LESSON ON INTONATIONS

Here you will learn how to chant Vedic hymns the right way. The recital of Vedas yield maximum benefit only when it is marked by:

a) Akshara Shuddhi – The correct pronunciation of each syllable
b) Matra Shuddhi – The right duration of chanting each syllable, and
c) Swara Shuddhi – The proper intonation for each syllable.

Render the Vedas with care lest their meaning should get distorted.

The beauty and efficacy of chanting Vedas lies in giving the right intonation or the proper pitch for each syllable.

So now let’s learn more about these intonations. Basically there are four kinds of intonations.

First, the SWARITA or the high-pitched intonation denoted by a vertical line above the syllable in the script. Find this symbol above the syllable “प” “pa” and notice the difference in the pitch.

Second, ANUDATTA or low-pitched intonation, denoted by a flat line below the syllable in the script. Now, look at this syllable “क” “ka” and hear how the pitch is lowered.

Third, DEERGA SWARITA or double accented, denoted by two vertical lines above the syllable. This symbol comes above the syllable “न” “nām” Listen to the two distinct levels of pitch accommodated by a longer duration.
Fourth, the **UDATTA**, which does not have any of the above intonations attached to the syllable. For eg: Look and listen to the word “ण” “णा” in the word “gaṇapatigāṁ”

鸞

**gaṇapatigāṁ**

鸞