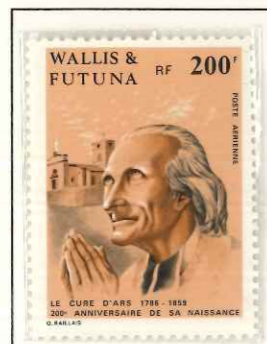


3. SACRED GANGES

In the Mahabharata it is said that the "Gita comprises all the Sastras, i.e., sacred writings, Hari (Vishnu) all the gods and the Ganges all the Sacred places". "Take away, O Waters, whatsoever is wicked in me, what I have done by violence or curse, and untruth" is a Vedic prayer repeated often today (Rig Veda 1-22-3).



Every Evening in the spiritual city of Rishikesh, Haridwar, and Kashi, people gather together for offering their prayers to goddess Ganga in **Ganga Aarti**.



Namami Ganga ji



"A river sings a holy song conveying the mysterious truth that we are a river, and if we are ignorant of this natural law, we are lost." **Thomas Moore** - From *The Re-Enchantment of Everyday Life*



"The Mississippi, the Ganges, and the Nile, those journeying atoms from the Rocky Mountains, the Himmaleh, and Mountains of the Moon, have a kind of personal importance in the annals of the world. The heavens are not yet drained over ..." **Henry David Thoreau** (1873), in *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*, p. 16

"Mention is made of Ganga in Rig Veda. Krishna identifies himself as Ganga in Gita.... Vivekananda carried the river water to the West with the faith that whenever in trouble a drop or two of Ganga water would soon be calm again. The Lord is so kind that He has spread the river Ganges throughout the universe so that by taking bath in that holy river everyone can get released from the reactions of sins, which occur at every step." *Srimad Bhagavatam* (3.5.41), **Prabhupada**



"Mother [Ganga] you girdle the earth and thereby lend it grace and beauty. You are the pathway, bedecked with banners of victory, to heaven. My only prayer to you is that I may live on your bank, watch your waves, repeat your name in my heart forever and die with my eyes fixed on you-**Valmiki**. In Ramayana, Rama offered Ganga waters as customary oblations to his ancestors. Ganga is mentioned in 108 verses of Balakanda, 46 verses of Aryankanada, 4 verses of Kishkinda kanda, 3 verses of Sundara kanda and 9 verses of Yuddha kanda."

"I will lay my bones by the Ganges that India might know there is one who cares." **Alexander Duff**, in *Passage to the Unreached*, p. 137

