

*To whose temple the Arch is starlit,  
In whose temple the Sun is the image of gold,  
To whose temple the Moon goes every month  
And brings the message out every Full-Moon,  
And whose message the Moon sings as a word of sixteen letters,  
His religion I belong to, His temple I visit,  
His name I utter, His glory I live in.  
To Him I offer the lotus of my day,  
To Him I offer the lotus of my night.*

*These seed thoughts from the Spiritual Psychology meditations of Dr. Ekkirala Krishnamacharya give the note for the Lunar Messenger of the Circle of Good Will. The moon is the reflective principle and symbol of the mind. When pure and calm, it reflects impressions from higher circles. Especially the time of the full moon is conducive for higher alignment, if we are poised enough. The alignment of the sun, moon and earth in the sky helps experience the magic of the light of the soul and its manifestation down to the physical.*

*The Lunar Messenger is published every month in time for the full moon. It contains thoughts from the teachings of eternal wisdom. Its purpose is to inspire us to put them into practical life.*

## VISTAS OF WISDOM 11: SAVITRI

### **Transcending Death**

Many masters and yogis have demonstrated how they can leave their bodies without dying. They link themselves to the thread of life and move out of the body with the thread of consciousness. A yogi can even remove the knot relating to the thread of life if he doesn't wish to come back into the body. For him, death is only a transition.

Most people fear death and they don't know how to leave the body. Many people are stuck in their bodies and can't just let it go. In our dreams we easily step out of our body with the thread of consciousness and come back but this happens without our conscious control.

The wisdom teachings emphasize how important the knowledge of death is, and every individual should have this knowledge to attain immortality. In the East there are excellent scriptures that teach this profound knowledge of transitions. One of them is the story of *Savitri* contained in the *Mahabharata*. It deals with transcending death; it shows the way how we can leave the body and regain our original identity.

In his book "*Savitri*", Sri Aurobindo, one of the great initiates of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, has given out in English the Vedic concept of death and transition. He had been working on this scripture for over 20 years, until his own transition. Sri Kumar calls it the Secret Doctrine of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Every day when the sun goes down a beautiful light spreads after sunset; it is called *Savitri*, the light in darkness. This light also shines before sunrise, and its message promises us, "Don't worry about the darkness which is coming. I am here and will bring the light back to you." *Savitri* is the safe prediction that after dark times light will come again as per

the law of alternation. She is also the link of consciousness which brings us back from sleep to the light of the day.

### **The Story of Savitri**

The story of *Savitri* is deeply symbolic:

A King named *Ashvapati* needed an heir to his throne before he could depart. *Ashva* means "horse" and in Vedic symbolism stands for life force; *Pati* means Master; *Ashvapati* is the Master of life force. In order to have a child, he did spiritual exercises for 18 years, until the Goddess *Savitri* finally appeared. *Savitri* embodies the principle of *Savitru*, the central sun. It is the heart of the sun which receives its energy from the spiritual sun called *Bhargo Deva* and transmits it through the sun of our solar system, *Surya*.

The King asked Goddess *Savitri* for a good son but the goddess replies, "I can only grant you with a good daughter. Through her presence in your family, you will get 100 sons." Then she disappeared again.

After a while a daughter was born to the royal couple whom they called *Savitri*. She was the goddess herself taking to the form of the child. She was an extraordinary child full of good qualities and great knowledge. By birth she had the golden and diamond bodies and therefore could easily move in the subtle planes. When she grew up, the father feared that he could not find an appropriate husband for her who corresponds to her qualities. *Savitri* had heart for a young man called *Satyavan*. His name means truth bearer and he always lived by the truth.

In olden times children were named according to their life purpose and their qualities. You can realise the subtle

meaning of the quality of an individual by the sounds of his name if you know the related keys.

The father of *Satyavan* was *Dyumatsena*, meaning “Army of Light”; he was filled with light and had the subtle vision. He was a king but due to his careless use of speech and action he lost the kingdom to his enemies and had to live quite poor in the forest with his wife and his son. He also had gone blind. *Dyumatsena* represents the Divine Mind fallen into matter which has lost the subtle vision and thus also the celestial kingdom.

One day *Ashvapati* said to his daughter that she can marry a husband of her own choice. *Savitri* was shy and at first didn't want to tell her father of her love for *Satyavan*. Just at this moment the Sage *Narada* passed by their house and heard their conversation. Finally *Savitri* said, “I want to marry *Satyavan*, the son of King *Dyumatsena* who now lives in a forest. I can only accept him as my husband.”

## Death and Return of Satyavan

*Ashvapathi* asked *Narada* about *Satyavan*, since *Narada* knows everything that is happening on all the planes. *Narada* said, “*Satyavan* is a title given to him because he always speaks the truth; his original name is *Chitrashwa*”, indicating a special life force which will go and come back. As per his astrological chart *Satyavan* would die one year after the marriage but return from death.

The father now proposed to *Savitri* to choose another husband but *Savitri* replied, “I have completely decided for *Satyavan* and cannot think of another husband. He will be my husband for this life.”

*Narada* told *Ashvapati* that because of the good deeds and qualities of his daughter the life of *Satyavan* might be prolonged.

*Ashvapati* then asked *Dyumatsena* for the hand of *Satyavan*. *Dyumatsena* answered, “We lead a very simple life in the forest. Will *Savitri* be happy here?” *Savitri* was prepared for it, and thus the marriage took place.

*Savitri* lived together with *Satyavan* and his parents in the forest. *Savitri* didn't show any pride; she dressed simply and looked after her parents-in-law and *Satyavan*, while the latter took care of their living in the forest.

The time came where *Satyavan* was supposed to die. *Savitri* took to a fast for three days, and on the decisive day she asked *Satyavan* to go with him into the forest. At first *Satyavan* refused but *Savitri* insisted. Finally *Satyavan* gave in. He showed her the beauty of the forest and then went to chop wood. After some time he came back and said, “Today I'm very tired and also got a fierce headache.”

*Savitri* offered him her lap as a pillow. *Satyavan* fell asleep and lost his consciousness.

A short moment later *Yama* appeared, the Lord of Death. He had a terrifying appearance, in dark blue colour, but *Savitri* was not frightened. She could see him because she had the subtle vision. *Savitri* saw that he was carrying the rope of death to remove the soul of *Satyavan*. Normally *Yama* doesn't come himself for this but sends some of his helpers.

*Savitri* asked him who he was and why he had come. *Yama* answered, “I am the end. Your husband has led a very righteous life, and therefore I have come to take him.” He took out the soul of *Satyavan* and moved with it towards south, the direction presided by *Yama*.

*Savitri* felt very sad. She put down the body of her husband, exited from her body and followed *Yama* in her subtle body. *Yama* saw her and said to her, “You cannot go this path; it is too early for you. Go back, otherwise you will get lost.” *Savitri* replied, “You are the enforcer of the Law. As per my *Dharma* (law of destiny) I should follow my husband; this is my highest responsibility.”

*Yama* was surprised about her fearlessness and was pleased with her. He asked her many questions which she answered very well. He felt affectionate to *Savitri* and finally said, “I grant you three wishes - except the life of your husband.” At first *Savitri* asked that her father-in-law should get back his vision and his kingdom, and *Yama* granted it. Then she asked him, “Bless me with children”, and he replied, “granted”. Then she replied, “This means that you have to give back the life of my husband.”

The Lord of Death was perplexed and only then understood the subtleness of her argument, for she wouldn't accept a second husband. He smiled and said, “It is the will of the Lord that I don't take away the life of your husband.” Thus he gave back his life. *Savitri* and *Satyavan* returned back home; her father-in-law got back his vision and his kingdom.

The narrative of *Savitri* and *Satyavan* is like the story of *Isis* and *Osiris* or of the crucifixion and resurrection of *Christ*. *Savitri* stands for the light of the inner consciousness which follows the soul buried deep within matter and leads it up again. The truth bearer has lost the truth but he finds it back, because the consciousness, the Light in darkness, is always with him. The more we listen to the *Savitri* in us, the voice of conscience, the easier it is for us to return to the Light.

Sources: K.P. Kumar: *Uranus / notes from seminars*. E. Krishnamacharya: *The Book of Rituals*. The World Teacher Trust - Dhanishta, Visakhapatnam, India ([www.worldteachertrust.org](http://www.worldteachertrust.org))



**Good Will is contagious!**

The Lunar Messenger is published in English, French, German, and Spanish. On request we will include you in our mailing list: [guter-wille@good-will.ch](mailto:guter-wille@good-will.ch). Further information on [www.good-will.ch](http://www.good-will.ch). If you do not want to receive the Lunar Messenger anymore, please notify us briefly.

Circle of Good Will