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सरस्वति नमस्तुभ्यं वरदे कामरूपिणि ।
विद्यारंभं करिष्यामि सिद्धिर्भवतु मे सदा ॥

*sarasvati namastubhyaṃ varade kāmarūpiṇi |
vidyārambhaṃ kariṣyāmi siddhirbhavatu me sadā ||*

O! Sarasvati* salutations to you, repository of knowledge and bestower of boons for learning. I am about to start my study; may it be accomplished by your grace. * सम्बोधन sambodhana.

Explore the tremendous wisdom of the east (India) through learning Saṃskṛtam. This is one of the most ancient languages of the world with vast spiritual literature. Poetical expression, diction, deep etymology and perfect grammar are some of the features of Sanskrit.

It is our utmost desire to present some fundamentals of this sacred and enlightening language, *Saṃskṛtam*. Keeping in mind that most westerners cannot read *Devanāgarī* script, alternatively *Roman* script is also used along with *Devanāgarī* to facilitate reading of *Saṃskṛtam* with correct pronunciation. This also helps many people of India who have a multilingual background. Hymns *Stotraṇi*, verses *Ślokāḥ*, sentences *Vākyāni* and all technical terms are given in both scripts with English translations.

Practically in all languages of India a vast vocabulary of *Saṃskṛtam* is used. Therefore, it is our opinion that people of India can acquire learning of *Saṃskṛtam* much more easily. Many people of India of modern generation (post independence of India) ask the question:

why learn *Saṁskṛtam*? The great spiritual heritage of India throughout the ages was passed on by Sages. Their spiritual revelations are recorded in. *Saṁskṛtam Saṁskṛtam* is of great help in understanding and acquiring this spiritual knowledge passed on through the *Upaniṣads, Puranās, Itihāsās, Rāmāyaṇa, Mahābhārata* and *Bhagavadgītā*. Throughout the ages thousands of books were written in *Saṁskṛtam*. This great spiritual heritage was passed on to many countries of the world through *Saṁskṛtam*. Vedic chants and *Sūktās* can be understood in meaning with mere ordinary knowledge of *Saṁskṛtam*. There is a great need for research in Vedic sciences and literature for the benefit and welfare of humanity.

Regular *Saṁskṛtam* classes are conducted by *Rāmulu Gajavāḍa (Rām)* and *Jānakī Nancy Walder* on four Sundays of every month at Vedanta Temple in Hollywood, California, Tel no. 323 465 7114. This website is designed for the audience at large who is interested in *Saṁskṛtam*. A serious attempt has been made to make learning as easy as possible. We will give you a brief tour of this website.

1. पाठः pāṭhāḥ = Easy lessons in *Saṁskṛtam*. Other sundry subjects included with lessons.
2. व्याकरणम् vyākaraṇam = Saṁskṛta Grammar. Elementary grammar is included with the lessons. Declension of nouns, pronouns, verbal roots and forms are included in grammar section. Grammar should be pursued as an individual subject.
3. सुभाषितानि subhāṅitāni = Moral verses which are very beneficial in regular life and in learning *Saṁskṛtam*.
4. स्तोत्राणि stotrāṇi = Hymns in Saṁskṛtam devoted to Incarnations and Devatās with word by word translations in English.
5. वैदिक vaidika - In this section Vedic *Nārāyaṇasūktam* is included

with word by word English translation, and an article on age of श्रीकृष्ण Śrīkṛṣṇa and महाभारत mahābhārata war.

I am extremely thankful to *Samaskṛtam* teachers Dr. Vijay Āśar and Dr. Satyavati Kandāla. They created keen interest and love in pursuit of this sacred spiritual language. This has been a worthwhile, fulfilling and happy journey.

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I am deeply indebted to my wife *Gītā Diane Gajavāḍa* for her love and immense care with devotion through very difficult period of my life with kidney ailment and innumerable operations during last forty years.. My love to son *Frank Gopāl Gajavāḍa* my daughters *Donna Sitā Gajavāḍa*, *Meerā Mohan Van Whervin*, *Umā Sharon Gajavāḍa* and my lovely grand daughter *Śāradā Mohan*.

bhavadiyaḥ

Rāmulu Gajavāḍa (Rām)