

ABSTRACT: The Gayatri Mantra is one of the most sacred and powerful mantra for seekers. This article gives a scientific meaning of the mantra. This mantra should not be chanted anywhere but only during your meditation at the place of meditation.

===== Editor's notes =====

The Gayatri mantra is in a vedic (RV 3.62.10) meter of 24 letters.

You cannot read the Gayatri mantra, given below, in Sanskrit

unless you download and install our [free DevaNagari font](#) on your computer.

ॐ भूर्भुवः स्वः
ॐ तत्सवितुर्वरेण्यं
भर्गो देवस्य धीमहि
धियो यो नः प्रचोदयात्

ज्योतिषाम् अपि तज् ज्योतिस् तमसः परम् उच्यते ।
ज्ञानं ज्ञेयं ज्ञानगम्यं हृदि सर्वस्य विष्ठितम् ।गीता १३-१७॥

This mantra is accepted by all the seers of the Truth, including Lord Krishna Himself, as the greatest mantra for meditation. In India, specially among orthodox Hindus, it is never chanted publicly, for it is the most sacred mantra. The main reason for such secrecy is that people who lack purity of mind and do not practice any spiritual discipline may misuse this mantra that is meant for spiritual illumination.

The source of light mentioned here is generally interpreted as the Sun by some commentators, but if one reads Gita verses 10.35, 13.17, and 15.12 we can see a deeper meaning of this most powerful mantra.

I am Brihatsaama among the Saama hymns. I am Gaayatri among the Vedic mantras. I am November-December among the months; I am spring among the seasons. (10.35)

ParaBrahma, the Supreme Person, is the source of all light and life. He is said to be beyond darkness (of ignorance or Maya). He is the Self-knowledge, the object of Self-knowledge, and seated in the inner psyche (or the causal heart as consciousness (See verse 18.61)) of all beings, He is to be realized by Self-knowledge (See also 15.06 and 15.12, and MuU 3.01.07, ShU 3.08) (13.17)

Know that light energy to be Mine that comes from the sun and illumines the whole world and is in the moon, and in fire. (See also 13.17 and 15.06) (15.12).

Gita verse 10.35 says: गायत्री छन्दसामहम्

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ॐ भूर्भुवः स्वः
AUM bhoor bhuvah svah

AUM is the primeval cosmic sound energy of Para Brahm Paramatma (Shri Krishna) that created everything: the earth (भूः bhooh), the planets (भुवः bhuvah), and the galaxies (स्वः svah).

ॐ तत्सवितुर्वरेण्यं
Tat savitur varenyam

That (तत् tat) Supreme being who creates everything (सवितुः savitri) is worthy of our solicitation and respect (वरेण्यं varenyam).

भर्गो देवस्य धीमहि
Bhargo devasya dheemahi

Let us contemplate (धीमहि dheemahi) on the glory/light (भर्गः bhargah) of that Divine Being (देवस्य devasya).

धियो यो नः प्रचोदयात्
Dhiyo yo nah prachodayaat
May He (यः yah) enlighten/invigorate/purify or guide (प्रचोदयात् prachodayaat) our (नः nah) intellect (धीः dheeh) in the right direction.

Doret Kollerer, the chief editor of the Gita Society put it this way:

AUM is the Cosmic Creative Sound
God who created everything deserves our respect.
Let us Meditate on His glory.
May He guide our intellect in the right direction.

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This mantra was revealed to sage Vishvaamitra by Maharishi Vasishtha when Vishvaamitra conquered all the enemies: lust, anger, greed, attachment, arrogance, and jealousy one by one through austerities and meditation and attained cosmic consciousness. One may fall many times, as it happened to the sage, in one's spiritual journey, but must never give up until the Supreme is attained as done by Vishvaamitra. It is said that sage Vidyaranya did 24 lakhs (24,00000) of Gayatri japa and Goddess Gayatri appeared before him. The sage asked Mother to bless our land with timely rain, bumper harvest, prosperity, and peace. He did not ask anything for himself!! This is the

lesson of selfless service, given in the Gita, that we should learn and practice.