rṣi: hiraṇyastūpa āṅgirasa; devatā: 1st pāda agni, 2nd pāda mitrāvaruṇa, 3rd pāda rātri, 4th pāda savitā, 2-11 savitā; chanda: triṣṭup, 1,9 jagatī

ह्वयाम्य् अग्निम् प्रथमं स्वस्तये ह्वयामि मित्रावरुणाव् इहावसे । ह्वयामि रात्री जगतो निवेशनी ह्वयामि देवं सवितारम् ऊतये ॥ १-०३५-०१ आ कृष्णेन रजसा वर्तमानो निवेशयंत्र अमृतम् मर्त्यं च । हिरण्ययेन सविता रथेना देवो याति भुवनानि पश्यन् ॥ १-०३५-०२ याति देवः प्रवता यात्यु उद्वता याति शुभ्राभ्यां यजतो हरिभ्याम् । आ देवो याति सविता परावतो ऽप विश्वा दुरिता बाधमानः ॥ १-०३५-०३ अभीवृतं कुशनेर् विश्वरूपं हिरण्यशम्यं यजतो बृहन्तम् । आस्थाद् रथं सविता चित्रमानुः कृष्णा रजांसि तविषी द्धानः ॥ १-०३५-०४ वि जनांज् छ्यावाः शितिपादों अख्यन् रथं हिरण्यप्रऽगं वहन्तः । शश्वद् विशः सवितुर् देव्यस्योपस्थे विश्वा भुवनानि तस्थुः ॥ १-०३५-०५ तिस्रो द्यावः सवितुर् द्वा उपस्था एका यमस्य भुवने विराषाट् । आणिं न रथ्यम् अमृताधि तस्थुर् इह बवीतु य उ तच् चिकेतत् ॥ १-०३५-०६ वि सुपर्णो अन्तरिक्षाण्य् अख्यद् गभीरवेपा असूरः सुनीथः । क्वेदानीं सूर्यः कश् चिकेत कतमां द्यां रिहमर् अस्या ततान ॥ १-०३५-०७ अष्टो व्यू अख्यत् ककुभः पृथिव्यास् त्री धन्व योजना सप्त सिन्धून् । हिरण्याक्षः सविता देव आगाद् द्धद् रत्ना दाशुषे वार्याणि ॥ १-०३५-०८ हिरण्यपाणिः सविता विचर्षणिर् उभे द्यावापृथिवी अन्तर् ईयते । अपामीवां बाधते वेति सूर्यम् अभि कृष्णेन रजसा द्याम् ऋणोति ॥ १-०३५-०९ हिरण्यहस्तो असुरः सुनीथः सुमृळीकः स्ववाश यात्व् अर्वाङ् । अपसेधन् रक्षसो यातुधानान् अस्थाद् देवः प्रतिदोषं गृणानः ॥ १-०३५-१०

Analysis of RV 1.35

hváyāmi agním prathamám suastáye hváyāmi mitrāváruṇāv ihāvase hváyāmi rātrīm jágato nivéśanīm hváyāmi devám savitāram ūtáye 1.035.01

Interpretation:

"I call to Agni first for wellbeing! I call to Mitra and Varuna here for increase! I call to Night who introduces [all] to the manifested world! I call to the God Savitar for a power of growth!"

rātrīṃ jagato nivešanīm (I.35.1), Sri Aurobindo translates as the Night "which holds the world and all its unrevealed potentialities in her obscure bosom."

<u>nivešanī</u> is derived from the root <u>ni-viš</u>, Causative, 'to introduce, to make enter and settle down'. So the phrase can be translated as 'I call for Night, an introducer into the manifested world'.

So, Rishi invokes Agni first for well-being, Mitra and Varuna for protection and support, Ratri to locate us in the world, and the Divine Savitar for our growth in this manifested world, ūtaye.

The second verse again mentions the dark space and Savitar, who now himself introduces all mortal and immortal beings into the Manifestation:

ã krṣṇéna rájasā vártamāno niveśáyann amŕtam mártiyaṃ ca hiraṇyáyena savitã ráthena ã devó yāti bhúvanāni páśyan 1.035.02

Interpretation:

"Expanding by or through the dark space, introducing and determining the immortal and the mortal in Manifestation, the God Savitar comes in his golden chariot, seeing all the becomings in this world."

It is interesting that now Savitar is also called nivešayan, 'introducing', 'placing', 'settling" as the Night in the previous verse. He is placing in the Manifestion of the Divine both immortal gods and mortal creatures for their interaction, as it were. This function of Savitar manifesting the Divine by bringing all creatures together is central for understanding of his role. For it is by the dark space that He returns to Himself: ā kṛṣṇena rajasā vartamānaḥ, placing all in their right place during this Self discovering return. (Cf. the 'Ananda circuit' by the Mother).

yāti deváḥ pravátā yāti udvátā yāti śubhrābhyāṃ yajató háribhyām ā devó yāti savitā parāváto ápa víśvā duritā bādhamānaḥ 1.035.03

Interpretation:

"The God moves by the downward path, and he moves by the upward. By the two horses he moves, who is of the Sacrifice!

From the beyond the God Savitar comes to us, destroying all the difficulties on our path."

This particular feature of Savitar to move in two directions is presenting him as a Creator, who supports the Sacrifice, which is of the double movement and exchange of consciousness between the higher and the lower hemispheres (BhG 3.9-15). But himself he comes from the beyond being neither in the higher nor in the lower hemisphere, but in both and even beyond both of them. (cf. $\bar{1}$ šaUp 9-11)

The two horses also might symbolize the double character of his manifestation, representing his double mastery and presence in the light and in the night. So when he comes from the transcendental realms then all the crookedness of the Night gets straightened up.

abhívrtam kráanair viávárūpam híranyaáamyam yajató brhántam asthad rátham savita citrábhanuh krána rájamsi távisim dádhanah 1.035.04

Interpretation:

"Savitar has mounted his chariot, which is covered with pearls, and has a golden pole, being vast and of the universal Form! He is full of varied rays

of light, who is of Sacrifice, yajataḥ, [moves] towards dark spaces, establishing/ bearing power and might!"

The last phrase can be also translated as "establishing or holding mightily the dark spaces". For it is because of his presence that the dark spaces have at all their might, it is because he is there hidden within them that the falsehood can act with power. It is falsehood only on the surface of its being, in the depth it is the luminous Truth hidden by the darkness; therefore falsehood can act on the basis of truth only.

Vocabulary:

hiraṇyašamya, mfn. having golden pegs RV. kṛšana, n. a pearl, mother-of-pearl RV. i , 35 , 4 and x , 68 , 11 AV.

ví jánāñ chyāvāḥ śitipādo akhyan rátham híranyapraugam váhantaḥ śáśvad víśah savitúr daíviyasya upásthe víśvā bhúvanāni tasthuh 1.035.05

Interpretation:

"The white-footed Bay Horses of the Lord Savitar are carrying him in the chariot with a golden fore-part, they see [and by seeing manifest] widely all the beings who are born here in the material body, for all who have entered this manifestation are for ever held in the lap of the Divine Savitar together with all the worlds or becomings."

It is a statement that all the manifestation of the Divine [the container and the contained] is in care of Savitar. It is he who is manifesting all the beings here with his two powers, brown and white-footed horses, and all the worlds are in his lap.

Vocabulary:

šitipad, (strong form -pād) mf(padī)n. white-footed RV. AV. Kauṣ.; blackfooted MW.

šiti, mfn. (perhaps fr. šo) white L.; (cf. sita) black, dark-blue.

šyāva, mfn. (connected with šyāma) darkbrown, brown, dark-coloured, dark RV. AV. Br. &c. drawn by brown or bay horses (said of chariots, Ved.) MW.; m. a brown horse RV.

hiranyaprauga, mfn. having a golden fore-part (said of a chariot-pole) RV. i, 35, 5.

तिस्रो द्यावः सवितुर् द्वा उपस्था एका यमस्य भुवने विराषाद् ।

tisró dyāvah savitúr dvā upásthām ékā yamásya bhúvane virāṣāṭ āním ná ráthyam amṛṭādhi tasthur ihá bravītu yá u tác cíketat 1.035.06

Interpretation:

"There are three heavens of Savitar: two are in his lap and one is in the realm of Yama, the home of heroes. As on the pole of the car (all the parts are fixed) similarly all the things which are immortal rest on him! Here the one who perceives it should speak."

Savitar has three heavens, two of which are close to him: the Higher and Illuminded Mind, and one heaven: the proper Mind is in the realm of Yama, the place where the souls take the physical body. The very fact that Higher and Illumined Mind are in his proper domain, though they are a part of the lower hemisphere of the Night, is a significant characteristic of Savitar, who expands by and through Night, manifesting the Divine in the World.

Sri Aurobindo explains the function of the Illumined mind: "The world you saw above the head was the plane of the Illumined Mind which is a level of consciousness much higher than the human intelligence. It is there that the Divine Light and Power come down to be transmitted to the human consciousness and from there they work and prepare the transformation of the human consciousness and even the physical nature."

Vocabulary:

virāṣah, mfn. (Nom.-ṣāṭ); vira prob. for vīrā) subduing or confining or harbouring men (applied to Yama's heaven) RV. i , 35 , 6.

ví suparņó antárikṣāṇi akhyad gabhīrávepā ásuraḥ sunītháḥ kúvedānīṃ sūriyaḥ káś ciketa katamāṃ dyāṃ raśmír asyā tatāna 1.035.07

Interpretation:

"The one with perfect two wings (of the higher and lower hemisphere) oversees and enlightens all the inner spaces between heaven and earth, quivering deeply with the ecstasy of his supreme bliss; he is the Mighty Lord, the perfect Guide!

¹ Volume: 22-23-24 [SABCL] (Letters on Yoga), Page: 961

Where is Surya now? Who can perceive? Where, to what heaven has his Ray expanded?"

These are rhetoric sentences, which are meant to show the wonder of the Rishi about the manifestation of the Supreme. "Where would the Ray go or extend? to what [new or another] heaven, manifesting the Divine? Who knows it here, who can clearly see it here?" In other words: "Who can declare here the end of possibilities of the Divine Manifestation?" "Who can say how far he has extended his Ray?"

Vocabulary:

gabhīravepas, mfn. moved deeply or inwardly, deeply excited RV. i, 35, 7.

aṣṭaú ví akhyat kakúbhaḥ prthivyās trī dhánuva yójanā saptá síndhūn hiraṇyākṣáḥ savitā devá āgād dádhad rátnā dāśúṣe vāriyāṇi 1.035.08

Interpretation:

"The eight peaks of the Earth he has illumined with his look, and the three regions of the desert, and the Seven Rivers! Shining with his golden eyes the God Savitar should come and establish the treasures, most desirable, for the giver of Sacrifice."

Vocabulary:

kakubh, f. (cf. kakud) a peak, summit RV.

dhanvan, n. *a bow* RV.; *dry soil, shore* (samudasya; cf. dhanu) *a desert, a waste* RV. &c. &c.

yojana, n. (sometimes m.; ifc. f. \bar{a}) a stage or Yojana (i.e. a distance traversed in one harnessing or without unyoking; esp. a partic. measure of distance, sometimes regarded as equal to 4 or 5 English miles, but more correctly = 4 Krošas or about 9 miles; according to other calculations = 2 1/2 English miles, and according to some = 8 Krošas) RV. &c. &c.

híranyapānih savitā vícarṣanir ubhé dyāvāprthivī antár īyate ápāmīvām bādhate véti sūriyam abhí krṣṇéna rájasā dyām rnoti 1.035.09

Interpretation:

"Savitar, with golden arms, active, enters the space in-between heaven and earth. He removes all obstacles and compels the Sun to appear! And by/through the dark space He moves towards Heaven!"

The key function of Savitar is stated here: abhi kṛṣṇena rajasā dyām ṛṇoti, 'he approaches or moves towards heaven by the dark space', or he moves/spreads heaven by the dark space'. It is this characteristic which makes Savitar the god of the Sacrifice, yajataḥ, for it is through and by the darkness that he arrives at Heavenly light. Therefore it was mentioned in the previous verse that there are three heavens of Savitar, of which one is in the mortal heaven and the two are properly his: Higher and Illumined Mind, in Sri Aurobindo's terminology, and these two are still the extensions of consciousness of Night. It is these two heavens of Savitar, which actually make the connection with the supreme light from above of the Intuitive and Ovemental levels. Thus He links the higher and the lower hemisphere over these two regions of the Night, spreading them, as it were, abhi kṛṣṇena rajasā dyām ṛṇoti, 'he approaches or moves towards heaven by the dark space'.

Vocabulary:

vī, 2. P. (Dhātup. xxiv , 39, veti) *to go, approach* , (either as a friend i.e. "seek or take eagerly , grasp , seize , accept , enjoy", or as an enemy i.e. "fall upon , attack , assail , visit , punish , avenge") RV. AV. TS. Br.; *to set in motion , arouse* , *excite* , *impel* RV.; *to further* , *promote* , *lead or bring or help any one to* (two acc.) ib.

vicarṣaṇi, (vi-), mfn. *very active or busy* RV. TAr. ṛṇoti, 8. P. A. *to go, move.*

हिरण्यहस्तो असुरः सुनीथः सुमृळीकः स्ववां यात्व् अर्वाङ् । जपसेधन् रक्षसो यातुधानान् अस्थाद् देवः प्रतिदोषं गृणानः ॥ १-०३५-१०

híranyahasto ásurah sunītháh sumrīlīkáh suávām yātu arvān apasédhan rakṣáso yātudhānān ásthād deváh pratidoṣám granāh 1.035.10

Interpretation:

"May the Mighty God and the Perfect Guide, with his golden hands, come straight to us, bringing his own power for our growth and protection, supremely gentle!

Driving away all the Rakshasas and Yatudhanas, the God stood there, who is invoked in the Darkness!"

Again here we have a confirmation of Savitar's relations with the Night; he is the God who is invoked in the Night, pratidoṣaṃ gṛṇānaḥ, driving away

all the Rakshasas and other demons, coming to us directly with his support, protection, increase, mercy, perfect guidance, and mighty power in his golden hands, he can always extend and save the soul in the darkness.

Vocabulary:

svavas, mfn. (nom. -vān) having or affording good protection RV. pratidoṣam, ind. in the evening , in the dark RV.

yé te pánthāḥ savitaḥ pūrviyāso areṇávaḥ súkrtā antárikṣe tébhir no adyá pathíbhiḥ sugébhī rákṣā ca no ádhi ca brūhi deva 1.035.11

Interpretation:

"O Savitar, those paths of yours, which are first and pure, are well made in the Antariksha. It is by those paths today, which are easy to travel, you protect us, O God, and on those paths you protect us [from dark forces]." And again the presence of Savitar in the darkness is mentioned. It is his ancient paths, pūrvyasāḥ panthāḥ, which are well made, sukṛtāḥ, on which he can protect the travelers to the other shore and intercede for them with the dark forces.

Vocabulary:

adhivac, to speak in favour of, advocate RV. VS. adhibrū, Ved. to speak in favour of (dat.) or favourably to (dat.), intercede for.

Appendix

Savitar and the Night.

The symbol of the Godhead returning or coming back to Himself over the regions of the Night of the Inconscient is the secret process of all manifestation. It is as if the Divine is revealing his own Being to his own Consciousness in detail by rediscovering Himself anew in all possible varieties, qualities and relations. In order to do so, He had to make first the Consciousness, Bliss and Truth of his Infinite Being fall and then to engage Himself with them by entering them, as it were, bringing them back to their full divine awareness and power. In this process of engaging himself the phenomena of Time, Space and Causality come into being, reorganizing the fallen Consciousness, Bliss, Truth and Being on the scale of gradual recovery to be able to reveal all the infinite qualities of the Divine to the Divine in all possible ways: to know and experience Itself not only in Its supreme everpresent Identity, as the Mother says, but also in Its newly discovered infinite Unity.

The Night conceals within her bosom the Lord growing towards his own supreme identity, towards Himself. And the Dawn gradually reveals what the Night keeps hidden there. The Dawn is a twin sister of the Night. She is the messenger of Savitar, and the beloved of Surya, the Supramental Godhead. He follows her paths as the Lord and her husband traveling from the beyond through the Night towards Manifestation.

It is this fundamental characteristic of Savitar to be engaged within the creation and to manifest things in and through the Night that makes him a central figure among the Adityas.

The three heavens of Savitar mentioned in this hymn (1.35) are the key to the understanding of this manifestation, for there is a place in the regions of the Night where the Night is no more, as it were, in the two heavens of Savitar: Higher and Illumined Mind. These are the realms which none of the creatures of the Infinite Night can overtake, although they can distort the outcome of it on the lower planes when it passes through the mental, vital and physical regions, where they have their access to, but they cannot stay in the regions of the Higher and Illumined Mind, and still these regions are within the lower hemisphere, at the top of it. It does not mean that Savitar is restricted only to these three heavens. In the hymn of Vamadeva RV 4.53.5 to Savitar, we find such a verse:

trír antárikṣaṃ savitā mahitvanā trī rájāṃsi paribhūs trīṇi rocanā/ tisró dívaḥ prthivīs tisrá invati tribhír vrataír abhí no rakṣati tmánā// "Savitar is surrounding with his mightiness Antariksham and its three spaces, and the three luminous realms, rocanā, setting three heavens in motion and three earths, protecting us as if surrounding by himself with his three laws."

Vamadeva depicts Savitar as the all including, transcendental and at the same time an involved Godhead, who is of the power of Ritam, a direct characteristic of the Supramental Dynamic Truth in things, their right positioning and relations. For He includes also the three luminous realms of trīṇi rocanā and all that is below it, making the three heavens and the three earths grow, revealing all the wonders of the Divine Manifestation on the scale of time and space.

The Divine Dynamism presupposes two different relations: (1) the enclosing, upholding, containing the whole, and (2) the involvement in it, participating, being contained. It is only with the Supramental realization that these two principles of the Divine Dynamism can be fully harmonized and balanced.

The Night is a container which holds the Divine and yet it is contained by the Divine. And this function is ascribed to Savitar who embraces the Night from both ends as Shyavashva Atreya puts it in his hymn:

utá yāsi savitas trīṇi rocanā utá sūryasya raśmíbhiḥ sám ucyasi utá rātrīm ubhayátaḥ párīyasa utá mitró bhavasi deva dhármabhiḥ 5.081.04

"And thou reachest,² O Savitri, to the three luminous heavens; and thou art utterly expressed by the rays of the Sun; and thou encompassest the Night upon either side; and thou becomest by the law of thy actions the lord of Love, O God."³

"O Savitar, you move towards the three luminous realms of Svar (Intuitive Mind, Overmind and Supramental Overmind), totally fit with the Rays of the Sun (the outpouring of the Supramental Light), enclosing Night from both sides: from above and from below, and by your laws, which are supporting the Manifestation throughout, you thus become Mitra, the Supreme Consciousness of the Divine Mother, Aditi, creating all that is in your all measuring perception."

³ Sri Aurobindo's translation; see also: But also thou goest, O Savitri, to the three shining worlds of heaven and thou art made manifest by the rays of the Sun, and thou encirclest on both sides the Night, and thou becomest Mitra, O god, with his settled laws of Truth.

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² <u>My note</u>: that is why it is said that Savitar goes or reaches the three luminous realms, yāsi savitas trīṇi rocaṇā, matching or fitting with the rays of Surya, the Supramental Sun, sūryasya rašmibhiḥ sam ucyasi, which implies the movement from another side: from within and through the darkness. And that is how he encompasses the Night from both sides. This is the Secret of the Veda.

The profound perception here is that the Light of Savitar is rising to Svar and inclosing the Night from both sides, manifesting a perception of simultaneous oneness with transcendental.

There is a passage in the Secret of the Veda, where Sri Aurobindo explains the phenomena of the Vedic Night:

"But the cave is only the home of the Panis, their field of action is earth and heaven and the mid-world. They are the sons of the Inconscience, but themselves are not precisely inconscient in their action; they have forms of apparent knowledge, māyāḥ, but these are forms of ignorance the truth of which is concealed in the darkness of the inconscient and their surface or front is falsehood, not truth. For the world as we see it has come out of the darkness concealed in darkness, the deep and abysmal flood that covered all things, the inconscient ocean, apraketam salilam (X.129.3); in that non-existence the seers have found by desire in the heart and thought in the mind that which builds up the true existence. This non-existence of the truth of things, asat, is the first aspect of them that emerges from the inconscient ocean; and its great darkness is the Vedic Night, *rātrīṃ jagato nivešanīm* (I.35.1), which holds the world and all its unrevealed potentialities in her obscure bosom. Night extends her realm over this triple world of ours and out of her in heaven, in the mental being, Dawn is born who delivers the Sun out of the darkness where it was lying concealed and eclipsed and creates the vision of the supreme Day in the non-existence, in the Night, asati ketum. It is therefore in these three realms that the battle between the Lords of Light and the Lords of the Ignorance proceeds through its continual vicissitudes."