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Agmihotra in the Amazon

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Perform Agnihotra

Heal The Atmosphere

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Hard copy of *Satsang* is also available from Fivefold Path Inc. at the above address. We request a donation of \$8.75 for a one-year subscription to addresses in the U.S. and Canada. Luis Mamud

Fran Bizberg David Fields

Lee Ringma compiled by Bruce Johnson Bruce Johnson

Cover: These people receive the first of one thousand copper pyramids which are being donated to poor farmers in the Peruvian Amazon. After experiencing devastating crop losses due to plant diseases such as Sigatoka Negra and insect infestations, thousands of people in the Peruvian Amazon want to practice Agnihotra. See the article on p. 3.

Report from Amazon Region of Peru Luis Mamud

December, 1996:

During this year Shree Vasant Paranjpe made two trips to the Peruvian Amazon in the region of Ucayali. The first trip in 1996 was on the twenty-fourth of June. We travelled from Lima to Pucalpa, then we made a four-hour trip by jeep to a place called Nueva Onoria, where farmers of approximately 150 families reside. Their main activity is agriculture, primarily growing bananas. By simple eyesight one could observe the high percentage of disease on the banana trees, specifically the Sigatoka Negra. The families there were taught Agnihotra and other healing fires for the elimination of the disease.

The second trip to Pucalpa was on the twentieth of September. After travelling for five hours by jeep to Puerto Inca, we travelled in a boat on the Pachitea River, for two hours until reaching "Puerto Cira," a community of three hundred families. All the area was affected by Sigatoka Negra.

Vasant Paranjpe selected an area of three hectares of bananas which was seriously affected by the disease and looked nearly dead. Furthermore, we could observe that the cowherds they had were sick and their milk could not be consumed. At this place Gloria Guzman stayed for one month as a volunteer to practice the Homa Therapy Farming Methods of treating diseases as given in the Vedas, and to teach the same



to the farmers in the area. The basic technique is Agnihotra, a copper pyramid fire tuned to the biorhythm of sunrise and sunset as per one specific definition given in the Vedic tradition of Yajnya. The timings are calculated by computer.

In only one month the disease on the oranges had almost disappeared. In the banana zone, by plain eyesight, you could observe the growth of new leaves. Also the animals started to get healed. The people of that place were enthusiastic about the events happening. They started organizing in groups of ten families so that each group could perform the fire from their own house to benefit the environment and themselves. When Gloria Guzman returned to the city of Lima, the people there donated money to buy unsalted butter which is required for continuing these healing Homa Fires (Yajnya) to remove plant disease. The farmers in Puerto Cira are very poor. On the first of December Gloria Guzman returned to Puerto Cira, to stay for three months and finish the work.

Dr. Gloria Guzman Mendez, a Peruvian biochemist and pharmacist, is now staying deep in the jungle teaching Agnihotra and Homa Therapy to agricultural workers.

Northern Region of Peru

Homa Farming methods were introduced at an experimental agricultural station called IDAL by Luis Mamud. This station prepares seeds for distribution to the farmers in that area. During three weeks they were trained in Homa Farming methods. They have constructed a cabin where the Agnihotra fire and four hours of Om Tryambakam Yajnya are being done daily. This station is doing the work with much enthusiasm because of the many diseases in the zone, and they want to avoid the use of insecticides, pesticides and herbicides on the crops.

At the National University of Pedro Ruiz Gallo in the city of Lambayueque, the Department of Agriculture has now designated an area of land for the

practice of Homa Farming methods, and a plant pathologist is in charge of this area. Last June, at the National University Vas ant gave a talk on Homa Healing as given in the Vedas, in the science of Agriculture and Medicine.

The Botanical Garden and greenhouse of the

city of Chiclayo are performing Agnihotra and



Ong Solaridad, which is in charge of helping the small farmer in the north and northeastern zone of the country, has facilities to teach Homa Farming methods.

A place has been established in the city of Chiclayo for training in Homa Farming methods, where the Agnihotra fire is being performed regularly. Mrs. Luz Moncayo, Director of the Schiller Pedagogic Institute, is the director of this project.



The first meeting with agricultural workers in the Peruvian Amazon, June 1996.



Message by Vasant

Wysoka, Poland, September 9, 1996:

Sanctuary in the mountains.

We may bring the Himalayas to Wysoka. This is holy ground. Really ancient healing to be done here.

It is no accident.

This place was chosen long ago.

At this place Great spirits as eternals guard the place.

It is holy land. There are many who wait for this place to come. Here the energy is just waiting to be activated.

Once that is done the whole surroundings will vibrate to a different frequency. You will hear it in nature.

At this point let us raise our voices in songs, in chants, in joy. All Mantras done in this charged atmosphere will vibrate to higher intensity.

Powerful healing effects.

Far reaching effects of Fire here. Devas surround places of holy Fire. Subtle beings are drawn to this energy Chakra. Special herbs shall be grown here. AKASH. AKASH. Atmosphere is seeded. It is holy land of TAPAS. Ancient traditions to be observed here. Then one large YAJNYA will be done later on. At this most holy place the love is activated and manifests. We will reach many with this LOVE. Many beings of light surround this place. Let us always give thanks for every small thing given.

Let there be no more sorrow, no more tension. Let us all come together truly in the Light.

Fire Temple Inauguration in **Poland**

Fran Bizberg Wysoka, Poland

On September 9, 1996, a Healing Temple was inaugurated at Wysoka, near Jordanow in south Poland. It is in a forest area in the mountains, ten kilometers from Babia Gora National Park, sixty kilometers from Krakow. It was a real international gathering as people came from Germany, Spain, United States and from all around Poland. A Sri Lankan family living in Denmark arrived later. The inauguration was very moving. People told us afterward that they felt a wave of joy during the ceremony. The energy was high.

The newly-built temple is constructed entirely out of wood. For the inauguration, a square hole was cut into the center of the floor and Vasant did a special Homa in a new copper pyramid. This pyramid was then buried with its ash in the ground directly below the hole in the floor. Then a column of mud was built over the pyramid and up through the floor creating an earthen altar for Agnihotra in the temple. Vasant explained that this was done so that the pyramid in which Agnihotra is performed is in direct contact with the earth. Vasant then did a Rudra Yajnya and chanted other mantras, consecrating the temple. Even though the weather was quite cold and wet, people were energized by the ceremony.

Afterwards, we all gathered in the house where food was served, guitars were played and music filled the atmosphere -Sufi songs, Polish songs, Spanish, German and English songs. It was beautiful.

Now, with the energy so charged, we are making our plans for building a meeting hall and accommodations for guests. We have been told that this place will provide healing energy for all of Europe. It is hard to imagine such a thing, but people who come here who are sensitive to different energies feel it immediately. Already, it has had a powerful effect on friends of ours who happened to come for a visit. They experienced strong cleansing effects from being in this atmosphere. We feel very fortunate to be caretakers of this wonderful place!

If anyone is interested and would like to be involved with building up this healing center, you can write to us at the following address:

> Jarek and Fran Bizberg Fundacja Agnihotra Nad Lasem - Wysoka 151 34-785 Jordanow Poland

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Sattwa Farm & the Sacred Fires

David Fields

Sattwa Farm is a small community of Agnihotra practitioners on ten beautiful acres of land nestled in the foothills of the Oregon Coastal Range Mountains. Life is good and full of creativity around here. We are seven adults and four beautiful kids. There are always plenty of things to keep up with.

Nathan, our four-year-old, is driven into town three times a week where he attends preschool. Angela, our six-year-old, is in first grade this year. Julian and Lawrence, both fourteen, are spiking up into adolescence, with all the usual accompanying social and psychological energies running ablaze up their tender spines.

To support ourselves we began manufacturing and marketing our own brands of gourmet chai in the fall of 1994. Now, two years later, the phones are ringing off the hook a lot of times, and we're in the process of creating a national broker/distribution system for our products. It's a lot of work, and a lot of joy. Business, we are finding, is a beautiful mirror of all the different facets of the mind. The challenge, of course. is to stay calm and centered in the midst of dynamic (sometimes even chaotic) phases of activity. It is also amazing what a team of spiritually committed individuals can accomplish when they

put their whole selves into something together. One key, I think, lies in our commitment to truth. Each one of us has been through enough trials by fire in our lives to appreciate the value of personal and collective integrity. Our commitment to one another is really in support of staying centered and honest. And herein lies at least some of the value of Agnihotra.

We have been doing daily sunrise/sunset Agnihotra now for six years. For the last five years we have practiced Om Tryambakam Homa daily, with twenty-four hour Om Tryambakam fires on the new and full moons. The fires continually amaze us with their healing and consciousness-raising potential. Daily, we offer up to the fires all our worries, cares, and personal concerns. And as we offer to the fire we hold in our hearts the simple prayer of "Let Thy Will Be Done"! This, I believe, is the basis of the success of our community.

The first thing we did when we bought our land and home was remodel a small hut into our temple. Once that was accomplished we remodelled another small dwelling into a beautiful cottage with one full wall of windows facing east toward the Cascade Mountains. Then we planted an orchard of forty delicious fruit trees: apples, pears, plums, cherries, Inside the temple at Sattwa Farm, where Agnihotra is performed.

peaches, nectarines, and Asian pears. With the planting into the earth of each one went mantra and Agnihotra ash. Each year during summer watering flows more mantra and more ash. We are incredibly fortunate, and I feel like we are living off a steady stream of Grace. Finally, after several years, our gardens are really beginning to take off. With compost, Agnihotra ash, and straw, the soil is at last beginning to sing out in great fertile joy. Our beets are deep red and delicious, with plenty of vibrant looking greens above ground. Chard grows prolifically, along with cabbage, broccoli, carrots, beans, potatoes, squash, ninety-pound pumpkins, peas, cucumbers, parsley, and amazing bushes of Holy Basil! In fact, we have so much Holy Basil this year that we are making wonderful massage oils out of some of it. We have flowers coming up everywhere about eight months out of the year.

The truth is, we are blessed! And yet, isn't everyone! Nature is so kind, so abundant, so merciful and forgiving. Only, we must say "Yes!"

Often, people say they want "spiritual community", when what they really seem to want is something more akin to security. They are drawn to the high vibration of our community without a proper understanding of the elements involved in creating it. Yes, it comes



from mantra. Yes, it comes from fire. Yes, it comes from silence. But underlying all these activities lies a deep practical commitment to God. And our God is not an abstract One! God demands just as much of us in the changing of dirty diapers, the preparation of meals, splitting of fire wood, watering of gardens and orchard, and all the other daily chores, as when we are sitting cross-legged before the Holy Fire. The fire feeds us and our environment with subtle nourishment so that we can in turn feed life as well through all the



Agnihotra is literally a Godsend. Whenever I come home after h having been on a business trip for a few days, the first thing I do is slip my shoes off and sit quietly in our temple. Now I am home and I slough off the road like an old skin.

Exterior of the temple.

various activities throughout the day, every day. Our kids are just like the flowers growing along our walkway; they respond to love, affection, discipline, relaxation, consistent routine and yajnya atmosphere.

In closing I would like to say "thank you" from the depth of our hearts from all of us at Sattwa Farm to the folks at Satsang who keep this beacon of light going during these latter days.



Some members of the Sattwa Farm community.

Agnihotra: Ayurvedic Healing Fire, Antidote to a Polluted World

Modern science is impotent in the face of a radioactive Eastern Europe, an everwidening hole in the ozone layer (the protective layer of Mother Earth) allowing in cancer-producing radiation, large areas of soil unable to sustain life due to acid rain, and so on.

However, ancient wisdom (super science) filtering to us down through the ages from sages and saints, internally in touch with universal laws, has provided us with a survival kit: AGNIHOTRA - an Ayuruedic healing fire performed in an inverted copper pyramid exactly at sunrise and sunset.

Human beings, by our very nature, are consumers. We consume air, water, plants, animals and all manner of earth's resources. In ancient civilizations they knew the science of giving back to create balance, harmony and renewal in nature. It was called Fire Sacrifice. This ancient science has been revived in its original purity and is simplified to allow anyone, even a child, to perform it.

Agnihotra energizes and nourishes the environment and neutralizes negative energies such as radioactivity, (can be proven with a Geiger counter) pathogenic bacteria (can be shown under laboratory conditions) and stress (can be palpably experienced). It creates a special Lee Ringma Hunter Valley, Australia

atmosphere by regular performance in your own home, garden or office. The routine performance of Agnihotra will reduce tension on the mind. Ultimately tension disappears and one will begin to experience peace. The mind is reshaped nicely, delicately, effortlessly by sitting in Agnihotra atmosphere. With the mind in harmony, the heart energy of unconditional love becomes more and more apparent.

You see, Agnihotra not only counters environmental pollution; it goes to the core of the pollution problem - the distorted mind creating havoc in nature by thinking selfishly instead of holistically.

Fire sacrifice sounds ominous, doesn't it? It conjures up images of human and animal blood sacrifice. These are perverted overlays on a gentle science designed only to heal, nourish and enliven in love.

Agnihotra is an exact science. The small inverted copper pyramid must be made to the correct proportions, size, etc. The required ingredients for the fire are dried cow dung, ghee from the cow and raw rice. At exactly sunrise and sunset a short Sanskrit Mantra is uttered while one offers ghee and rice to the fire. That is it. How does Agnihotra heal the atmosphere? Here are some of the things revealed about Agnihotra from Vedic tradition:

"Tremendous amounts of energy are gathered around the Agnihotra copper pyramid just at Agnihotra time, sunrise and sunset. A magnetic-type field is created one which neutralizes negative energies and reinforces positive energies. Therefore, a positive pattern is created by one who does Agnihotra merely by his/her performance.

"When Agnihotra is performed, the Agnihotra smoke gathers particles of harmful radiation in the atmosphere and, on a very subtle level, neutralizes their radioactive effect. Nothing is destroyed; it is merely changed. When Agnihotra fire is burned, there is not just energy from the fire but subtle energies are created by the rhythms and mantras. These energies are generated or thrust into the atmosphere by the fire.

"The sun gives or takes the energy which makes conditions in the atmosphere conducive to an anti-pollutionary change. It calms the planet. The pyramid fire is like a generator and turbine. The cow dung, cow's ghee (clarified unsalted butter made from cow's milk) and rice then interact to form a composition which is thrust into the atmosphere. The energy surrounds, neutralizes and nutritionalizes the material. Then, organic substances receive the nutrients to survive. yield and propagate. Once regular performance of Agnihotra has begun, an atmosphere is created in the area where it is performed that is perfect for the balance of nature. The atmosphere then attracts all the subtle energies that are necessary to help nature come into balance with all its inhabitants. So, the right energy is there, the correct micro-organisms and the rest of nature tends to then seek its natural level, so to speak, with optimum performance. This balance creates joy in the area and all nature, including man, is fulfilled."

So here we have our survival kit into the 21st century. The planet is being spiritualized and we are along with it. However, our planet still needs to recover from millenniums of distorted thinking that have created a life-threatening degree of physical and mental pollution. Agnihotra will not only save the planet from destruction; it will also heal the collective mind of man and fill the atmosphere with Love. The Earth is undergoing its Baptism by Fire.

Vedas

At the time of creation Vedas were revealed by Almighty to the Rishis (seers) who only heard them. Hence they are sometimes designated as Shruti (i.e. that which was heard). The revelation was in Almighty's own words (there is no human authorship) and the language used was Sanskrit. Sanskrit was never the mother tongue of any race or group of people, at least on this planet. All Indo-European languages have words which are derived from Sanskrit, but there is not a single word in Sanskrit which comes from any other earthly language. The word Vedas literally means knowledge, coming from the Sanskrit root Vid which means "to know." The English word "wit" comes from the same root. Vedas are the ancientmost word combinations known to man.

The Rishis (seers) later codified this knowledge in four parts for convenience of posterity. They each then selected families to whom they gave this knowledge with instructions to hand it down from one generation to the next by word of mouth. Nothing should be lost. There was a betrayal of that trust and now much more than ninety percent has been lost. However, the time has come when the Rishis will reveal all this knowledge again and we must preserve it exactly. Vedas give man the blueprint for happy life on the planet and are therefore compiled from Vasant's writings by Bruce Johnson

the common inheritance of all mankind and not just the exclusive legacy of any single community or country. (At some comparatively recent point in history the community known as Hindus came to be wrongly identified as sole inheritors of Vedic knowledge). Vedas contain knowledge pertaining to all branches of science including bioenergy, psychotherapy, medicine, agriculture, biogenetics, climate engineering and inter-planetary communication. They shed light on all aspects of human endeavour - social, political, philosophical, etc. As far as matters of the spirit are concerned, Vedas give direct commands and declare what duties and observances are ordained for man. Yajnya (fire sacrifice for purification of the atmosphere which leads to purification of the mind) holds first place among these religious ordinances. The first word of the Rig Veda is Agni (fire), an indication of the importance of fire in man's search for a fulfilling and happy life on the planet.

(Agnihotra is the basic and smallest form of Yajnya and has now been revived after many centuries.)

Agnihotra at the Rainbow Gathering

"When the Earth is sick and the animals have disappeared, there will come a tribe of peoples from all cultures who believe in deeds not words and who will restore the Earth to its former beauty. This tribe will be called Warriors of the Rainbow." - Cree Indian Prophecy

One day in the middle of 1996 a young couple, Paul and Amanda, came to Agnihotra House in Sydney to learn how to perform Agnihotra. We shared Agnihotra with them and in turn they shared with us information about an upcoming gathering which would take place somewhere in Australia in November, 1996. They called it the Rainbow Gathering and explained that people from all over the world would be coming to take part in this event. After hearing this news Anne and I decided that if circumstances permitted we would love to be a part of this wonderful celebration of love and peace.

As November drew closer we discovered that several of our Agnihotri friends were planning to attend this event. As it turned out Anne and I were able to be present for only one day. We chose the full moon day of November to coincide with a continuous Om Tryambakam Fire planned by the other Agnihotris.

We drove through the night stopping at

Bruce Johnson Sydney, Australia

the side of the road just outside Glen Innes to do sunrise Agnihotra. We arrived at the camp site around 9 A.M. and we were welcomed heartily by Kelly and Krsna Das Das. The camp was situated on a very large flood plain, and the sight of around one hundred tipis, some brightly decorated, was awesome. The continuous Om Tryambakam Homa had already begun at sunset the previous evening and many people had signed up in advance to take a shift.

Krsna Das Das informed us that a site had been selected for a sacred healing event which was planned for sunset that evening. It would consist of eight Agnihotra fires in a circle around a large central fire. We decided that once Agnihotra was completed the eight copper pyramids should be buried where each one stood. It had also been decided that from the beginning of dinner that evening until after the Agnihotra Mantras had been chanted the entire Rainbow Family would observe total silence. During the day we were all encouraged to find a stick which would form part of the kindling for the central fire and this stick would symbolically represent any part of our being which we felt needed to be transmuted in the purifying fire. Preparations were made at the selected site for the eight Agnihotra pyramids and everything was in readiness by the time

the conch sounded for dinner. People began gathering for dinner, forming themselves into two huge concentric circles around the sacred fire site. Anticipation was building strongly that something of great importance was about to take place. The impact of this group of more than one thousand people all sitting in complete silence was a very powerful impression which would last long after the event.

At the completion of dinner those who were directly involved in the healing ceremony moved to take up their positions. The group silence which had now lasted for about one hour was surreal.

The eight Agnihotra fires (seven representing the seven colours of the rainbow and the eighth one black to represent the Aboriginal race) and the central fire would be lit in the traditional native manner with ceremonial fire sticks from Arnhem Land in the far north of Australia. Creating fire by this friction technique is also the traditional Vedic method. Once the fire was started the firemen together with eight children dressed in the eight colours took the fire to each Agnihotra pyramid in turn and finally the central pyre was lit. The eight Agnihotris were Krsna Das Das, Kelly, Paul, Amanda, Ronnie, Natalie, Will and

Anne and they sat alternately man/woman in the circle.

Silence still reigned over the entire Rainbow Family. Exactly at sunset the silence was broken by the Agnihotra Mantra. The huge gathering was noticeably affected by the performance.

The central fire was now burning fiercely with flames shooting high into the rapidly fading light of the evening sky. The eight Agnihotris were forced to relinquish their positions around this inferno as its temperature peaked. After several minutes they were able to return to the circle to complete the performance by burying the eight Agnihotra pyramids.

At this point the didgeridoos started up. There might have been about twenty players all sitting in a circle outside the Agnihotra circle. Their combined sound was extremely powerful and was a perfect prelude to the drums. At this stage we also had the entrance the Rainbow Serpent which wove its magic through the large crowd. People were now beginning to sing and dance their own individual celebration of the full moon healing energies. The drumming, which lasted long into the night, was inspired. It was as if the sounds were coming out of the earth itself. All the while, quietly in the background, the continuous Om Tryambakam Healing Fire was being maintained. It was like a framework on which all the other different events hung, like a thread which wove continuously through the whole proceedings. As Anne and I said our good-byes the next morning the Om Tryambakam Fire was still going strong and in fact the small group of Agnihotris completed 72 hours of continuous fire over that full moon period.

It was difficult to leave that wonderful gathering. A tribal family came together to share the love, to share the dreaming. It was the precursor to the new communities of the third millennium which will be based on love, peace and harmony where we will honour the Divine spark in every being and be guided by spirit to use our energies in the perfect way, leading each other and learning from each other. I look forward to being able to participate in another gathering of this spiritual magnitude at some other place and time.

From Vasant's Correspondence

It is easy when faced with material prosperity to be drawn to the material world and all its trappings - the money, luxury, social standing and the like. If one has not had that before one can easily fall prey to yet another desire. Yet, once all desires have been satisfied, the person realizes the emptiness and again may return to the Higher Source for light. However, much time has elapsed and many opportunities lost. Desire is costly. Let the Divine fulfill what desires are to be fulfilled. Practice non-attachment. That does not mean one has to forfeit all one's worldly possessions, but reduce attachment to such items. One can attain financial success in business, for example, all the while maintaining one's spiritual disciplines and lifestyle. It is not a simple matter but if one keeps the crocodiles in check one will avoid much pain and misery in life. Take part in the business if your mind is clear and you can maintain the higher focus throughout. **KEEP GOOD COMPANY WITH** OTHERS who practice the Fivefold Path. It will sustain you.

What is in the soul is only a different form of God's beauty. It is constant. It never changes. Man is secure in non-change. The only constant comes from the soul. From the Divine. Fivefold Path Inc. Rt. 8, Box 369 Madison, Virginia 22727 USA Address Correction Requested

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From Vasant's Correspondence, cont'd.

You must get into the habit of smiling all the time. All the time smiling. It has a good effect on your mind, not to mention the joy you bring to others.

All the time the mind wants to escape the nectar and go into the world of these sense desires. All the time. Many suffer in the world with no idea why they suffer. At least if you choose the life of misery you know you choose it. To have that awareness alone is precious. To make the right choices is even better. So one must learn to take joy in the spiritual life.

If you go more and more into these disciplines, you will live in harmony. One word of kindness does more than twenty words of criticism or insult. One kind word, one kind thought, all the time. Smile. When you look to others, look to them with love. You automatically attract them with this great power. When you give in to sadness, your face changes, your energy lowers and people feel the pain in you, not the love. Even in times of great turmoil you should never show such sadness to others. It weakens you and saddens them. When you have so much love inside you, you must give it. To keep the love you must give the love.

Keep very tight rein on the mind so that the pulls become less. Otherwise the mind goes and the body follows and all is lost. Keep the mind filled with only holy thoughts, Mantra, prayer, devotional singing. Do not be disturbed. This is a great time for healing and becoming strong in this healing love.