

## Saraswathi



Sarasvati, is a Sanskrit fusion word of saras (सरस्) meaning "pooling water", but also sometimes translated as "speech"; and vati (वती) meaning "she who possesses". Goddess Saraswati is also known as Vidyadatri (Goddess who provides knowledge), Veenavadini (Goddess who plays veena, the musical instrument held by Goddess Saraswati), Pustakdharini (Goddess carrying book with herself), Veenapani (Goddess carrying veena in her hands), Hansavahini (Goddess who sits on swan) and Vagdevi (Goddess of speech).

Mother Saraswati is the Goddess of Learning. Saraswati is the river of consciousness that enlivens creation. She is the dawn goddess whose rays dispel the darkness of ignorance. She is always adorned in white saree reflecting her purity.

In the form of “Jnana Saraswati,” the Divine Mother removes all obstacles to learning and grants us knowledge. Saraswati is a wonderful source of strength and refuge for young students – and all of us, who seek to learn. Saraswati is the Divine Mother of both “para” and “apara” vidya (spiritual wisdom and material knowledge), so anybody traversing a spiritual path and seeking to discover the truth of their being will honor Mother Saraswati and seek her blessings to attain the highest wisdom.

Symbolism:

Goddess Saraswati is described as being white colored and wearing radiant white garments that represent her pure Sattvic nature. She carries the veena, a musical instrument which symbolizes the vibrational harmony of all life. She holds the Vedas (all knowledge) and a japa mala, which represents constant meditation upon the Divine Names. While the Vedas represent knowledge and japa represents spiritual practice, by holding them both aloft, Mother Saraswati shows us that for the attainment of any important goal—we need both knowledge and focus.

## Sarasvati Sloka

*Sarasvati Namastubhyam Varade Kaama-Roopini |*

*Vidya arambham Karishyaami Siddhir-Bhavatu Me Sadaa ||*

Salutations to Devi Saraswati, Who is the giver of Boons and fulfiller of Wishes. O Devi, when I begin my Studies, Please bestow on me the capacity of Right Understanding, always.

*Yaa Kundendu tushaara haaradhavalaa, Yaa shubhra vastraavritha*

*Yaa veenavara dandamanditakara, yaa shwetha padmaasana*

*Yaa brahmaachyutha shankara prabhritibhir Devaisadaa Vanditha*

*Saa Maam Paatu Saraswatee Bhagavatee Nihshesha jaadyaapahaa*

Meaning: May the Goddess Saraswati protect me. She is fair like the jasmine-colored moon, and whose pure white garland is like frosty dew drops. She is adorned in radiant white attire, on whose beautiful arm rests the veena, and whose throne is a white lotus. She is surrounded and respected by the Gods. Please remove my weariness, sluggishness and ignorance.

## **Sarasvati Gayatri**

Vageeshwaryae Vidmahe

Vagwadeenyae Dhimahe

Tannah Saraswati Prachodayat