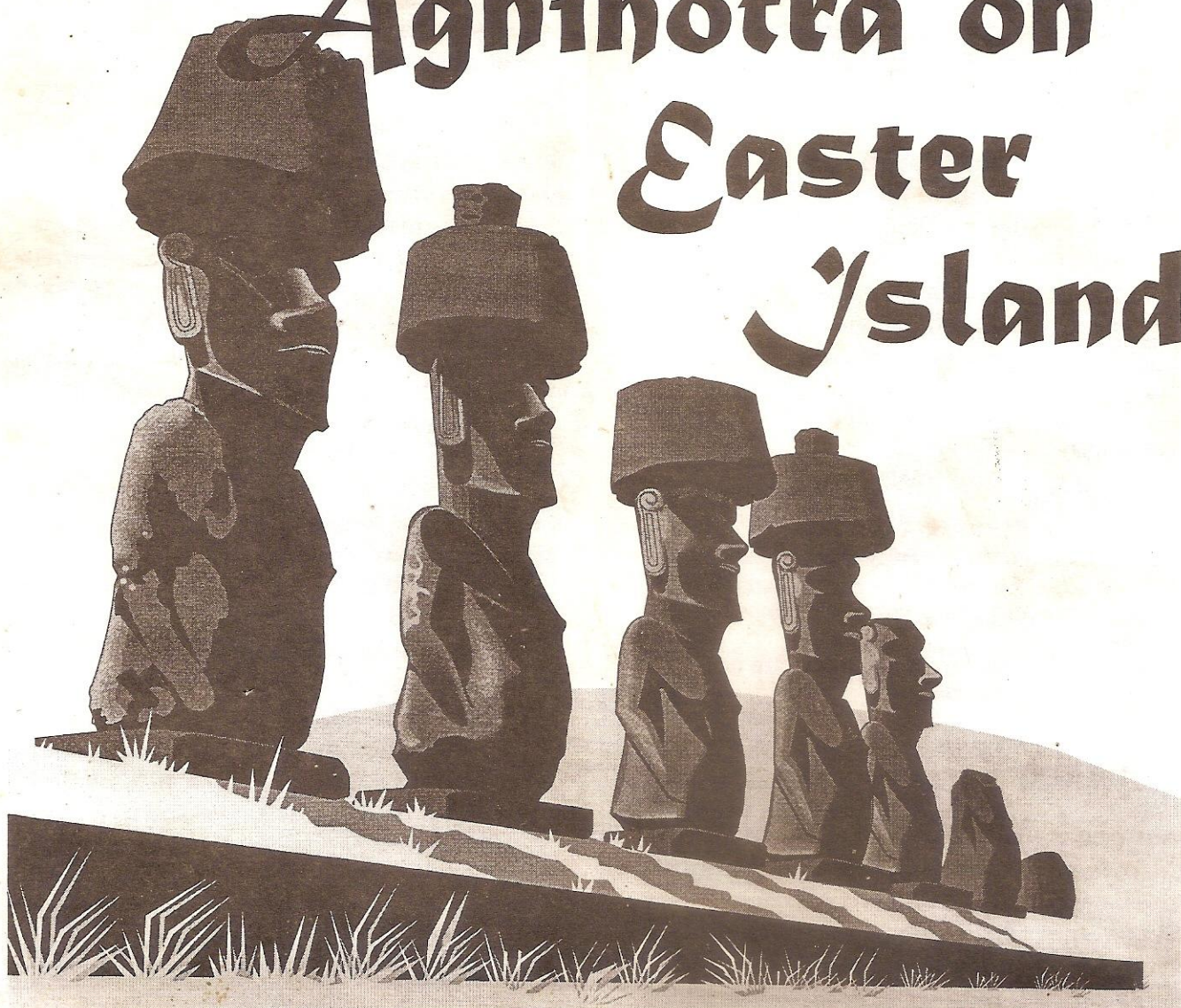


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Agnihotra on Easter Island



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Trip to Easter Island
Homa Therapy in Argentina
From Vasant's Correspondence

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Vasant's Talk on Granja Homa Shreedham, Spain

*compiled by
Aleta Macan*

Things are accelerated everywhere--on one side so many forces of destruction, and on the other side so much Grace as never before. This is the situation now. This is the time when one can make very quick progress in wiping out all past karma. One might say, 'What is this load of karma? Why should I be interested in that? Why visit places like this, where Homa farms are maintained with all devotion and love?' Well, hundreds of people are going to come, because they will feel something like a shelter, something like a relief--totally unknown people. And this is because a special atmosphere is created by this ancient science of Homa. When people come to this place they are going to ask you, "We are so miserable and you look so happy. What is it we can do?" and there will not be much time to learn. All of you have [had] many days to learn. So how are you going to approach this subject? You can tell them, 'Forget about all the language of freedom and wiping out karma, forget it. The main thing is, every moment you feel the ups and downs of life, whatever be your circumstances in life; you are feeling this all the time and you come to know that you are not going to become happy as long as these feelings are going on. So try to find something where you will be happy and all these ups and downs will stop.' Tell them, 'Let us approach this subject in a very

intelligent and logical way.'

Remember one basic thing: When you are born as a human being you have free will. You have a choice to become your own friend or to become your own foe. It is all in your own hands. Nobody is to blame. Let us look at life. Everybody is trying to acquire knowledge about this material world, for example; also we want to know more about the internal world. What we finally come to know is that we can spend many lifetimes and still our knowledge will be incomplete, because there is always more to know. It is just not possible unless some other method is used, which we do not know. Of course, if somebody asks you any theoretical questions then you can tell them that there is "knowing which nothing remains to be known". That means you want an answer and it is there. The ancient Vedic knowledge or the yogic knowledge describes it in a particular way. They say you reach a state--you want to see it, it becomes the eye, you want to hear it, it becomes the ear, anywhere in the universe, it is like that.

We do know that it is impossible to acquire all the knowledge of the material world and also the knowledge within one lifetime. So we can eliminate saying, "I will know more, I will know more, I

will know more and then I will be happy.” This knowledge is what we call acquired knowledge. Higher knowledge is not a possession; it is just there. For that you have to reach a stage and then it is just there. But it is not possible to talk about these things to somebody who doesn't know. We have to use the language that certainly knowledge is so vast and how can we know everything? It is like somebody who is teaching in the morning a children's class and in the evening teaches a high college class. This person is using two different languages.

Coming back to earthly material things, we say I am going to get all the knowledge to be happy, but knowledge is so vast, how will I be able to get all the knowledge? The first condition is knowledge. The second condition of our life is that we may be anybody, we can have all the material possessions (of course it doesn't happen normally, but suppose you have everything), you may be an emperor, a president or anybody, always you will find that there are things you do not want, but they are near you and things you do want but you are not able to get them. You can be anybody in the world. Circumstances are always like that. This is the way of life. So again you are not going to be happy. And the third thing is that all of us are made to witness death of our near ones and

others during our life. Nobody can avoid this.

Under these three circumstances of life we are never going to be happy. You see that acquiring more knowledge doesn't make you happy, and by merely trying to change circumstances I'm not going to be happy because there will always be uncomfortable things and thirdly, death. How do I get out of this? How do I become happy then?

And we are told, “You can be happy this very minute, this very moment.”

Actually, we should not lose this moment of happiness, because once it is gone it will never come back. When you are born in a human frame you are told that you are born in the image of thy Father; you are told that you are perfect as thy Father in Heaven is perfect. That means, you try to become perfect and it is possible. The methodology is given. What is the methodology? “Be thou transformed by the renewal of the mind.” This is the program now, the renovation of the mind. Unless I do that, I am not going to be happy. So this is the direction in which I have to look now. Then, when we look to the mind and try to examine it, we see that everybody has anger, greed, lust, pride, envy, temptation. All these desires are there all the time and this is exactly the opposite

of love. We are not going into the science of the mind now, because this is another subject. But we can imagine mind like a vibrating energy and all the time it is throwing out all these things like anger, pride, lust, jealousy, temptation. So we are vitiating the atmosphere all the time. If all the vibrations would be only love, then what a wonderful effect it would be!

It is here that Agnihotra, which comes from the ancient science of medicine, Ayurveda, helps, and other Homas also. Automatically, an atmosphere is created and all your effort is reduced. Automatically plants become happy and they grow wonderfully. Automatically pathogenic bacteria becomes uncomfortable; a microbiologist can see it in one day.

Wherever you go--it can be a forest or a big city, wherever anyone goes--whatever you are thinking intensely, you are attracting automatically similar vibrations from all around you and from the world. They are attracted to you on the basis of similarity. So we have to be very careful all the time. Let's say, for example, somebody who is used to taking drugs or has some other habits--you can let him go to any unknown place where he doesn't know anybody, but because of this drug vibration he will find out immediately where he can get these

things, more so than a person who doesn't take drugs, because of the intensity of these vibrations. So you can imagine, if all the vibrations of love are there all the time, what will happen? We come to know now that if I want to be happy, an effort is required. The next question is, "What is that effort?" You can say that there are three D's:

Devotion, Discipline and Daan.

Daan means non-attachment to worldly possessions. This is a very simple way, if you are able to do it. Devotion is a very difficult thing. Devotion to what? This is the next question. You have to know that only from within, not from outside. Of course, when you are in the atmosphere of Agnihotra and the other fires then automatically you get a clarity of vision. Then you come to know you can deceive the whole world, but you cannot deceive yourself. That means while moving in the world you may move like an advocate or anybody else, but as far as you are concerned you have to look like a judge at yourself, not like an advocate. Another wonderful thing, [which is] mostly never noticed, it is so little that you can just not notice throughout your life, is that everybody is making this great effort in the material world. Of course, making effort is good; but when you say, "I make this effort and I will be happy", this is not correct, because the happiness doesn't

depend on those things; happiness is within you. It is like a young woman going to an astrologer and telling him that she will get married, but that all the relatives of her future husband don't like her and that she is going to be in trouble. The astrologer is doing his business and tells her that her troubles will only last for two years. She asks, "What will happen after two years?" He answers, "Oh, you will get used to it."

The whole idea is that happiness is within you and not outside. We are making such great effort in this world all the time, because we think if I gain more power in this world, then I am going to be happy. This will never come true. And we are making this effort all our life. And when we look to the other side, if you make only a little effort in the spiritual direction, then what a wonderful thing happens! No obstruction anywhere, all ways clear. And anybody can start at any moment and all the time there is Grace. Whatever be your destiny doesn't matter. Otherwise, if you don't think that way, it is like a boxing match. It is like, "This is my destiny and this is my effort. Well, what is going to come out of that?" Can I overcome the destiny of this fight which is going on? Destiny is ultimately accumulated karma of "reap as you sow", but if you do intense good Karma the

destiny changes. Ultimately making your mind full of love all the time is your aim in this life, nothing else. And for that reason you have to take care of your food, because you become what you eat, you become what you think.

When we look at this Fivefold Path, there is nothing new in it. It is the same thing told again and again from creation till this day by all the saints, all the prophets. But now it is just put into an instant manner, that's all. Like instant coffee, quick food. First make use of this environmental thing, then all your effort is reduced.

Automatically you are going in the direction of love. Another thing we must remember: Only about the human body is it told, "Thou art made in the image of thy Father." The state we have to reach is, "I and my Father are one." The same thing was told since creation in different words till today. But now the sun has risen on a new era and things are made extremely easy. So we have to look at it this way. I know now, when I make my mind totally full of love, this is the way out of these ups and downs.

Then what are the obstructions? It is about the human body that it is said, "The body is the tabernacle and He resides within." This does not depend on your education, material condition, color of your skin, race, status in society, etc. It applies to every human being. The basic

fact is that you are made in the image of thy Father.

This body has many habits. I know it's not good to take drugs, but the body pulls me. So the body is actually coming as an obstruction; my mind is pulling me. Both are obstacles. So look at the situation here -- body is an obstacle because of the habits and it is only with the help of the body that we can rise higher. It is a very difficult situation. We have to train this body in a different way, because if this human body falls, nothing is left and then how can I make an effort? In the ancient tradition it is put in another way: Instead of saying your lifespan is eighty or one hundred years, they put the lifespan into so many breaths. That means you have only a limited number of breaths.' If you get angry you start breathing quickly and you are utilizing all those breaths. You are losing all this capital and the time. This is one way you can look at life. Therefore I should not get angry. But things are so difficult the way we live, especially if you live in a city. All the air is polluted. In the whole world it is like that. You have a guest coming into your house and naturally you go to work and tell your guest, "You help yourself to food. I will come in the evening." You come home in the evening. You want to eat something. You open the door to the

refrigerator. Normally, you are used to keeping the butter vertically, but your guest put it in horizontally, and you immediately get upset and use your breath. Like that you are wasting the breath all the time. You have to think more about it.

Of course, further discipline means something else. Some people ask you to come to this meditation class or group and learn and you will be happy. Of course, you also have to do certain repetition of certain mantras. But then still you come to know that you are not happy because another thing is missing there and that thing is that everything you do in life HAS to bring you joy!

And for that you have to have some understanding. If you don't have the understanding, then things like Agnihotra and others will automatically give you some clarity and help that understanding. But it means that you have to know that every action has to be with that joy and for that reason one has to learn an attitude of life.

Let's say you stop at a bus stop in the city. Many buses are coming and going, but you are only interested in one particular number of a bus. You are waiting at the bus stop and you see buses coming and going, coming and going.

You are not attached to that one particular scene that one bus comes and goes. Like that we have to look at all incidents in life. Like at the bus stop things are happening, in life things are happening, it's a coming and going. Non-attachment. Once we have that attitude, then it is always joy! And to bring about this attitude, that is why the Fivefold Path is arranged in such a way. First ecology, because it has a good pull on you. Whatever you do during the whole day, two times in twenty-four hours your breath is adjusted. Of course sunrise and sunset are special times when it is automatically adjusted to the phases of the moon. If you just get up, this is enough to adjust to the phase of the moon. But you are doing a process of medicine which creates all harmony around you and helps the nervous system, the brain cells and the skin, and also it helps the homeostasis of the body. The homeostasis is exactly the opposite of AIDS. This is why the first thing is ecology. Of course, your helping the plants grow etc. is a wonderful thing and also this is intense good karma. When you are doing intense good karma, naturally all the past karma is wiped out. Out of a big bank account you draw one check. You can imagine out of the big load of karma, this life is like drawing one check out of that account. But all [of it] has to be worked out, doesn't it? Once

that check is signed and drawn, you have to go through that. That is called destiny. But there is another aspect of destiny. In Sanskrit language there are two words for destiny, naming two different aspects. One is what you call the world of "reap as you sow". The other word means the prerogative of the Divine to forgive. That means, you do this intense good karma and no doubt whatever is your destiny you have to go through in this life, but the trouble from the destiny becomes less and less. It is like there is a rabbit and you have a sharp pin and you place it into the rabbit; it will die. But try to do the same thing to a hippopotamus--it will not even notice a thing. So the destiny will work its way, but you don't get troubled by it. It is possible to be free and full of joy all the time instantaneously. Let us recognize one thing. The world is full of contamination and rat race, but we have to live in this world.

If you decide to walk on this path of Light then everything is clear; you just have to make more and more effort, but there are not obstacles. That means you have to learn to do things with non-attachment. So why not start this at least in the family--no judgment, no criticism, all the time love and service. You will think that then you will lose all the fun, but this is ridiculous. It is like in some

backward area where the husband beats his wife. One day he stops beating her and the wife thinks, "Oh, my husband is not loving me any more; he is no longer taking any interest in me." This is ridiculous, isn't it? Similarly, our way of thinking is ridiculous, because all the happiness is inside. Not even for a moment is it outside. When it is inside and I spend all my life searching for it outside, I'm just wasting my time.

So to stop these ups and downs in life all the time--thinking, turning the mind, we have to train the mind. First thing is what is called the habits of the body and the habits of the mind. And the second step is always doing good karma without attachment to the fruit thereof. We will do it and this will work. But if we really want to reach a higher stage, this is not enough. Now things are made very easy for us. We can reach this highest stage in this very life because things are extremely favorable -- Grace. Like in life, if a fish is swimming in the river and it is going in the direction of the current of the water, then it has its own velocity plus the velocity of the current of the river. The current of the river is the aspect of Grace.

We have to have that type of non-

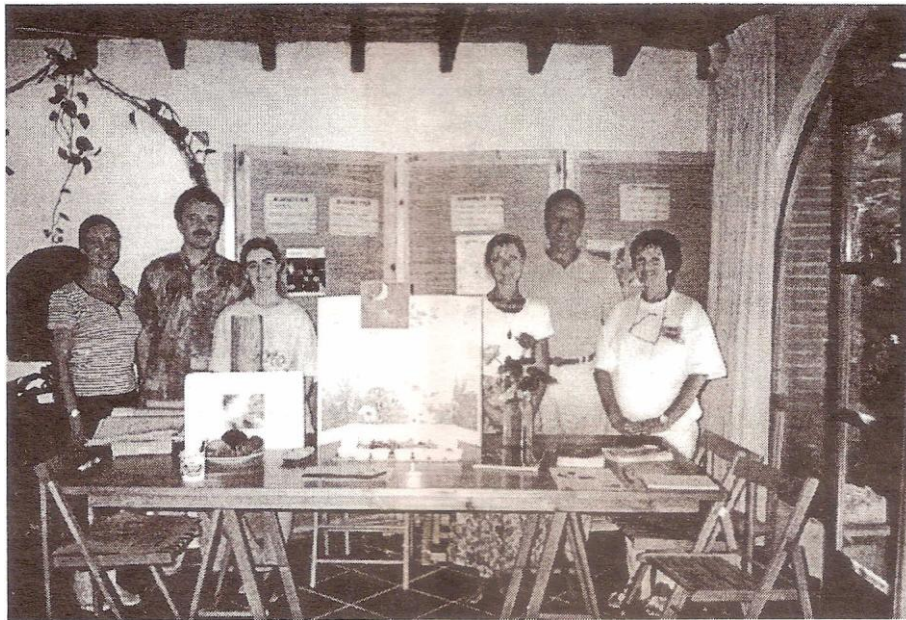
attachment in life. Then you will see it is all the time joy. If you have the idea that if you go to any type of spiritual group or meditation you should only sit around with a long face and collapsed jaw, then you are absolutely wrong. When you see people bend over scriptures, reading them all the time and all the time the anger is there, that is not the way. It has to be a smile all the time. We have to do things with non-attachment, but that doesn't mean with a sad face. Then, with this non-attachment you actually really come to know what is joy in life, but again the answer is that this is not enough for the last step.

That last step is called Swadhyaya, self study. That means, what do I mean by "I and my Father are one?" It is possible to go into that stage with certain simple practices. Then it becomes an awareness all the time. Then you come to know, you may climb the ladder, but you will not be able to open the door. The door opens only by Grace, but Grace is an aspect of the law of Karma. So automatically the door is going to be opened. That will be the same as the sentence in the Bible which says, "No one will come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him to me." This is it -- ultimately the law of Grace.

Immediately we have to know that we have to conserve energy of speech. We speak so much and all the energy is lost. Is it necessary? And really, the things we talk [about] are not so relevant. If we examine what we are speaking all day, we will be surprised. What is behind all this speech?

This is another subject now. But only take the assurance that in this very life you can rise, now. And if you help the

planet by practicing all the fires, which is extremely good karma, it gives nutrition to plant life, removes disease in an area, removes tensions on the mind, it is intense good Karma. You just do this and do not worry about the judgment, what we call the Day of Judgment. You will be free. Secondly, you will be able to lead a wonderful life in spite of all the pollution. Thank you.



Christa and Ricardo Mena (2nd and 3rd from right) with others at Granga Homa Shreedam

Trip to Easter Island

Aquiles Mendez

Easter Island is the easternmost island of the Polynesian Islands and belongs to Chile. Easter Island had a very unique civilization. More than three hundred

ancient stone sculptures of enormous size and of unknown origin can be found all over the island. It is known that hieroglyphics were used by its



inhabitants. This island was discovered on Easter Day in 1722 when the Dutch navigator Jacob Roggeween reached the island and its occidental world, which developed in the midst of the Pacific world. In 1935 the government of Chile named the island "Open Air Museum" because many places have remained intact down through the years.

From Santiago, Chile, Vasant, Juan Ojeda and myself travelled to Easter Island in December of 1995. On the plane we met a lady named Maria Hey Paoa, who belongs to one of the most ancestral families of the island. She invited us to stay at her house. There is only one village on Easter Island. It has about 2,500 inhabitants, of which eighty percent are natives and direct descendants from its original civilization.

Maria, her children and her grandchildren were very interested in the Agnihotra healing fire and its beneficial effects. The whole family, with in-laws and children, gathered to experience sunset Agnihotra. That evening, the first time in hundreds of years, the Fire which was part of the history of this country had come back to the island. But we only came to know this the following day when Vasant asked us to look through the books of the island to find out if there

was any reference to the healing fire. Maria handed us a book, *The Land of Hotu Matu's* by Sebastian Englert, where we found the following passage:

"Behrens relates in his story that on the day Roggeween's ship was approaching the island, the natives ignited fires at the feet of their "idols" and that on the following day at dawn, they again ignited the fire. We saw that they knelt with their faces towards the rising sun and that they had kindled various fires which seemed to have been destined as morning fires to honor their God."

The same day we went with Vasant, accompanied by Maria's son Tono, to find a place where a special fire ceremony would be performed. When Vasant chose the area, we got off the jeep and walked towards some ruins near a cliff overlooking the Pacific. There we performed a beautiful one-hour fire ceremony, and at the end the ashes were thrown into the ocean. Vasant pointed out, "Observe how we were guided. Our work here has ended."

As we reached Maria's place the chief of the Council of Elders was waiting and inquired about the reasons we were visiting the island. He had a long conversation with Vasant.

Homa Therapy in Argentina

Juan Ojeda

From Santiago, Chile, Vasant, Irma Garcia, Maria Cecilia Mendez and I travelled to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Esther Caceres and Gladys Medina from Chile were waiting for us at the airport. They had arrived a few days ahead of us to coordinate our work here.

From the airport, we went immediately to the spiritual center run by Esther, where Homa Therapy is practiced daily, and extra hours are allotted for practice of Om Tryambakam Homa. In this place, named Loma Hermosa, the people who visit the place feel tranquility and a sense of peace.

Upon our arrival, a group of daily Agnihotra practitioners from the center assembled there to listen to Shree Vasant. The meeting lasted for about two hours, after which the people asked about specific themes related to the healing fires and Homa farms.

The following day we went to Cordova. On the way there, Vasant referred to Berthold Jehle from Germany. When we arrived, it was a very pleasant surprise to see him right there in the bus terminal waiting for Vasant with Ingolf Plouda, who is also from Germany. Ingolf is the proprietor of the first Homa farm in Argentina.



From Cordova we went by car to Villa General Belgrano, the town near the Homa farm, about one hour away from Cordova.

Ingolf's farm measures twenty hectares and is a very comfortable place. We noticed the atmosphere. Bees, as well as different vegetables and legumes, grow wonderfully. Ingolf also has some cows which produce sufficient cowdung all year long as well as ghee for Agnihotra and Om Tryambakam Homa. The farm has adequate accommodations to receive a group of people who wish to participate in the healing vibrations of Homa fires. Additionally, there are two wells which give water for the daily needs and for daily irrigation of the plants and crops. When we arrived, a temple was being constructed for the purpose of

performing Om Tryambakam Homa. As soon as we arrived, Vasant suggested that we make a tour of the farm to observe the new advances accomplished within the last few months. Definitely, in the Agnihotra environment everything results in a better quality of life, such as the peaceful surroundings, and the foods grown there are more delicious and have better taste, color, texture, etc. We were able to experience this during the days we stayed at the farm and enjoyed the different foods cultivated by Homa methods.

That afternoon Master Vasant explained the different applications of Homa Therapy. Those who attended the meeting agreed that the climate in that particular region and in Argentina in general had changed radically. Waves of intense heat are being experienced; there is less rain and there are strong winds.

Ingolf's farm was blessed by Vasant's performance of a healing fire which lasted for four full hours. During our stay, Vasant said, "The time is NOW. The last days are HERE. There shall be no second chance. Now is the time to evolve, to enable GRACE to reach us. After impending great ecological and planetary destruction, a great cleansing, there shall be PROSPERITY, LOVE, PEACE AND BLISS for everyone.

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN ON EARTH."

The next day we returned to Cordova where our friends Maria del Pilar Crucet and Gladys Medina had organized a public meeting in a meditation and healing center which uses alternative therapies. While the group had waited for us, they performed Om Tryambakam Homa. A few minutes after our arrival we performed sunset Agnihotra.

People are ready. The time is NOW. Those who are ready by their Karma come now to the fire. Any place that we visit, no matter how remote or isolated, in every country, group, movement, association, etc., people are ready. Everything seems to be in order. The fires are being spread within these groups very easily and quickly. The people who perform these fires almost immediately report an improved state of consciousness, better health, liberation of the mind, decreased stress and increased harmony. Actually, different groups whose parameters do not coincide are commencing Homa Therapy; they continue with their own practices based on their beliefs and continue to follow their own spiritual leaders. The knowledge from which Agnihotra emanates is known as the Vedas, which are not the property of any particular country or race. The Vedas are a

patrimony for all humanity.

At Vasant's last conference in Cordova among the guests were many professionals, professors of yoga, therapists, and students of meditation, many of whom practice Agnihotra at sunrise and sunset daily.

Towards the end of the conference Shree Vasant answered all the questions that were asked of him and afterwards Berthold Jehle spoke. For more than fourteen years he has been investigating the medicinal applications of Agnihotra ash. He spoke about the healing properties and the therapeutic applications of Agnihotra ash when ingested alone or mixed with ghee. Ingolf translated from German into Spanish.

The following day we returned to Buenos Aires for a conference at the "Union Internacional de Sociedades Espirituales" (International Union of Spiritual Societies). We were joined by Maria Cecilia Mendez, who had stayed in Buenos Aires to give two courses in Yoga and Meditation for Children--one for children and one to train adults who wish to use the program in working with children. The principal theme of the U.I.S.E. institution is: "Unity is never attained by saying that this is good and

that is bad. Unity is attained by putting aside all differences of opinion, and looking for what is common in all things to all of us."

The president of U.I.S.E., Domingo Perez, conveyed to the audience that his institution is totally open to full cooperation with the work that is needed for the ecological recuperation of our planet. Vasant explained Homa Therapy and gave guidelines for accelerated spiritual development. The meeting lasted for about three hours. Agnihotra was done at sunset and many of those present already knew the Agnihotra mantras.

Maria Cecilia Mendez and Irma Garcia sang the songs from the Yoga and Meditation for Children program. These songs stress the need to care for our ecology, sharing, self-discipline, good deeds without any attachment to the fruit thereof, and self-study (who am I?). All the participants who repeated the verses of these songs commented that they experienced great joy and happiness inside their hearts.

On the following day Shree Vasant had a meeting with the group from Buenos Aires, directed by Esther di Pierro. In the afternoon representatives from several groups dedicated sessions of devotional singing to Vasant.

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From Vasant's Correspondence

Place all jobs in order of priority. Then day by day list these jobs and plan your schedule accordingly. Otherwise it is, impassible to achieve this efficiency you so desire. The enthusiasm is there. The motivation is there. What is required is taking a more disciplined approach to TIME MANAGEMENT. Rising in early morning is the key. If your day is organized you can reach maximum efficiency level easily. Then a smoother, more efficient operation will be underway. So what steps will you take TODAY?

Whether you are president of a company or janitor who cleans at the end of the day, do it with service.

Be quick to forgive the faults in others. Practice this and eventually you will not even see the faults in others.

Every time you concentrate on love and forgiveness that message is sent and

received. Just be full of love and everything will come very quickly now.

Refrain from giving advice unless it is specifically requested, and then give it as your personal opinion.

Advice to Couples

To "resolve" this conflict between you is to resolve the conflict within you. What better way than to do it together? First there needs to be love and forgiveness of yourselves and each other. Without effort it will not come. With effort it comes automatically by Grace. Never a moment's blame, never a moment's resentment.

The first person to think of is each other, not the last. How you treat each other determines how you treat others: Always think like that. This is the way to learn to SERVE, to LOVE, and to have all compassion. Begin here.