

# GĀYATRĪ

## Mantra and Mother of the Vedas

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*tāt savitúr váreṇyaṃ  
bhárgo devásya dhīmahi /  
dhíyo yó naḥ pracodáyāt //*

May we obtain that desirable  
splendour of the god Impeller,  
who shall spur on our thoughts!



This mantra, commonly known as Gāyatrī or Sāvitrī (Ṛgveda III 62.10) belongs to the most frequently recited and reused religious texts of mankind. Since its composition more than 3000 years ago, it has developed into what has variously been called the most important, most efficacious or holiest mantra of Hinduism. Although it invokes a male god, in the course of time the mantra has even been venerated as a goddess itself. How did this come about?

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