We meditate on the effulgent glory of the divine Light; may that Light inspire our understanding.

**Gayatri Mantra: A prayer to the Sun God**

The Sun Deity’s Prayer For Protection

Thus have I heard:

On one occasion the Blessed one, was living near Sāvatthi at the monastery of Anathapindika in Jeta’s Grove.

At that time, Suriya, the sun deity, was seized by Rāhu, Lord of Asuras.

Thereupon calling to mind the Blessed One, Suriya, the sun deity, recited this stanza:

Honour to You, Buddha, the Hero. You who are wholly free from all evil I have fallen into distress. Please be my refuge.”

Thereupon on behalf of Suriya, the Blessed One addressed the asura lord Rāhu, with a stanza:

“Oh Rāhu, Suriya has gone for refuge to the Tathagata, the Consummate One. Release Suriya. The Buddhas radiate compassion on the world (of beings). O Rāhu, swallow not the dispeller of darkness, the shining one, the radiant and effulgent traveller through the sky. Rāhu, release Suriya, my son.”

Thereupon the asura lord Rāhu, released Suriya, the deity, and immediately came to the presence of the asura Lord Vepacitta, and stood beside him trembling with fear and with hair standing on end. Then Vepacitta addressed Rāhu in this stanza:

“Rāhu, why did you suddenly release Suriya? Why have you come trembling and why are you standing here terrified?”

“My head will split into seven, while yet living I will have no happiness, I am the one to whom the Buddha has addressed a stanza to release Suriya.”

**From the Pali Canon**

The door of the Truth is covered by a golden disk.

Open it, O Nourisher!

Lift it away so that I who have been worshiping

Truth may behold it.

O Nourisher, lone traveler of the sky!

Controller!

O Sun, offspring of Prajapati, Lord of Creation!

Gather your rays, withdraw your light.

I would see, through your grace,

That form of yours which is the fairest.

I am indeed he, that Supreme Person, who dwells there.

**Isha Upanishad 15-16**

Blessed by the Lord be the land,

with the precious gifts of heaven,

with the dew, and the deep that lies beneath,

with the precious fruits

     brought forth by the sun.

and the riches

     brought forth by the moon,

with the greatness of the ancient mountains,

with the abundance of the everlasting hills,

and with all the treasures of the earth

     In its perfection.

**Deuteronomy 33:13-16**

The eye of the great god,

The eye of the god of glory,

The eye of the king of hosts,

The eye of the king of life,

Shining upon us through time and tide,

Shining upon us gently and without stint.

Glory to thee, O splendid Sun,

Glory to thee, O Sun, face of the god of life.

**Celtic hymn to the sun**

Lord of the Close Vicinity,

Lord of the With and the By,

The Ever Present,

The god who demands no sacrifices,

Who is the Twofold Lord and The Twofold Lady,

Lord of our Subsistence,

Lord of Creation, god of night and wind,

Invisible and without form.

**Azetc poet-king Nezahualcoyotl**

I am the Supreme and Fiery Force who kindles every living spark... As I circled the whirling sphere with my upper wings (that is, with Wisdom), rightly I ordained it. And I am the fiery life of the Divine essence: I flame above the beauty of the fields; I shine in the waters; I burn in the sun, the moon, and the stars. And, with the airy wind, I quicken all things vitally by an unseen, all-sustaining life. For the air is alive in the verdure and the flowers; the waters flow as if they lived; the sun too lives in its light; and when the moon wanes it is rekindled by the light of the sun, as if it lived anew.

**St. Hildegard von Bingen   
trans. Barbara Newman**