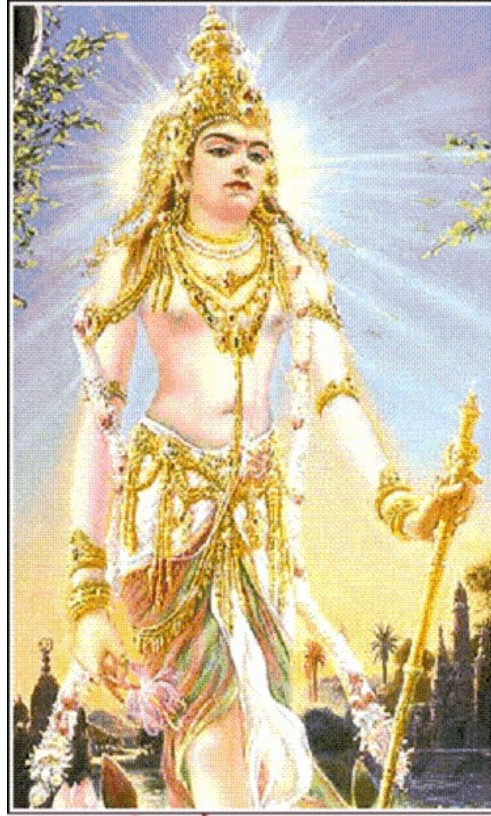


## Suryadeva (The Sun Planet)



lord सुर्या

Surya deva (The Supreme Light) is the chief solar deity in Hinduism (Sanathan Dharma), and is one of the Adityas ("of or related to Aditi", refers to the offspring's of Aditi Devi – who are 12 in total), son of Kashyapa Muni and Aditi-devi. The term Surya also refers to the Sun, in general. Suryadeva has hair and arms of gold. He drives through the heavens in his chariot harnessed by seven horses which represent the seven colours of the rainbow or the seven chakras. He presides over the day of the week Sunday. In Vedic scriptures, Surya is notably mentioned as the visible form of God that one can see every day. Furthermore, Shaivites and Vaishnavas often regard Surya as an aspect of Lord Shiva and Lord Krishna, respectively. For example, the Sun is called Surya Narayana by Vaishnavas. In Shaivite theology, Surya is said to be one of eight forms of Lord Shiva, named the Astamurti. The Sun is the Divine Being who dwells in the hearts of all beings as the true Self. The Sun is the Divine light and love which is the unity of all life. The Sun is the visible form and presence of the deity. In their worship of the Sun, the ancients recognized the presence and place of God in life. They were bringing the Divine light into life and making of their life and perception a thing of worship.

The mantra frequently recited to praise the Suryadeva comes from the Rig Veda, 1st Mandala Hymn 35:

Aa Krishnen rajsaa vartamaano niveshayann amrtam martyam ca |  
hiranyayena savitaa rathena deva yaati bhuvanaani pashyan | |

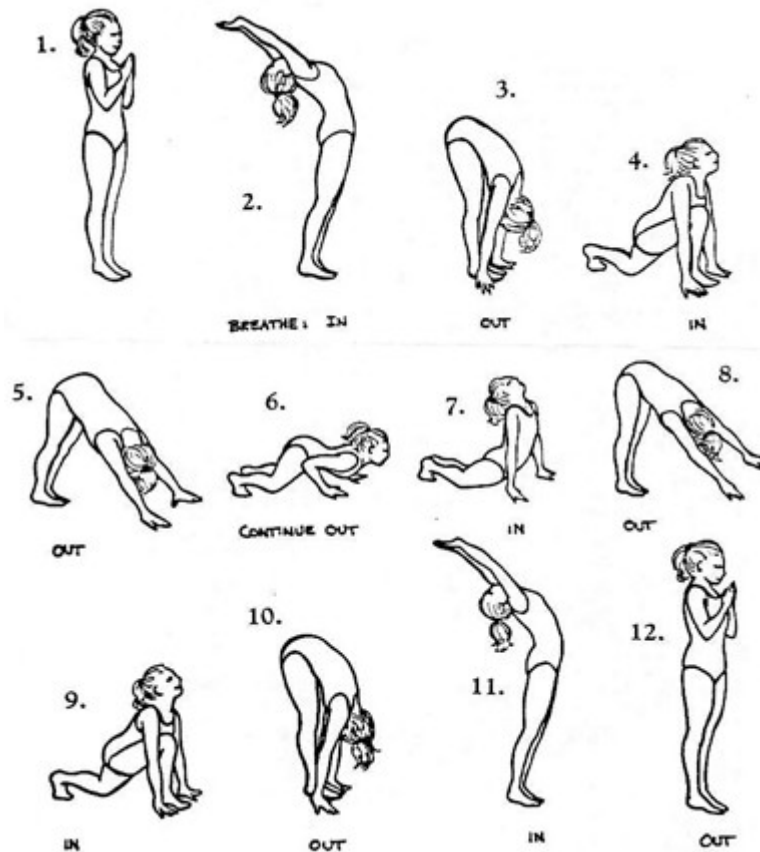
Throughout the dusky firmament advancing, laying to rest the immortal and the mortal,  
Borne in his golden chariot he cometh, Savitar, God who looks on every creature

The Gayatri Mantra (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJU-fHqMZhM&feature=related>) is also associated with Suryadeva. Another hymn associated with Suryadeva is the Aditya

Hridayam, (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=De-VJhtnjXE>) recited by the great sage Agastya Muni to Lord Raam on the battlefield before the fight with Ravana. Agastya Muni teaches Lord Raam, who is fatigued after the long battle with various warriors of Shree Lanka, the procedure of worshipping the Sun deity for strength to defeat the enemy. These verses belong to Yuddha Kanda (Book 6) Canto 107, in the Ramayan as composed by Valmiki Rishi. Of course one should remember that Lord Raam is the Supreme Personality of Godhead, He knows everything but to glorify His devotee see how the Lord Himself is showing us mere humans what humility is all about and no matter how powerful you are, respect should always be shown to everyone – regardless of who they are or what the situation may be.

The winged disc of the Sun was used throughout the ancient world to symbolize the soul and its inherent perfection and transcendence of time. The Sun was sometimes worshipped in human representation as the cosmic man, often made of gold, representing the true Man who contains within himself all the Deities. The saviour or sage worshipped in the ancient cultures was the son of the Sun, the presence of the Sun on Earth, the incarnation of the Divine light of truth. This symbolism is found even in Christianity where Christ is born on the winter solstice, the day the Sun is born again, as the days once more begin to get longer. It is found in Buddhism, where The Buddha, as the enlightened or solar being, turns the wheel of the law, the Sun wheel. The first man, the father of the human race, was often seen as the son of the Sun (like the Hindu Manu). He was not always a fallen Adam but an incarnate Christ or enlightened master. The Sun is our spiritual father, our origin and our final resting place. At death the ancients prayed to merge into the Sun, to follow the path of light to the Gods and to the supreme light. That was thought to be the only way beyond sorrow and rebirth. The Sun dwells within the hearts of all of us as our inner Sun, our inner light and life. Without this inner light, no perception could be possible. Without this inner life, we would not be able to draw breath. Just as there is the movement of the outer Sun through the constellations of the zodiac, so is there the movement of the inner Sun through the chakras of our subtle or astral body (which reflects our birth chart).

In Sanskrit, there is an innumerable amount of names for the Sun. Most commonly he is called "Surya", which means the father, progenitor, enlivener, impeller, the source of will, energy, motivation and inspiration. His other glorious names are Vishnu, Vivasvaan, Vivasvat, Ravi, Aditya, Pusha, Divakar, Savita, Arka, Mitra, Bhanu, Bhaskar, and Grahapati (the Lord of the Grahas). Sometimes Suryadeva is depicted with two hands - holding a lotus in both; sometimes he has four hands holding a lotus, chakra, a conch, and a mace. A well-known mode of worship of the devotional movements of Surya is done at the rising of the Sun, known as Soorya Namaskaar (sun salutation). 12 yogic postures are assumed in successive flowing movements to complete one namaskar.



The Twelve sacred Vedic mantras uttered and for each mantra one complete namaskar is done. It is considered most auspicious by Hindus to do this. The 12 mantras for Surya Namaskar are:

1. Om mitraaya namah
2. Om ravaye namah
3. Om Sooryaaya namah
4. Om Bhaanave namah
5. Om khagaaya namah
6. Om pushne namah
7. Om hiranyagarbhaaya namah
8. Om maarichaaye namah
9. Om aadityaaya namah
10. Om saavitre namah
11. Om aum aarkaaya namah
12. Om bhaaskaraaya namah

Suryadeva had three queens; Saranyu (a.k.a. Saraniya/Saranya/Sanjana/Sangya), Ragyi, and Prabha. Saranyu was the mother of Vaivasvata Manu or Sraddhadeva Manu (the 7<sup>th</sup>, i.e. present Manu) and the twins Lord Yamaraj (the Deity presiding over Death) and his sister Yami (a.k.a River Yamuna). She also bore him, the twins known as the Ashvins, the divine horsemen and physicians to the Devas. Saranyu, being unable to bear the extreme radiance of Suryadeva, created a superficial entity from her shadow called Chhaya and instructed her to act as Suryadeva's wife in her absence. Chhaya mothered two sons – Savarni Manu (the eighth, i.e. next Manu) and Shanideva (the planet Saturn), and two daughters – Tapti and Vishti. He also has a son, Revanta, or Raivata, by Ragyi.

Interestingly, Suryadeva's two sons - Shanideva and Lord Yamaraja - are responsible for the

judgement of human life. Shanideva gives us the results of one's deeds throughout one's life through appropriate punishments and rewards while Lord Yamaraja grants the results of one's deeds after death.

In the Ramayana, Suryadeva is described as father of the King Sugriva, who helped Lord Raam and Lord Lakshmana in defeating Ravana. Suryadeva also trains Shree Hanumanji as his guru. The Suryavanshi/Suryavansha dynasty of kings, Lord Raam being one of them, also claims descent from Suryadeva.

In the Mahabharat, when Princess Kunti was a young woman, the sage Durvasa, visited her father's palace, where Kunti served him with utmost care for an entire year.



Pleased by her service and hospitality, the sage foresaw that Kunti would have difficulty having a child after her marriage to Prince Pandu, and granted her a boon to overcome this difficulty. By reciting this boon she would be able to summon any deva and bear a child by him. Incredulous of the power of this mantra and out of curiosity, Princess Kunti still being unmarried, she decided to test the power of the mantra and called upon Suryadeva, but when Suryadeva appears, she gets scared and requests him to go back (depicted in the picture below). However, Suryadeva had an obligation to fulfil the desire mantra's benefits before returning to his abode. Suryadeva understands Kunti's curiosity and her predicament and thus miraculously causes Kunti-devi to bear the child immediately whilst retaining her virginity so that she, as an unmarried princess, need not face any embarrassment or be subjected to questions from society. Compelled by the power of this mantra, Suryadeva appeared before her and handed her a son, who was as radiant and powerful as Suryadeva himself. The baby was wearing armour ('Kavacha') and a pair of earrings ('Kundala'). Though Kunti had not physically given birth to the baby, she was

unwilling to be accused of being an unmarried mother and so with the help of her maid Dhatri, she placed the baby (who later will be called Karna) in a basket and set him afloat on 'Ashwa' - a tributary of the holy river Ganga, the Ashwanadi, in the hope that he would be taken in by another family. Karna later was taken in by another family and grew up to become one of the central and very important characters in the great battle of Kurukshetra.

### **The Sun (Surya-deva) in Vedic Astrology**

All the planets shine with the reflected light of the Sun; they represent different solar rays. Hence there is only real one light, which is the Sun, which is all lights, and is inwardly the light of the mind. In Vedic astrology, therefore, the Sun is the principle of light, life and love, our true will and perception. It is the most important factor for determining the spiritual life and potentials of the individual. It represents the soul, the causal body or reincarnating entity, whose will is behind our (controls) fate. It is also the mind or the mental principle on a lower level as reason, discernment, clarity and illumination.

In our birth charts the Sun shows our divinity (or lack of it), our unity and point of focus, our centre and central purpose in life. It shows the light that we possess and which we aspire to expand. In Vedic astrology Suryadeva is considered a mild malefic on account of his hot, dry nature and he also signifies the soul, will-power, fame, the eyes, general vitality, courage, kingship, father, highly placed persons and authority. He is exalted in the Rashi (sign) Mesha (Aries) and is in decline in the sign Tula (Libra). The strongest placement for Surya is directly overhead in the 10th house, and on the angles (the 1st, 4th and 7th houses). Surya is lord of three Nakshatras or lunar mansions: Kritika, Uttara Phalguni and Uttara Ashadha. Surya has the following associations: the colours - copper or red, the metals - gold or brass, the gemstone - ruby, the direction - east and the season of summer. The food grain associated with him (one of the Nava Dhanyas) is wheat.

The Sun is God, the Divine incarnate in nature. The Sun rules the heart, the right eye in men and the left eye in women. The mouth, throat, spleen and brain are also indicated by the Sun. The Sun offers us the power of resistance and vitality. He governs the inspiration and expiration, i.e. the breath of life. He also rules over our consciousness and denotes the individuality of a person.

**THE SUN CONTROLS (IN YOUR LIFE):-** Ambition, authority, bile problems, boldness, chest and head, consciousness, courage, determination, energy, eyesight, weak, faith, fame, father, hot, inflexible, king, impact of one's personality, influence, nobility, optimism, personality, political power, reliance on self, soul, vitality.

**WHEN THE SUN IS BENEFIC IN YOUR LIFE CURRENTLY THEN ONE SHOULD FEEL THESE EFFECTS:-** gives intelligence, perception, strength of will and character. It affords endurance, stamina, vitality, positive spirit, direction, courage, conviction, confidence, leadership, independence and straight-forwardness, ambition, boldness, brilliance, capacity to command, dignity, energy, elevation in rank, faith, fame, grace, generosity, health, hope, happiness, individuality, influence, joy, kind heart, kingly appearance, loyalty, magnanimity, nobility, optimism, power, respect to elders, reputation, royalty, regality, success in worldly affairs, good temperament, vigour and vitality.

When the Sun is strong in your chart you will outshine everyone else for good or ill; depending on whether its disposition is benefic or malefic, conscious or unconscious. Without a well placed Sun in your chart, whatever we may do or accomplish in life will not be ours and will not give us inner strength or peace.

**WHEN THE SUN IS MALEFIC IN YOUR LIFE CURRENTLY THEN ONE SHOULD FEEL THESE EFFECTS:-** an afflicted Sun in your chart will make the benefics given above negative in your life making one arrogant, a bluff, domineering, egotistical, faithless, vain, haughty, jealous, lavish, over-ambitious or ambition-less, pompous and proud, self-opinionated, irritable, angry and spiteful... gives lack of intelligence, poor perception, weakness of will and character. It creates lack of endurance, low vitality, melancholy, fear, dependency or servitude, deviousness or dishonesty, as well as defects in the heart, defects in your eyesight, cerebral meningitis, eruptions of the face, loss of speech as a result of cerebral affections, sharp fevers, typhoid, polypus (an abnormal growth of tissue projecting from a mucous membrane), epilepsy, bile complaints, sun-stroke, scorches, diseases in the head, one's constitution will be overheated and bilious.

A weak but spiritually disposed Sun in your chart makes us receptive, wanting to do good and self-effacing. We may lack in confidence and come under the rule of other people. We will seek to sacrifice ourselves but may not know what to give ourselves over to.

Saturn afflicting the Sun causes low blood pressure,  
Mars afflicting the Sun causes haemorrhage, cardiac thrombosis,

**There are Various Festivals dedicated to Sun God Surya in India.**

Makara Sankranti is the most widely celebrated Hindu festival dedicated to the Sun God. It is celebrated as Makara Sankranti throughout India and as Pongal by Tamils all over the world around mid January. People thank the Sun God for ensuring a good harvest and dedicate the first grains to him.

Chhath is another Hindu Festival dedicated to Surya. It was started by Karna, the son of Surya, who became a great warrior and fought against the Pandavas in the Kurukshetra War. Chhath is unique to Bihar, Jharkhand and the some Parts of Uttar Pradesh, Nepal & Mauritius.

Samba Dashami is another festival celebrated in the eastern coastal state of Orissa, India in the honour of Samba, the son of Lord Krishna who got cured from leprosy by praying to Suryadeva.

Ratha Saptami is a Hindu festival that falls on the Seventh day (Saptami) of the bright half of the Hindu month Magha. This day is also known as Surya Jayanti because it celebrates the power of the Sun God who is an Avatara (incarnation) of Lord Narayana. Lord Narayana in His form as Suryadeva is usually worshipped on this day. Usually, Ratha-saptami begins in households with a purification bath by placing a few leaves on one's head and shoulders while bathing and chanting a verse which is supposed to invoke the benevolence of the Lord in all that one takes up the rest of the year.

From the Radha-Krishna-Ganoddesha-Deepikaa by Srila Roopa Goswami-ji it is stated that Srimati Radharani's most worshippable object (Upaasya – C.C Madhya 8.256) is Suryadeva; Shree Radhe worships the Sun-deity on a daily basis for the purpose of obtaining Lord Krishna's association.

**Kindly note:-** Some the information above may portray the Celestials (like Suryadeva and Queen Kunti) as adharmic, but you should know much information that one reads in our Shastras is totally inconceivable to us mere mortals. To truly understand our Vedic Scriptures can be quite an effort indeed hence It requires a Guru to explain the intricacies and the secrets it has in It. Every event conveys some noble secrets in some direct or indirect way. You have to understand It with one's inner self and not like a novel. The personalities in our Vedic Scriptures are of course not worthy of comparison to the characters we come across in a novel. In each personality in our Vedic Scriptures, are there

to convey message(s) to us. But let me state here categorically, when the Supreme Personality of Godhead Shree Krishna and His devotees like Lord Brahma, Lord Shiva, Mother Durga, Lord Indra, the 9 planets, and so forth performs an act, it should NEVER be questioned. Yes, this will not go down well with many so called “new-aged” “ I want the truth” people out there, but honestly what right does one have to question the Lord and his elevated servants? God can do what ever He pleases and He is not accountable to no being... BUT His servants are. The Lord has a reason for everything He does, and who gives one the right to question our Dear Lord... His Lila (pastime) is beyond human comprehension but we humbly tried to explain a little (with my minuscule intelligence) above as to why the Lord or His devotee acted in this regard.

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