

AUM BHOOR BHUWAH SWAHA,  
TAT SAVITUR VARENYAM  
BHARGO DEVASAYA DHEEMAHI  
DHIYO YO NAHA PRACHODAYAT.

## Summary of the Gayatri Mantra

Gayatri Mantra (the mother of the vedas), the foremost mantra in hinduism and hindu beliefs, inspires wisdom. Its meaning is that "May the Almighty God illuminate our intellect to lead us along the righteous path".

Oh God! Thou art the Giver of Life,  
Remover of pain and sorrow,  
The Bestower of happiness,  
Oh! Creator of the Universe,  
May we receive thy supreme sin-destroying light,  
May Thou guide our intellect in the right direction.

## Gayatri Mantra in Sanskrit

ॐ भूर्भुवः स्वः  
तत्सवितुर्वरेण्यं  
भर्गो देवस्य धीमहि  
धीयो यो नः प्रचोदयात् ॥

## Word for Word Meaning of the Gayatri Mantra

Aum = Brahma ;  
bhoor = embodiment of vital spiritual energy(pran) ;  
bhuwah = destroyer of sufferings ;  
swaha = embodiment of happiness ;  
tat = that ;  
savitur = bright like sun ;  
varenyam = best choicest ;  
bhargo = destroyer of sins ;  
devasya = divine ;  
dheemahi = may imbibe ;  
dhiyo = intellect ;  
yo = who ;  
naha = our ;  
prachodayat = may inspire!

# Origin and Benefits of the Gayatri Mantra

Rishis selected the words of the Gayatri Mantra and arranged them so that they not only convey meaning but also create specific power of righteous wisdom through their utterance.

All the problems of a person are solved if he/she is endowed with the gift of righteous wisdom. Once endowed with far-sighted wisdom, a man is neither entangled in calamity nor does he tread the wrong path. A wise man finds solution to all outstanding problems. Only those persons who do not think correctly find difficulty and take wrong steps due to foolishness.

Chanting of Gayatri Mantra removes this deficiency. The teachings and powers incorporated in the Gayatri Mantra fulfill this purpose. Righteous wisdom starts emerging soon after Jap(recitation) of the Gayatri Mantra is performed.

The Upanisads (*secret texts*) of Hinduism contain several references to the Gayatri. Here are a selected few snippets from the [Upanisads \(Oxford World's Classics\) \(Amazon.com link\)](#). The translation of [The Upanishads \(Amazon.com link\)](#) by Eknath Easwaran is also eminently readable.

## Chandogya Upanisad 3.12.1

This entire creation is Gàyatrì. And the Gàyatrì is speech - for speech sings (*gayati*) and protects (*trayati*) this entire creation.

## Brahadaranyaka Upanisad 5.14.4

The Gàyatrì Mantra is based on truth. For truth is based on strength. Strength is breath, and is based on breath. So, Gayatri protects (*tra*) the wealth (*gaya*) (the breath!) of those who speak it with earnestness and devotion. When one recites Gàyatrì on behalf of someone, it protects that person's breath too!

## **Brahadaranyaka Upanisad 5.14.5**

This verse talks about the unbounded wealth contained within the four 'foots' of the Gàyatrì Mantra.

- The first foot (*aum bhur bhuvah svaha*) is said to be equivalent to the wealth contained in the three worlds put together.
- The second foot (*tat savitur varenyam*) is said to be equivalent to the wealth contained in the three main vedas.
- If one were to receive a gift extending as far as there are living beings, that would equal the third foot (*bhargo devasaya dheemahi*).
- The fourth foot (*dheeyo yo nah prachodyaat*) is based on the glory of the sun, whose power and wealth remains unequaled and unrivaled. Hence, there is no amount of wealth that can equal the fourth foot of the Gàyatrì!