

# Satsang

Vol. 2 No. 12

November 7, 1974

Twice Monthly

## SATSANG IN DUTCH

The first issue of SATSANG in Dutch language was published in October for the benefit of the people of Holland. It will be published monthly to spread the message of the Fivefold Path. For further inquiries about the Dutch edition, kindly get in touch with Carola Waterman at the following address:

Meerkoetlaan 7  
Bilthoven  
Nederland

After German, Dutch is the second language in Europe in which SATSANG is published.

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## FORGIVENESS

By Lisa Pappas

When we practice forgiveness in a situation, we stop the wheel of action and reaction. The Karmic account is closed when our interest and 'investment' that is, attachment and ego are withdrawn. Forgiveness ends many conflicts and unpleasant situations in life and frees us to devote our attention and energies to higher things. By obeying this commandment we become fitter instruments for the manifestation of Divine Will and no Karma is incurred. Forgiveness is another step towards our purification and liberation as it is an aspect of Love.

Love is never wasted. Forgiveness is never wasted, no matter how the recipient may appear to respond. When forgiveness is practiced, the force of Love is set into motion. It strikes the individual in a positive manner. This helps to uplift him. Regardless of appearances, a good seed will be planted. We may not be subtle enough to perceive the result. We may not be on the scene to witness the effect. This does not matter. All we need to be concerned about is doing our part, for our own purification. The Law of Karma, the Law of Cause and Effect will be fulfilled.

Forgiveness is a unifying force. It brings individuals in harmony in spite of all the quirks and idiosyncracies attendant to human nature. By seeing our fellow man as our very Self and giving him the same understanding as we would for ourselves, we expand to realize the One in all. Forgiveness resolves many conflicts within the individual and is necessary for one's own peace of mind. If we can not forgive others for the various offenses, how can we ask to be forgiven for our errors, whether we have committed them in thought, word or deed?

Resentment and grudges breed anger and fear. We need to rid the mind of these things so that Love may prevail. We need to clean our own house and rid ourselves of the

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habit of sitting on judgement over others. Bad or good, we are all His children, endowed with that spark of the Divine. May we learn to love all our brothers and sisters the world over as He does.

FIRE TEMPLE IN BALTIMORE

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Het STAATSBEDRIJF DER PTT vergoedt geen schade, veroorzaakt door het verminken, vertragen of verloren gaan van een telegram

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VASANT V. PARANJPE MEERKOETLAAN 7 BITLHOVEN

RECEIVED YOUR TELEGRAM FIRE TEMPLE INAUGURATED AT POWHATAN STREET

BALTIMORE 1730 OCLOCK OCTOBER 15TH 1974

FRED CLIFTON COL 1730 15 1974

Ambtelijke herhaling				
Aanduiding van de verbinding	(Naammeldingen)	Ontvangen te	(datum)	(tijd)
	FIRE TEMPLE IN BALTIMORE	BILTHOVEN	16/10	15.2

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WHAT IS A FIRE TEMPLE?

In the Fire Temple, there is no priest and no deity is worshipped. A copper Agnihotra pot forms the altar. This symbolizes the ancient process in the science of bioenergy to purify the atmosphere through the agency of fire. Change in the atmosphere leads to change in PRANA, the life energy that pulsates through all creation. PRANA and the mind are like two sides of the same coin and hence the purificatory effect is transposed to the realm of the mind. This removes the tension and anxiety and makes the person happy. This process of purification is based on three disciplines:

1. Burning of specific organic substances into fire.
2. Vibrations which have been practiced for thousands of years.
3. The above is to be done under specified conditions of cosmic objects. There are various cycles of nature which affect all bio-organisms. They are not fully known to modern science. Electromagnetic waves is the subtlest form of energy known to present day science. However, according to the Vedic science of bioenergy, there are many subtler forms of energy which affect human mind.

Fire temple is symbolic of this process. In the temple, silence is observed all the time. Agnihotra, the smallest process of purification of the atmosphere will be practiced daily and vibrations of LOVE shall be built. Any person who wishes to meditate may come and sit in silence as long as he likes. Nobody will ask him any questions or ask his opinions. If a person is angry, feels alienated, let him come to the Fire Temple and be filled with the vibrations of Love that pervade.



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The community needs many more places where people can go and sit in silence; where there is no material interest to be gained from the visitor.

The Fivefold Path or Total Kriya Yoga which begins with Agnihotra will be taught to all who seek in earnest. This unfoldment of Kriya Yoga was made in the West for the first time in 1972 when Vasant landed in America under the direct Divine Command of the AVATAR for the present dispensation.

- \*Whatever may be your formal religion you will find that Kriya Yoga will make you a better member of that religion, as it is based on the Vedas.
- \*Whosoever may be your Guru you will become a better disciple if you practice Kriya Yoga.
- \*Whatever spiritual persuasion you may have you will find it easier to practice your disciplines by learning Kriya Yoga.
- \*If you are an atheist or an agnostic it does not matter. You believe only what you experience. If there is some such thing as Almighty Power it will unfold itself to you if you practice Kriya Yoga.
- \*If you are in search of a GURU one day you will find one when you practice Kriya Yoga.

Kriya Yoga begins with AGNIHOTRA. Simplified AGNIHOTRA was given for the first time in known history only recently. Cast out all dogma, all superstition and be brave enough to embrace the light of science. Without purification of the atmosphere we are not going to survive. Purification of the atmosphere leads to nutrition of plant life. The water resources are cleansed as there is better absorption of sunlight. Purified atmosphere leads to removal of tension from the mind. This leads to happiness.

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FIRE TEMPLE IN VIRGINIA

Telegramm		Deutsche Bundespost		Verpackungsart	
Datum	Uhrzeit	TSI	Lehrmark	Datum	Uhrzeit
28	210				
Empfänger		Empfänger von		Geebende	
Name		Name		Name	
17					
Falls Church Va 28/25 Warm 27. 130 p					
Vasant Paranjpe care Mr. Hinze Vogelsburg W. 12a.					
4766 Gröndlin 2					
Fire Temple inaugurated at falls church virginia today October 27 12 noon					
Cary And Royal Sanders					

Cary and Royal took active part in spreading the Fivefold Path message under Elwood's guidance. The setting up of the Fire Temple is a further landmark in Virginia. Our congratulations to the couple.

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LET US MEDITATE IN THE FIRE TEMPLE

Fred

Often we become so pre-occupied with our small struggles, ambitions and frustrations that we lose sight of the greater purpose of life. A cork on a stormy sea, we are sea sick with despair and misery. Amidst great material wealth modern man has become a near total slave.

In this miserable condition he mistakes the false for the true, the unreal for the real, the phony for the genuine, and the fleeting for the everlasting.

A conspiracy of the mind and passions brought about by past tendencies and current cravings have led to an almost complete domination of the inner self. The master becomes slave to the servant.

So complete is the domination we act like trained animals in a cage. We walk a treadmill for the occasional reward of a mere bit of food, and, in our bewilderment, imagine that the incessant walking round and round is progress. The magician has worked his trick on us and we sit spellbound by the illusions he creates.

All the remedies have been tried - alcohol, narcotics, drugs, action, travel, sex, fad yogas, therapy, marriage, divorce, changing jobs, retirement, etc. Name it, and someone has tried it. Some have personally tried all the remedies. But nothing works. Each effort to reduce the pain leads us to explore a new pleasure. When that happens we run headlong into this inescapable formula: An ounce of pleasure leads to a pound of pain. A few such dramatic experiences, and we draw the conclusion that we must reconcile ourselves to a life of misery and hopelessness. And despair becomes a rule of life and darkness is everywhere.

You may say, "It looks that way to some persons but not to all". You may believe that things are not so bad as they are painted. Not so. Millions quietly testify to the truth of it. Millions exist in unrelieved misery.

The most casual look at our institutions will convince us that the very things that gave mankind so much hope in the past are now the sources of our peril. The institutions have failed. The vision of unlimited progress and prosperity inspired by the success of science beginning a century or so ago has faded and is replaced by the image of mushroom cloud and fireball. Technology, the very first born of that science has produced as by-product a situation of grave peril for all mankind.

Atmosphere is severely polluted. The combined effect of air pollution, thermal pollution, radio-active fallout, noise pollution, ozone depletion, the deterioration of earth's water resources and the like create a condition in which mankind stands on the very brink of disaster. The atmosphere has been badly damaged, and the effects upon us are devastating.

In this condition, the mind under the seductive influence of the senses has become a ruthless and absolute tyrant, and the inner self is reduced to an occasional whisper in the bottom of the heart.

Everywhere we see the great institutions bend and break. We see governments staggering like drunken men from crisis to crisis. Among industrial giants there is neither the know-how nor the will to correct errors so grievously committed. Like the dinosaur of old, we totter here on the smoldering brink of extinction.

Into this darkness the Great Light has come. By Divine Will the Eternal Wisdom is re-established. The fresh breeze of Agnihotra and the Fivefold Path is bringing relief to all who will receive it.

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The inauguration of the Fire Temple on Powhatan Street, Baltimore is a small part of the Plan to re-establish the principles of the Wisdom that must be followed if mankind is to survive and be happy. The Plan extends to all of mankind on this planet and beyond. Its full magnitude defies easy comprehension, but inspires a faith which becomes higher knowledge and bliss. This Temple is established as a solace and inspiration to be used by all who would follow the call of the heart and pursue the true purpose of this life.

The Fire Temple is located on the second floor of a modest house at 3315 Powhatan Street in Baltimore, Maryland. The house will serve as a Center for the spreading of the message of the Fivefold Path. 3315 is an older frame house. In recent years it was covered with white asbestos shingling. It has an 'L' shaped porch that extends across the entire width of the front and half the way down the length on the east side. It is a three story structure with a full cellar and there are two smaller finished rooms on the third floor - perfect for quarters for someone who will be living there. Also, there is an additional smaller space on the third floor which may be converted into a small, secluded meditation room. Originally, there were four rooms on the second floor. The partition (wall) has been removed between the two smaller of the four rooms. That (combined) area is where the Fire Temple is established. Now it measures roughly 11' X 24'. The walls of the Temple are paneled. The windows and doors have been freshly painted, new draperies are hung. The floor has been cleaned, shellacked, and carpet has been laid on part of it. The remainder of the floor will be left uncarpeted and cushions are provided for use on this portion.

There is a bathroom on the second floor and two other larger rooms. One of these larger rooms is set aside as a guest room. The other one is being used temporarily, but will be set aside for a while as soon as the first floor is finished.

The area of the first floor is divided into two parts, a kitchen and two other larger spaces that are relatively open. The smaller of these two areas (which previously served as a dining room) will be used as a large group instruction area. There is another bathroom in this area. The adjoining area (which was previously used as a living room) will be used as a sitting area, library, and instruction area. There is also an ample vestibule.

The lot is approximately 70' X 150'. There are many trees on it, including a fig tree at the back of the house, and many flowering plants. A rock garden will be created in a grove in the backyard.

The location is a marvel. It is located on a corner lot, and is shielded on the rear and on the east side by trees. In the rear a grove of young maples provide almost a solid buffer. On the east and in front just at the edge of the porch, evergreens create an atmosphere of privacy. The house is placed well back on the lot - 40' - 50' away from the sidewalk. The lot is also raised 8' - 10' from street level. A crescent shape walk leads from the steps at the northwest corner to the front steps of the house. Evergreens at the corner near the steps leading from the sidewalk form an arched canopy over the steps, making an inviting entrance.

There is serenity at Powhatan Street. It is surprising to many, but although major thoroughfares of the city are just a few blocks away, the house is surrounded by a prevailing sense of peace and tranquility and vibrations of love emanate from it. What a privilege to be part of it!

AGNIHOTRA will be performed at the Fire Temple daily. All are welcome to come at sunrise and sunset to be present when AGNIHOTRA is performed and to meditate. AGNIHOTRA will reduce the stress and anxiety of the mind, usher in a state of tranquility and prepare the mind for intellectual illumination. Thus begins the process of "putting our house in order".

The Fire Temple is open 24 hours a day. Anyone may go there at anytime of the day or night. The only requirement is that a few simple rules be observed. The rules are written on a plaque attached to the Temple door, and can be read in a few seconds.

Instructions are given about AGNIHOTRA and the FIVEFOLD PATH at the Powhatan Street Center. Anyone interested in classes may inquire at 3315 Powhatan Street or call Fred Clifton at (301) 367-6221).

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#### NEWSPAPER REPORTS

##### The Roanoke Times, Virginia

The Times staff reporter writes from Madison:

"Five minutes before sundown there was an air of quiet emergency as the members of a Yoga community scurried to the Fire Temple.

The sun was already below the trees and the sky ashen when they slipped their shoes off at the door and crept reverently into the bare room to sit crosslegged before a roped off altar. The Temple keeper started a fire in a small hibachi.

When rice, cows' ghee (clarified butter) and cowdung (dried) were added to the fire, smoke billowed. Breathing deeply, the keeper chanted in a foreign tongue (Sanskrit). The meditators closed their eyes and waited for their minds to be purified.

...The service is supposed to have an antipollutionary effect on the mind according to the Fivefold Path.

The members were drawn together by an Indian, Vasant V. Paranjpe 'who had been sent by the Master to spread the principles of how to be happy', said Sally Kocak who shares the temple caretaking responsibilities with her husband.

The Master she refers to is the 'Son of Man, Parama Sadguru Shri Gajanan Maharaj of Akkalkot, India'. She says his name is not important, 'only that we follow his teachings'.

Vasant had a presence about him that attracted followers. Sally said, 'You can read and read and read about spirituality but when you meet that awareness and purity embodied in a man, it makes you want to be perfect yourself'. Many of the people who joined his flock had no prior knowledge of the Kriya Yoga philosophy which provides material and mental aids to undo the tensions of the mind.

Fivefold Path was formed by certain people with whom Vasant was close... 'He is like a candle that was used to light more candles. He taught us and we will teach others in the same way', explained the stately brunette (Sally). She and her husband met through Vasant.

The members of the Madison community consider themselves merely the tip of an iceberg which consists of several hundred followers in the Washington, D. C. and Baltimore area. The group is held together by a biweekly newsletter written by Vasant who is now travelling in Europe spreading the message of the Fivefold Path and establishing new Fire Temples.

The Fire Temple outside of Madison, approximately 25 miles north of Charlottesville was the first to be established in the U. S. A young couple in the original group



of 25 attracted to Vasant in Washington donated a "tumble-down" farmhouse to the movement as a potential retreat.

Some members migrated to the Madison back country to live in tents and vans while fixing up the farmhouse as a Fire Temple and gradually others began to move into the area buying land within a mile or two of the house.

The Kocaks moved into a rough chalet next door as caretakers of the temple and its lands which border on a pristine lake. Another couple, the Dunwodys erected a huge army tent as quarters for the winter; they will start building a real house in the Spring. Others are either renting or buying nearby.

One couple (Pat and Beverly) is living on the 61 acres the group purchased for a retreat; they plan to build dormitories, meditation halls and prayer halls where people can come on a long or short term basis to learn the principles of Kriya Yoga.

The members named themselves after the Five Paths to happiness listed in the Vedas, ancient body of wisdom which is considered 'the first revelation'. According to Vasant's writings, 'the seers faithfully transmitted what they heard in Almighty's own words. The language used was Sanskrit, a code which was never the mother tongue of any group of inhabitants on the globe.

The following five principles are considered a common inheritance of all humanity; Krishna, Buddha, Zoroaster, Confucius, Moses, Jesus, Mohammed and other prophets spoke the same message, says Vasant.

AGNIHOTRA, a method of atmospheric purification of fire which leads to the cleansing of the mind and tranquility.

DAAN. Sharing your assets in a spirit of humility 'to generate nonattachment'.

TAPA. Self-discipline, austerity to encourage 'purified thought patterns'.

KARMA. Meritorious deeds for self-purification.

SWADHYAYA. Self-study for liberation or realization of the true nature of Self.

Their philosophy maintains that 'everytime things get bad on earth', an AVATAR or Divine Messenger incarnates to lead people back to the real path to happiness. Now, they say, is one of those times and 'there is an AVATAR living on this planet now.

All the families at the Fivefold Path live separately but 'we try to arrange our lives around Agnihotra'. For instance, instead of attending the 7 p.m. showing of a movie, they wait for the 9 p.m. showing, so they can be at the Fire Temple when the sun goes down.

Sally figures that the only way society ever really changes is through the individual'. The group considers it their 'duty' to arrange to send someone anywhere a group indicates it wants instruction in Kriya Yoga. They are also starting classes at the University of Virginia's Free University today. 'By helping others experience what we have experienced, we are doing a meritorious deed; it is an opportunity for our purification when we tell someone else how to be happy'.

According to Vasant's teachings, 'if you keep your happiness dependent on some future event, it clearly means you refuse to become happy in the present', and he says, 'our happiness depends on the reactions of the mind to the various situations and conditions in life'."

Baltimore Fire Temple  
October 15, 1974

May this fire's light  
burn bright  
in the body of nations,  
may this ash wash  
the world,  
whoever is cold may be  
warmed here,  
whoever is broken may be  
made whole.

Lucille

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Practice AGNIHOTRA for purification of the atmosphere.  
Practice DAAN (Sharing of assets in a spirit of humility) for generating non-attachment.  
Perform TAPA (Self-discipline, austerities, purification) for fruition of thy affirmations.  
Perform KARMA (Meritorious deeds) for self-purification.  
Perform SWADHYAYA (Self-study) for liberation.

This is the Fivefold Path. Start the spiritual discipline today. The span of life will not be extended. What is given unto you is to utilize wisely every moment of your existence. Let us engage ourselves in meritorious deeds without expectation of reward in the form of name or fame. We live only in the present moment. The past is no more. The future is yet to be. Do not waste the precious moments in trivia.

A link will be given to you by the Divine Will when you start practicing the above. You will be a more righteous Christian, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, whatever be your formal religious label.

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Editor: Vasant V. Paranjpe  
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All SATSANG correspondence should be directed to SATSANG Editor  
Agnihotra Press  
P. O. Box 13  
Randallstown, Maryland 21133

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