



Brahmā

*Title not changed!*

### Savitar Goes to School continued ...

I did not know what *Savitar* meant. I was new to Columbia; I had been here just a few months. I had seen the name "Savitar" inscribed on some volumes in the homes of my host faculty. The books were all black and gold, glittering and shining. Peeping through glass doors, these books tempted the viewer. Yet, even for a librarian, it was impolite to open the cupboards and look into them, no matter how enchanting they looked. Therefore, these *Savitar* volumes remained unknown to me. It was still a night of ignorance. The day of enlightenment had not yet dawned.

I said to my associate: "I don't know what 'Savitar' means. It could be a Hebrew name. I don't know that language."

She replied, "No, this is India's sun god, SAVITAR!"

It was hard to believe! Savitar in Columbia, MO., a small mid-western town? Even the town's name was unknown to me until the beginning of my correspondence

with the university library. But this is what was featured on the cover of the *Savitar* yearbook for 1966!

The yearbook read: "Savitar was born in 1894-95 after much searching for an appropriate name. Savitar is the sun god of the Rig-Veda, a collection of praises and hymns to the oldest and most sacred gods of the East. Savitar denotes the splendor of the sun and its irresistible energy. God Savitar raises his banner high to provide light for all the world. Savitar, the black and gold deity ... golden-eyed, golden-haired and golden-handed ... is the god who sees all things and notes all the good and evil deeds of men. Savitar has irresistible power. Age cannot touch him, and nothing can withstand his will. Like the legend from which it was named, the *Savitar* strives to enlighten, inspire and guide. The seventy-second volume of the *Savitar* presents the University of Missouri, 1966."

I bowed my head in reverence, respect and regard to that sage,

saint and scholar who had the vision, wisdom and foresight to bring India's sun god, Savitar, to the University of Missouri-Columbia as early as 1894!

But who says Savitar is a god only of India? It is the god of the entire universe. Is there any spot on this globe to which Savitar does not bring Its light? True, Savitar is a Sanskrit word, but Sanskrit is not just the language of India alone. It is the language of the entire world. It is the language of the gods.

Even the linguists have classified Sanskrit as an Indo-European language. Thus Savitar belongs to Europe as much as it belongs to India. It is a common heritage of both India and Europe - nay, the entire world.

Exactly a century ago, the staff of the *Savitar* of 1896-97, explained its reasons for choosing the name of a Vedic god to represent the university. The introduction to that *Savitar* appeared just as it is reproduced here: