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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:

- Akshara Shuddhi – The correct pronunciation of each syllable
- Matra Shuddhi - The right duration of chanting each syllable, and
- 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.

गणपति॑ग्ं
gāṇapatiḡm 

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.

हवामहे क॒विं
havāmahe kaṽvim 

Third, **DEERGA SWARITA** or double accented, denoted by two vertical lines above the syllable. This symbol comes above the syllable “नां” “nām” Listen to the two distinct levels of pitch accommodated by a longer duration.

गणनां॑ त्वा
gāṇanāṁṁ tvā 

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” “ṇa” in the word “gaṇapāṭigṃ”

गणपतिग्ं
gaṇapāṭigṃ

