

## Savarkar: "Take the oath, O Youths!"

**"Cowardice asks the question: is it safe? Expediency asks the question: is it politic? Vanity asks the question: is it popular? But conscience asks the question: is it right? And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular- but one must take it simply because it is right."**

**- Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)**

Hi, Everyone! I had always loved Savarkar's poems *sagaras* and *jayostute*. In fact *Jayostute* was in my school (St. Columba High School, Mumbai) prayer book and though I didn't know it was Savarkar's poem, I had always crooned it to myself over the years. I didn't quite understand the meaning, but I could feel the emotions in the poems. I was determined to quote them in my novel.

Unfortunately, I couldn't find any poetic translation of the poems. As in everything, when no help is available I have to buckle down to do it myself. And that was certainly easier said than done!! My Marathi is feeble at best. But I had a great asset on my side—my mother, Dr. Indrayani Sawkar. She is a Sanskrit scholar and her command over Marathi and English is excellent, too. I roped her in to give me meanings of Savarkar's words.

I studied Savarkar's poems for hours and didn't even attempt the poetic translation until I could feel my heart throb with the emotions, until I could feel the pain, the desperation, the love for his motherland that was spilling out of Savarkar's words.

Here is one poem:

**Pratidnya ghya**