

AGNIHOTRA AND ANCIENT AFRICAN FIRE PRACTICES

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In 1973 Vasant Paranjpe taught a group of us Agnihotra and the Fivefold Path of the Vedas. At that time we were told that some of us would travel to other parts of the world to spread the message of Agnihotra. Africa was specifically named as a place where much work would be done. Through my instrument the work in Africa was to be done in a very specific way because in the past there was an all embracing culture of fire throughout the continent of Africa. Our mission in Africa, then, was to investigate and to uncover these ancient practices of fire. For this we had to go to the elders of the rural areas in search of recovering information about fire practices. We were to bring the light of recent scientific discovery and Vedic science to these fire practices that once were so prevalent in Africa.

Kenya

On July 19, 1978 I arrived in Nairobi, Kenya in East Africa to begin the work on the continent. I happened to stay with a family who while they were in U.S. were shown Agnihotra by Dr. Ron Davidson, M.D. of New York. Dr. Davidson is a medical doctor operating a practice in the U.S.A. using Agnihotra and Agnihotra products for medicinal purposes. The friends with whom I stayed were Scipio Akpabla, Constance Tackie and Fred Agbobli. This group was kind enough to take care of all my basic needs. A little later I met a carpenter who became interested in the work that I was doing in Kenya. He agreed to interpret for me and to take me to the rural area where I could begin to take an oral history of the use of fire from the elders of several villages. My guide's name was Grieve Omiti.

On August 5, 1978 Omiti and myself traveled by country bus to Kisa in West Kenya. This area is approximately 25 miles from the city of Kisumu where Lake Victoria, second largest lake in the world, is located. We traveled by bus and by small vehicles and finally we walked to the village where Omiti's family lives. I was warmly received by the villagers. In this area there is no electricity, no running water and transportation is mainly by foot. The villagers were most surprised at the sight of me. My presence in Kisa became an event in the lives of the people. On that day Omiti began to arrange interviews for me with elders of the village.

I spent approximately two weeks in the rural area interviewing elders and other members of the community. Emphasis was on elders because they were more knowledgeable about the practices of fire. Each day we would walk for miles carrying out the study. The work would not have been accomplished without the aid of Omiti and his family. We were able to interview more than twenty elderly men who were knowledgeable about the use of fire.

In the evenings many of the young men would come to sit in our hut for sunset Agnihotra. Omiti's father, the head of the family, is Lincoln Dobi Okaalo. Mr. Okaalo is the head master of an elementary level school. He was instrumental in setting up some of the interviews. He also went on an all-day foot safari to meet an old man who was the most knowledgeable of all those who participated in the study. I was also aided by other sons of the family. They were Abraham, Gaulkie, Joshua. The entire family, consisting of 11 children, 2 grandchildren and other cousins, saw to it that my every need was met.

Every old man who was interviewed was familiar with the use of fire. All of those who participated in the study said that cowdung was the major ingredient in the fire practices in African culture. Many uses of the fire were given. It was learned that fire was part of most functions, and events that took place in the village. Many of the old men were quite concerned that the younger generation was not interested in such traditional things as fire practices. Many said that the current generation is deteriorating because of a turning away from such traditional practices.

They told me of a special fire that was prepared in a smeared hut used only for that purpose. This fire was lit in the center of the hut. All the members of the village would attend this burning. Only those who were too ill to go to the hut did not attend. This fire was said to have an effect on the bodies and on the alertness of the minds of those who sat before it.

They told me of another fire called The Fire at the Crossroads. This was a large outdoor fire that was burnt at the crossroads of the villages. After this large fire was prepared by a special old man of the village, its smoke would travel high into the air. Members of surrounding villages would then come to the fire to place a leaf or herb into the fire. The women of the village were very active in selecting specific leaves and herbs to be placed into the fire.

This Fire at the Crossroads was a very important fire. It was burned at specific times to coincide with the change in season. It was practiced when it was felt that that there was an unusual amount of sickness and disease among the people of the

villages or among the cattle and other animals. It was made when it was thought that there was a lack of harmony in the surrounding areas. It was made when it was thought that there was some type of misfortune or bad luck in the area. These fires were practiced because after having them the illness in the area decreased. Also, peace was said to descend on the area. The fortunes of the people in the area also seemed to improve. The ashes of the fires were used to fertilize the crops. **IT WAS NOTED THAT THE LAND THAT WAS CLOSE TO THE FIRE HUT BECAME VERY FERTILE.**

Nahashon Amurono Mabconjio was the most knowledgeable among the elders in the area. Hahashon, as he is called, took much interest in our work. He asked many questions. He indicated that he would like to play a big role in the study. He is a former magistrate and traditional leader of the area. He was keen to see that the information he gave to us be published so that it could be made available for the benefit of the world. He also thought that this information would help to encourage the younger Africans to look more favorably on traditional customs. He is a member of the Christian faith. He stated, however, that the fires and the fire rituals stopped when Christianity came to the area. He asked if I could help him to negate the lack of interest of the youth in these fire customs and also to stress the importance of fire customs in the Ancient Religions. I told him about the scientific basis of fire practices as given in the Vedas and he then seemed more interested to return to the practices that he had learned as a child. We performed a Vyahruti Homa as is practiced in America. **HE COMMENTED THAT THE FIRE WAS MADE IN THE SAME MANNER AS IT WAS IN AFRICA. HE WAS PLEASED THAT THE SUBSTANCES WERE COWDUNG AND COW GHEE. HE SAID HE WAS GLAD THAT IN THE U.S. WE KNEW THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COW. AFTER A SHORT MEDITATION HE COMMENTED THAT HE WANTED TO THANK US FOR MAKING THE FIRE PORTABLE.** The fire was lit in his hut with his family, and my interpreters Abraham and Omiti participating.

During the time that I spent in Nairobi, Omiti and I performed Yajnya in several homes. A short talk on the scientific and healing properties of Agnihotra Fire followed each burning. The native Africans were open to experiencing the fire. Many were familiar with fire rituals. Many were aware of the use of cowdung in fires for general cleansing purposes. They were pleased to hear from me the scientific value of those things so familiar to them.

Omiti and Fred will continue to practice Agnihotra and teach others in Nairobi and in the villages. Clay pots will be made for those who will learn. A house is now being sought to establish a fire temple in the city of Nairobi.

Ghana

Enroute to U.S. I stopped in Accra, capital of Ghana. I travelled with Scipio Akpabla to his home in the city of Accra. Here I had two meetings with Mr. G. K. Akpabla, Scipio's father. Mr. Akpabla is a noted Botanist. He has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Wisconsin in U.S. for his contributions in the field of Botany. He showed me scientific reference books that listed his contributions to classification of plant life. Mr. Akpabla has been interested in the problem of the deterioration of the layers of atmosphere from the time the first satellite was put into orbit. He has agreed to classify the medicinal herbs and leaves that were commonly used in fire burnings across the continent of Africa.

Fred Agbobli, who is now teaching Agnihotra in Kenya referred me to his spiritual teacher Mr. Emanuel Tagoe who is also a school teacher. He is also a spiritual leader and a natural healer. We met at his home and discussed the Science of Agnihotra of the Vedas and the unusual circumstances of our meeting. He said that our meeting was more than mere chance. The following evening, September 2, 1978, I gave a talk before his students who were spiritual aspirants and also demonstrated Agnihotra to them. No interpreter was necessary because all lectures and teaching were done in English. Classes were held in a room set aside for them at the University of Ghana Medical School.

Evening Agnihotra was followed by a class on Agnihotra given jointly by myself and Mr. Tagoe. Mr. Tagoe read the pamphlet entitled 'Agnihotra' published by Agnihotra Press, U.S. while I answered the questions that were raised. The class was attended by 20 people. After the discussion period, it was decided by the group that they would perform Agnihotra regularly. Assignments were given to individuals for getting cowdung, ghee, rice and for making clay pots. I left two Agnihotra copper pots for model.

The work in Africa has just begun. We have made a start in East and West Africa to spread the message of Yajnya of the Vedas. Specific, scientific research has begun by Dr. Akpabla on herbs used in African fire rituals. Agnihotra is being performed regularly in Accra, Ghana, Nairobi, Kenya and in at least two villages in the rural area of Kenya.

(Note: Agnihotra is a small fire prepared at one circadium rhythm of sunrise/sunset. This rhythm is like a gear system of nature. Agnihotra fire is prepared in a pyramid shaped copper pot and medicinal substances go into the preparation of the fire. This has an effect of great impact on the atmosphere and nutrients are thrust into the atmosphere from the solar range. Exactly at sunrise/sunset when the Agnihotra fire is done a special aura energy field is created around plants in the vicinity of Agnihotra fire. This lasts for a short time band. Agnihotra acts like a switch that is inserted into the subject which operates when several electricities, ethers and subtle energies intensely interplay i.e. at sunrise/sunset.

You can grow double the yeild of your garden by inserting this Agnihotra switch and bringing down the nutrients from the hydrosphere in the solar range. Thousands of people have experienced this with their potted plants in the room where Agnihotra is practiced. This is also experienced in large scale farming. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED TO INCREASE THE YEILD OF YOUR ORGANIC GARDEN WITHOUT USE OF ANY CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS, INSECTICIDES, PESTICIDES BASED ON THE BIODYNAMIC FARMING PRACTICE GIVEN IN THE VEDAS YOU MAY WRITE FOR FREE LITERATURE ON FARMING TO AGNIHOTRA UNIVERSITY, P.O. BOX 57107, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037.

Agnihotra is used in Psychotherapy practice in U.S.

In Germany medicines are prepared from the ashes of Agnihotra fire which have proved to be miraculous in checking diseases and curing them. Vasant)

REAP AS YOU SOW

Vasant

You reap what you sow. If you sow seeds chemically treated and spray the land with chemicals you will reap just what you have sown. You will be feeding dangerous chemicals into the mouths of your own children. If this does not stop the results will be shocking.

Now toxic poisons are being discovered beneath the Earth. As these poisons begin to surface new disease will start to spread. The law of Karma is taking effect.

Major medical practices will be the objects of numerous law suits.

New concepts in science now to be introduced in next six months by top scientists in the field of neurology.

We will find more and more deaths related to disease of the lungs.

Solar rays threaten health. Formerly, sun was used to cure ailments. Now it creates them.

Animals start reacting to atmospheric pollution and become mad. You will see pets so docile one minute and ferocious next minute.

So many lives can be saved. So much misery and disease now. Widespread epidemics start now. This asbestos poisoning is an example but more natural causes will be shown.

VASANT'S TALKS

When you go into this bad habit of thinking that others know a little less than you, you start alienating others when it is so unnecessary. This happens to everyone in various situations in each individual's life. However, simply by adopting a humble attitude toward others you become an object for greater things to come through you. This strengthens you.

Responsibility for a thing is given. Then if it is taken it is an opportunity for your own growth, "your" meaning anyone. When opportunity is given energy also just comes. Then it is so simple. A little effort and the things fall in your lap. So simply make a beginning in any way and do it.

Timings have been suggested for meditation. This is to offset so many influences in the world. Constant application of the disciplines in your life is going to benefit not only yourself but all others who come into contact with you. This again affects the mind. The mind is so easily scattered. If someone becomes angry with you immediately this triggers a reaction in you that is unnatural to the nervous system which in turn affects the entire bodily mechanism and has an effect on the mind. So whenever you find yourself in a situation where someone is angry at you, then first smile at yourself. Then react with love. Do not allow this person to upset your own body and mind. Then your reactions to that person will be constructive rather than destructive thereby creating a balance and if you are consistent in your reactions toward anger you will gradually erase the tendency within yourself to become angry. So much good comes from the tongue that is held rather than the tongue that carries words of rage.

You need not always be alone. If others require more training then be prepared to train them. Do not simply complain of other's inefficiency or lesser devotion. You know their potential or what they are feeling in their hearts. By becoming more humble you open so many more doors to opportunities within yourself.

Be ever grateful if a man gives you a crumb of bread.

Do not waste anymore time.

You have to be more strict with diet. Then if you are in the habit of taking any drug or stimulant best you leave it soon as possible. Make the effort at least. Time is near when all these will spoil you. Tapa is very important for you now.

Mantra speeds up things greatly. It is a push that helps. Already he has become better but to avoid this falling back again Mantra helps. To quit drugs is not easy. But it is not supposed to be easy either. Let him take trial for one week. One week no drugs, no pot, no alcohol. These intense disciplines. Five a.m. Mantras and unless working observe all other disciplines. Then after one week record results, physical, mental and like that. Actually record these results and show them to me in writing when I come again.

Everything is dependent on another thing. Even thoughts follow sequence. So every situation changes depending on other situations. One thing is certain. If there is devotion then all things are made available for this mission. Initial setback need not be regarded as indication of anything, positive or negative. When you are dealing with different people then of course they have their own thinking. So this has an effect. When you are dealing in the world it is like that always. If I want to go to San Francisco then I have to arrange a ride or whatever transportation. Now, something may happen. Perhaps I want to go in car. Person who is to drive decided he doesn't want to go. Then car is not available at last minute. So each time I have to change timing, schedule, everything. So we must not become dependent on any special thing because it changes. You just make available possibilities and take trial. Then if the situation changes you get an opportunity. You have to remain stable with each change. Thus constant one pointed attention is required. Otherwise you become subject to constant changes due to environ-

ment, people's individual choice affecting your own choices, atmosphere, pollution. Any number of things can change your perspective and you become "moody" and then consistency and efficiency is changed. Many things can deter these influences. Mantras, Pranayama, meditation.

FROM VASANT'S TALKS WITH TEACHERS

If people should ask you now about Vasant speak very little. It is not important now that everyone meet me. Also do not refer to Vasant when you are introducing Agnihotra. You learned it from some people in America. If it becomes necessary for people to know my name then you tell them. I am interested that people practice Agnihotra.

All people need to be told now. If they are not interested then that is their worry but it is our duty to deliver to the world this message. Agnihotra can save lives. Already results have shown cure of disease, mental and physical. Still further research is required.

In all Fire Temples medicines should be readily available. I can speak to scientists in the area whenever they are available.

Concentration and effort are essential to this plan. Much Grace will unfold. I will come and personally speak to those interested.

We don't want to lose this opportunity because of inefficiency. So much can come. A person cannot teach and do drugs simultaneously.

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