूक्त १६४ ऋक् ४९ ऋषिः दीर्घतमः देवता सरस्वती

यस्ते स्तनः शशयो यो मयोर्भूयेन विश्वा पुष्यसि वार्याणि ।

यो रत्नधः वसुविद्यः सुदत्रः सरस्वती तमिह धातवे कः ॥

maṇḍala 1 sūkta 164 ṛk 49 ṛṣiḥ dīrghatamaḥ dēvatā sarasvatī

yastē stanah śaśayo yō mayōrbhūyēna viśvā puṣyasi vāryāṇi .

yō ratnadhah vasuvidyah sudatraḥ sarasvatī tamiha dhātavē kaḥ ..

**Whose breast for the infant is full of nourishment. By whose waters all are nourished, Which is full of gems, wealth and good gifts. Sarasvati give those now to those who wish to intake**

Sarasvati is the mother of mothers, the river of rivers, the illuminator of illuminators divine. Ambitama is motherhood just as naditama is the condition of being a river, as also is devitama the condition of being divine. Sarasvati is therefore motherly, riverly and divine. She is the non stagnant state that constantly flows, moving towards her destination or goal. All along she continues to be the provider. She is the illuminator from whom many a lesson in life can be learned by one who truly feels like a child full of respect and knows his place in this lineage continuum. Her shine lights up what we need to see.

Man is in no way worthy of being matched to the great river. The river is definitely greater than us. Man is certainly not greater than the river. Sarasvati is praised (smasi) and remembered by the relatively unknown (aprasastah).

We too would like to be or imitate that which we admire. With the help of the river we can become reputable, worthy of mention that is. Sarasvati, the Mother can teach us how to become reputable (naskridhih)!

We think that the only way to learn is from books, people etc. Nature is one of the greatest teachers if only we take time to observe !

मण्डल २ सूक्त ४१ ऋक् १६ ऋषिः घृत्समद देवता सरस्वती

अम्बितमे नदीतमे देवितमे सरस्वति ।

अप्रशस्ता इव स्मसि प्रशस्तिमम्ब नस्कृधिः ॥

maṇḍala 2 sūkta 41 ṛk 16 ṛṣiḥ ghr̥tsamada dēvatā sarasvatī

ambitamē nadītamē dēvitamē sarasvati .

aprasāstā iva smasi prasastimamba naskṛdhiḥ ..

Motherliest of the mothers, Riverliest of the Rivers, Shiniest of the Shining ones, Sarasvati.

It is as if, the non worthy are praising you. Make us praiseworthy, Mother.