

HER AWESOME STRENGTH

Sarasvati with intense strength tears apart the peak of the mountain, with its currents, just like the bird, (shushmeybirbisakhah), that intensely tears apart the fibres of the lotus stalk in order to eat it.

The mountains' elevated appearance as rising above the earth's surface generally took several years of slow but steady progress. This is so even if volcanic activity was the triggering event. So too man has come to be Man over many many experiences and many births. From being a simple physical man he is now an elevated or knowledgeable man.

The hard substance of the mountain(giri) is torn apart by the gushing of water, a substance that looks flimsier than the rocky matrix of the mountain. It is the adamant nature of water that allows for this tearing apart. How eager is She (who is one full of the waters = sarasvati) to flow ! She rises up to the lofty mountains and then flows down, with her many currents (urmibhih).

The divine here does not caress. It tears apart the risen man as it flows through him. The divine can tear to the very matrix of his being. A being who has built himself high, a sum total of reflexes, instincts, tendencies, emotions, notions, beliefs, and judgements. It tears through everything that he has built up over the years. It shakes his very foundation with its varied currents, before it flows! This great power is however to be considered a guide. If we exercise our intellect then we can follow her.

Ah, Sarasvati, we appeal to you who comes from the distant far (paravathagnim avasey). You come like a guide from Beyond. You are the only one who can take us to the Distant. With these beautiful praises we appeal to you for protection. We serve you by exerting our supportive intellectual faculty.

It is very obvious that we feel distanced by the source of the Divine, which seems so far away. To get there we feel we too have to go very far. The River Guide comes to guide us to this distant place. To get directions from Her we appeal with beautiful praises(suvriktibhih). To understand Her instructions we need to exercise our intellect (vivasema dhitibih).

When lost in a terrain, one feels safe due to the direction provided by the course of a river. One follows its course. As we observe her course we are awestruck by the power she wields with which she tears the formidable mountains as she makes her way. The river is indeed mighty, powerful and scary yet there is a sense of instinctive faith that we seem to have in Her. We feel that there is a sense of direction in Her. A direction that we seek from one whose strength is awesome.

मण्डल ६ सूक्त ६१ ऋक् २ ऋषि बार्हस्पत्य देवता सरस्वती

इयम् शुष्मेभिर्बिसखा इवारुजत् सानुगिरीणां तविषेभिरूमिभिः ।

पारावतघ्नीमवसे सुवृक्तिभिः सरस्वतीमा विवासेम धीतिभिः ॥

mandala 6 sūkta 61 ṛk 2 ṛṣi bārhaspatya dēvatā sarasvatī
iyam śuṣmēbhirbisakhā ivārujat sānugirīṇāṃ taviṣēbhirrūmibhiḥ .
pārāvataghnīmavasē suvṛktibhiḥ sarasvatīmā vivāsēma dhītibhiḥ ..

These currents whose strength tears apart the peak of the mountain just as the bird , eater of the lotus stalk, tears apart (the stalk).

We appeal for protection with these beautiful verses to Sarasvati who has come from beyond. We shall serve by exertion of our intellect.
