

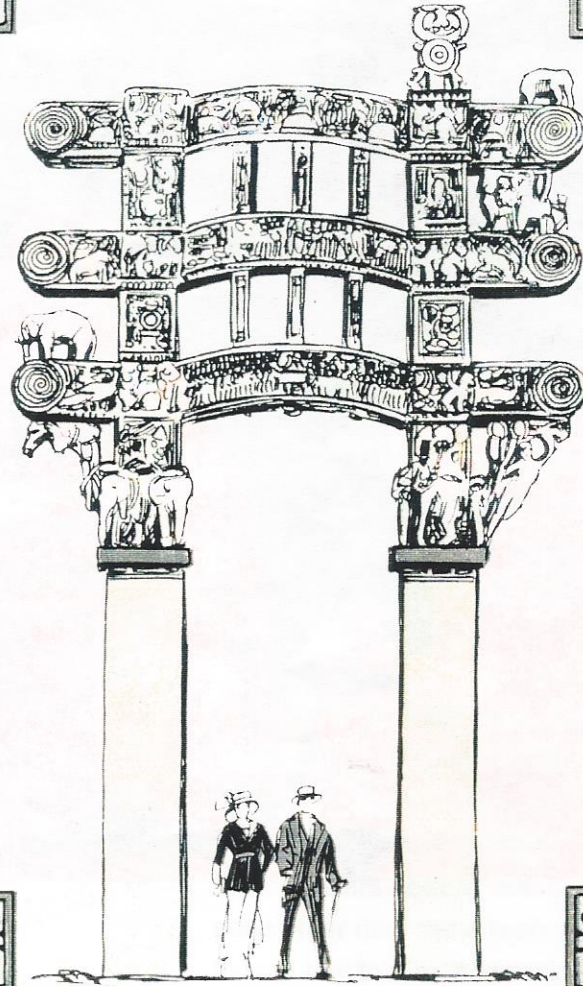
spiritual, tremendously transcendental and extremely subtle - that can be perceived only through an *internal* organ, the mind, trained in traditional lore and learning. This transcendental abstract Savitar is the principal power presiding over the world of education and learning and is much more meaningful and closely related to an institution of higher learning such as the MU. This invisible power provides the actual intellectual light, the acquisition and assimilation of which is the highest goal - the summum bonum - of human life. This light may lead a blessed being to realize the ultimate objective: immortality, freedom from the vicious circle of birth and death and the final reunion with and assimilation into the Ultimate Reality, Om Shanti, the Brahman.

The most sacred, highly honored, greatly celebrated and the premier and prime Vedamantra is dedicated to God Savitar. It is called Savitri and is also known as the Gayatri, since it is composed in that meter and protects its singer. This supreme holy hymn initiates the student into the study of the Vedas, the Sacred Lore of the Aryans. Millions of devotees have been reciting this mantra for their intellectual enlightenment and cultural advancement since the creation began, and, according to the faithful Vedic believers, there was no beginning!

The Vedic Initiation Ceremony, the Sacrament of Sacred Cord, is sanctified by God Savitar. Some ideas on this subject can be obtained from the Jan.12, 1997, issue of *Ideas* magazine, a *Columbia Missourian* supplement. A copy of this article will be sent upon request. Please write to Veda Vedanta Mandiram. ☺

The Savitar

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Sānchī

The South Asian collection at MU's Museum of Art and Archeology, now located in Pickard Hall, is named the Samuel Eilenberg Gallery.

1981

A year-long "Festival of India," sponsored by the Columbia Art League, takes place at Stephens College, MU and the Columbia Public Library.

1985

Veda Vedanta Mandiram puts out its 1st issue of "Om Shanti." Columbia residents start making plans to build a local temple called "Om Shanti Mandiram."

1997