

# SARASWATI DEVI



Saraswati, the goddess of learning and knowledge is the wife of Brahma, the creator of the world. She is represented as an extremely beautiful woman with fair complexion, and with four arms. She sits on a lotus playing a Veena (a musical instrument). A swan and/or a peacock always accompany her. Her clothes, the lotus she sits upon, and her swan, are all white, the color of peace and purity. Out of her four hands, she holds a Book in one hand, which symbolizes the totality of knowledge; a rosary in another hand that indicates spiritual science and religious rites; and lute (veena) in other two hands, which is associated with musical arts.

## Creation of Goddess Saraswati

Before the world was created, there was darkness. It was everywhere and it was empty. Suddenly, a word began. At first it was no more than a whisper, but it swelled and grew, a gentle syllable endlessly repeating itself. OM ... OM ... OM ...

As the word unfolded and spread, it turned the rippling universe into an endless ocean. Deep in the water bobbed a seed that surfaced to become a golden, glowing egg. Inside the eggshell, as long time passed, it formed itself into Brahma, the First Father, Creator of Worlds.

When Brahma was ready to be born, he hatched like a chick from the golden egg. From half the shell he made the sky; from the other half he made the earth. When the earth was ready, Brahma created all living things. After some time, Brahma divided himself and made another being, Saraswati.

## Story: Importance of VIDYA and BUDDHI

Once upon a time, there lived two friends, Ramu and Somu. Both of them went to Kashi (Benaras), in India.

Ramu studied various books and learned a lot from different teachers in Kashi, and became a Pundit, a learned man. Somu didn't study well, but made lot of money.

Both Ramu and Somu decided to return to their town from Kashi. On the way, one night, thieves attacked them and took away all their money.

When they reached their town, the King was very pleased with Ramu's Vidya and Buddhi, and made him the Minister. Somu, on the other hand, had neither any money nor any Vidya and Buddhi, to make more money. So, he had to just serve Ramu.

MORAL: It is very important to study well, so that your Vidya and Buddhi will increase. Vidya (knowledge, skills) and Buddhi (intelligence) is permanent – nobody can steal it from you.

## Saraswati Stotra:

***Saraswathi Namasthubyam  
Varade Kamaroopini  
Vidyarambham Karishyami  
Siddhir Bhavatume Sada***

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iP6T5rOJYIY>

Oh Goddess Saraswati! I pray to you, who are the fulfiller of my wishes. I start on the path of learning with the request that Thou will bestow Thy blessings on me.

Coloring Exercise

