

Sarasvati Prayer Yākundendu



Sanskrit

या कुन्देन्दुतुषारहारधवला या शुभ्रवस्त्रावृता
या वीणावरदण्डमण्डितकरा या श्वेतपद्मासना ।
या ब्रह्माच्युतशंकरप्रभृतिभिर्देवः सदा पूजिता
सा मां पातु सरस्वति भगवती निःशेषजाड्यापहा ॥

Transliteration

yā kundendu tuṣāra hāra dhavalā yā śubhra vastrāvṛtā
yā vīṇā vara daṇḍa maṇḍita karā yā śveta padmāsanā ।
yā brahmācyutaśaṅkara prabhṛtibhir devaḥ sadā pūjitā
sā mām pātu sarasvati bhagavatī niḥśeṣa jāḍyāpahā ॥

Meaning

*(Salutations to Mother Goddess Sarasvatī) Who is pure white like jasmine,
with the coolness of the moon,
that shines like a garland of snow and pearls; And who is covered with pure
white robes,
Whose hands are adorned with veenas and boons; And who sits on a pure
white lotus,
One who is always the adoration of Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu, Lord
Shankar and other deities,
O Mother Goddess Sarasvatī, please protect me and remove my ignorance
completely.*

Sarasvati, the Vedic goddess of knowledge

Sarasvati is worshipped as goddess of Music and learning in Indian system of education. She was a mighty river 4000 years back as per latest archaeological research. Our ancestors engaged in severe penance and intellectual discourses on the banks of river Sarasvati, in search for truth. She was the

lifeline of our ancestors. They, being worshippers of nature, saw in river Sarasvati the goddess of learning and music. Following are the earliest praise of goddess Sarasvati that we find in Rig Veda, the oldest literature available to humankind.

Rig 1.3.10-12

पावका नः सरस्वती वाजेभिर्वाजिनीवती । यज्ञं वष्टु धियावसुः ॥

pāvakā naḥ sarasvatī vājebhir vājinīvatī | yajñam vaṣṭu dhiyāvasuḥ ||

“May Sarasvatī, the purifier, the bestower of food, the compensator of worship with wealth, be attracted by our offered delicacies to our rite.”

चोदयित्री सूनृतानां चेतन्ती सुमतीनाम् । यज्ञं दधे सरस्वती ॥

codayitrī sūnṛtānām cetantī sumatīnām | yajñam dadhe sarasvatī ||

“Sarasvatī, the inspirer of those who delight in truth, the instrumental actress of the right-minded, has accepted our sacrifice.”

महो अर्णः सरस्वती प्र चेतयति केतुना । धियो विश्वा वि राजति ॥

maho arṇaḥ sarasvatī pra cetayati ketunā | dhiyo viśvā vi rājati ||

“Sarasvatī, has manifested as a mighty river by her acts, and (in her own form) enlightens all understandings.”

