

Excerpts from a talk by sh sham sunder Bali ji Virtual Purohit, on Gayatri Mantra

1 What is Gayatri Mantra? And this is prayer for which God?

ॐ भूर् भुवः स्वः , तत सवितुर् वरेण्यम् , भर्गो देवस्य धीमहि , धियो यो नः प्रचोदयात् . This Mantra is called **Gayatri Mantra** or **Savittur Mantra**. This mantra is the mantra of worship of **Savittur Dev or Suryadev**

2 From where did this mantra originated and which Rishi or Saint is associated with this Mantra?

Gayatri Mantra, which we know, has its origin from the Vedas. In fact, the Gayatri Mantra is made up of two mantras, the first line (ॐ भूर् भुवः स्वः)is from the Yajurveda and the remaining three lines (तत सवितुर् वरेण्यम् , भर्गो देवस्य धीमहि , धियो यो नः प्रचोदयात्) have originated from the Rigveda. This Mantra has been associated with Maharishi Vishwamitra who is also its originator. Maharishi Vishwamitra invoked life in this mantra.

3 Why is it called Gayatri Mantra?

Gayatri is the form of a meter or prose. As per Vedic tradition, whenever a Mantra is written in three lines & each line consisting of eight letters, this meter is called Gayatri. There are many Gayatri Mantras in our Vedas and in Puranas. But Savittur Gayatri Mantra is the most prevalent in our rites due to being the most venerated and effective and used for hundreds of years.

4 What is the meaning of Savitur Gayatri Mantra?

As per our Vedic tradition any Mantra is effective if it is prefixed with OM, so this mantra also starts with OM. Before sunrise, the bright soothing light which lights up the whole earth was worshipped as Savitur Dev and after sunrise, the same is called Suryadev. This mantra is dedicated to the same Savitturdev and Suryadev.

ॐ भूर् भुवः स्वः denotes the three planes above earth called Vyahritis. This Mantra invokes God and prays O Savitturdev, God of light, who exists in the form of fire on the earth, in the form of lightening in sky and in the form of the Sun in space, I bow down to you and may your brightness and light enter me, your brightness, intellect and light have blessed even the Gods with great intelligence, fiery splendor and wisdom, please bless me the same knowledge, sharp intellect and deep wisdom, O God, this is my humble prayer to you

5 What is the benefit of the chanting of Gayatri Mantra ?

For thousands of years, at the time of beginning of education of a Hindu student, Guru Varan, Gayatri Mantra was chanted for greater success called **Upanayana sanskara**. For ages it has been chanted for the attainment of knowledge, sharpness, intelligence and wisdom. Its chanting provides boon of enlightenment, sharpness in personality, freedom from mental anxiety and stress, wisdom and enhanced memory. Chanting of Gayatri Mantra 108 times every day surely brings wish fulfillment

Thank you

Thanks and namaskar

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