STUDIES OF THE RIG VEDA:
Hymns to the Rising Sun, Surya-Savitri
Facilitator: Vladimir Yatsenko, PhD
Credits: 16. One Semester. Code: SRVS

Dr. Vladimir Yatsenko is a Russian scholar and teacher of Sanskrit and the Indian scriptures, settled in Auroville (an international township for human unity), since several years.

Program Brief
This program will introduce 12 major hymns to Surya-Savitri of the Rig Veda (Hymns to Savitri and Hymns to Surya) in the light of Sri Aurobindo’s Integral Yoga and especially his epic poem ‘Savitri’. The Hymns to the Supramental Godhead of the legendary Rishis: Hiranyastupa Angirasa, Kutsa Angirasa, Gritsamada Shaunaka, Vamadeva, Syavashva Atreya, Bharadvaja and Vasishtha, Abhitapa Surya will be studied in depth, introducing all major symbols of the Vedic system of Knowledge. Besides, the basics of the Vedic Prosody, Chandas, such meters as Gayatri, Trishtubh, Anushtubh, Jagati, etc., will be studied in detail.

Course 1
An Introduction to the Vedic Paradigm of Knowledge (6 Credits)

1. An Introduction: Text and Meaning (10 days)
   • To understand the basics of Vedic compositions, recitation (including accentuation) and the content in the terms of the Integral Yoga Psychology
   • To understand the basics of Vedic approach to reality and to be able to compare it with Sri Aurobindo’s views

2. An Introduction to the Vedic Paradigm of Knowledge (10 days)
   • To understand the basics of Vedic paradigm of Knowledge in terms of the imagery
of Surya Savitri’s manifestation and Integral Yoga Psychology
• To be able to compare it with Sri Aurobindo’s Integral paradigm and to relate it to his writings especially Savitri

3. **Hymn to Savitar by Hiranyakstūpa Āngirasa** (10 days)
   • To understand the content of the Hymn RV 1.35 and its symbolic imagery interpreted in the light of Integral Yoga Psychology
   • To be able to explain the symbolism of the Night and its relation to Savitar, and other symbols of his chariot, horses, rays of light, and the destruction of rakshasas and yatudhanas

4. **Hymns to Savitr by Grtsamada Śaunaka** (10 days)
   • To understand the content of the Hymn RV 2.38 and its symbolic imagery interpreted in the light of Integral Yoga Psychology
   • To be able to explain the symbols related to Savitar, and his relation with the waters (āpah), the life force (vātā), night (mokī), the python (ahi), and other imagery of Agni and Aditi, Varuna, etc.

5. **Hymns to Savitr by Vāmadeva Gautama** (10 days)
   • To understand the content of the Hymns RV 4.53, 4.54 and their symbolic imagery interpreted in the light of Integral Yoga Psychology
   • To be able to explain the symbolism of Savitar’s golden hands, and the Word he establishes in the manifestation, and the creation of the triple worlds, and his lordship over all that moves and moves not, and his triple protection against the darkness, and the concept of the Dynamic Truth etc.

6. **Assimilation & Assessment** (10 days)

**Course 2**

**The Study of the Hymns to Surya-Savitri in the Rig Veda** (6 Credits)

1. **Hymn to Savitar by Śyāvāśva Ātreya with Sri Aurobindo’s translation and commentaries** (10 days)
   • To understand the content of the Hymn RV 5.81 and their symbolic imagery interpreted in the light of Sri Aurobindo
   • To be able to explain the methodology of the Vedic Yoga, and the Sacrifice as the process of manifestation, and Savitar’s embrace of the Night from both ends, and the concept of affirmation (stoma) of the godhead in the life of man etc.
2. **Hymn to Bhaga-Savitri by Śyāvāśva Ātreya with Sri Aurobindo’s translation and commentaries and by Bharadvāja Bārhaspatya** (10 days)
   - To understand the content of the Hymns RV 5.82 and RV 6.71 in relation to the concept of delight, and its symbolic interpretation in the light of Sri Aurobindo
   - To be able to explain the importance of the concept of delight, Soma, and its relation to Savitar as a divine distiller, and in this view the concept of the sacrifice
   - To understand the relation of the Knowledge and Delight in the Vedic system of Knowledge

3. **Two hymns to Sūrya-Savitri by Vasistha** (10 days)
   - To understand the content of the Hymns RV 7.38 and 7.45 by Vasiṣṭha to Savitar, with respect to the gods and men, and its symbolic interpretation in the light of Integral Yoga
   - To be able to explain the relations with Aditi and other great godheads such as Varuṇa, Mitra, Aryaman, as well as other creatures like the Python in the foundation of the world, ahi, and the importance of transformation as the final victory in the Vedic Sacrifice. The concept of Delight as it is seen by Vasiṣṭha

4. **Hymns to Surya, the Concept of the Supermind in the Rigveda, by Praskanva Kanva** (10 days)
   - To understand the content of the Hymns RV 1.50 by Praskanva Kāṇva to Sūrya. with respect to the concept of the Supermind as the Creator of Light and to be able to explain the relation of Sūrya and Savitar as the Self and the Lord
   - To understand the symbolism of the chariot of Sūrya, and his seven horses
   - To see the relation of the world of Svar to Sūrya, as the higher to the highest light

5. **The Hymn to Surya, the Supramental Deity, the Lord of Immortality, by Kutsa Angirasa** (10 days)
   - To understand the content of the Hymns RV 1.115 by Kutsa Āṅgirasa to Sūrya, with respect to the concept of the Supermind, and to be able to explain the imagery of Sūrya as the Self of all that moves and moves not with respect to the imagery of Savitar as the Lord of all that moves and moves not
   - To understand the symbolism of Sūrya’s relation to the Dawn and the role the souls of men are here to play in this respect and the symbolism of the Supramental transformation

6. **Assimilation & Assessment** (10 days)
Course 3
Research Practicum/Seminar/Project Work (4 Credits)

- Project Outline (10 days)
- First Draft of Research Paper (30 days)
- Final Submission of Research Paper (15 days)