

Satsang

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PURIFICATION OF BIOSPHERE - A NEW LINK AT RANDALLSTOWN, MARYLAND - Vasant

A Fire Temple was inaugurated at the residence of John and Denise Brown at Randallstown, Maryland on May 17, 1974. What is a Fire Temple? What is worshipped?

A copper pot of prescribed shape forms the altar. Neither the copper nor the fire is worshipped. No deity is worshipped in the Fire Temple. There is no priest in the temple. Why call it a temple? You may call it by any other name if you can find one.

You need not carry the hypothesis of the existence of God to enter the temple and benefit from it. You do not have to carry any religious label around your neck to enter an aerospace research laboratory or a sauna bath. Similar is the case when you enter the Fire Temple.

Vedas is the ancient most treasure house of knowledge known to man. There is Vedic astronomy, Vedic mathematics, Vedic medicine, and so on. The Fire Temple is based on the ancient processes in the field of bioenergy as described in the Vedas. Some of these methods were used in the ancient system of Vedic medicine. Latest discoveries in physics, psychology, and medicine point out the extreme urgency to resuscitate these ancient processes.

May 17th is the birthday of Parama Sadguru (literally meaning Highest among the Perfect Masters) Shri Gajanan Maharaj. At his command the ancient Vedic processes are revived. He asks us to apply the methods of inquiry of a true scientist and find out things for ourselves. He further states that on the day you are born in human frame you already possess the wherewithal to make the search. All that you are required to do is to cast out superstition and dogma and exert your free will in the right direction of "Love Thy Neighbor". The truth will dawn on you when the intellect is purified. The setting up of a chain of Fire Temples is a step in the right direction.

"Invisible rhythms underly most of what we assume to be constant in ourselves... we can neither see nor feel them. We are surrounded by forces of gravity, electromagnetic field, light waves, sound waves, atmospheric pressure. Undulatory cycles are the most usual yet overlooked property of earth life."

You could not blame someone if he says that the above quotation appears to be from the Vedas or Upanishads. However, the above quotation is from a publication of the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Public Health Service Bulletin 1970.

Parama Sadguru has revealed for the benefit of mankind a concise process based on one of the undulatory cycles of nature mentioned in the HEW Bulletin quoted above. It is termed Agnihotra. It forms part of Kriya Yoga of ancient wisdom.

Modern psychology speaks of Circadian and Infradian rhythms that influence bodily activities due to variations in light, electromagnetic forces, atmospheric pressure. The ancient science of Vedic medicine is based on such cycles. Kriya Yoga recognizes these cycles and makes use of them to bring about a state of happiness. Agnihotra is a process to undo the tension on the mind and is based on one such natural cycle of sunrise and sunset.

For the first time during the many milleniums that lie behind us, Agnihotra, a simple process in Kriya Yoga, has been revealed to us through Parama Sadguru. It is concise and could be practiced by anyone, in any walk of life, without the intermediary of a priest or prophet. It unburdens the mind and reduces the grip of tantillizing desires that torment us. Following is the modus operandi.

Purify the atmosphere through the agency of fire by observing three stipulated disciplines.

This leads to purification of PRANA (Life Energy).

This unburdens the mind.

The Fire Temple is symbolic of this process. In the Fire Temple Agnihotra will be performed daily at sunrise and sunset. Silence will be observed all the time. People will meditate in the temple. Anyone may walk in and benefit from the flux of holy vibrations that permeate the temple. Your alienation will disappear if you approach the place in a spirit of reverence.

The atmospheric purification is the patent need of the day. There will be less of disease and less of tension if we practice Agnihotra. It will change the reactions of the mind to the outside world and bring about contentment in life.

Agnihotra fire is made from specific varieties of wood and dry cow dung. All these trees are noted for the purificatory effect after burning accompanied by specific discipline. Some of these are known to possess medicinal values. Clarified butter (ghee) and cow dung are two important materials in Agnihotra. Agnihotra is sometimes described as a process of fumigation.

Fresh cow dung possesses the property to disinfect bacteria which causes fever. Many harmful germs are killed by it's mere smell. In many countries of Asia and parts of Europe like Italy, cow dung used to be an important item in sanatoriums to disinfect the area. Only a couple of decades ago, it was the practice in Europe to give a drink of cow dung and water to patients suffering from chronic dysentery. Ancient treatises on medicine state that many bodily disorders could be set right by cow dung.

The fire should be prepared with branches of specific medicinal trees and cow dung. Offerings to fire should be made when it is fully ablaze. Raw rice

and ghee are prescribed as offerings to fire in the smallest form of Yajna which any householder can practice with great benefit. This is AGNIHOTRA. The oil obtained from rice embryo becomes thick and buttery. It contains much olein and albuminous substance.

The resultant chemical reaction depends on various factors, some of which are stated below:

1. Nature of the substance.
2. Proportion of the substances offered to fire.
3. Temperature range during various stages of combustion at various points in the fire pot.
4. Quantity of air supply.
5. Interaction among the products.
6. The influence of various agencies (especially light) through which diffusion takes place.

Vapors so formed arrest putrefaction. They also help by sterilizing household dust. This process acts as a powerful disinfectant. The non-bacterial parasites are also affected. Carbon dioxide produced in Agnihotra acts as a mechanical vehicle to carry antiseptic and vermifuge products to surrounding areas.

Vibrations are the second input in Agnihotra process and cosmic radiation the third. Vibrations affect changes in the matter of bio-organisms. Music played to cows tends to increase the milk yield. Vibrations have an effect on the atmosphere. The qualitative change in the mental realm will be borne out by scientists in the near future.

Sunrise and sunset are the timings prescribed for Agnihotra. At sunset, the intensity curve of pathogenic bacteria is steep, and the fumigation is an aid to undo the harm. There is also the effect of intensity variations in radiation from the cosmic objects. Full moon day and no moon day are some of the important occasions when the situation changes.

Changes in the atmospheric content through the agency of fire causes changes in the PRANIC content which brings an automatic proportional change in the mental attitudes of man. This is the modus operandi of Yajnya. What cannot be achieved by years of effort is achieved within a few weeks by Agnihotra. The tension on the mind is reduced; some factors that go to depress the nervous system are eliminated. Our lust and greed are curbed. Thus, Agnihotra is an important material aid for the spiritual aspirant. This is especially so in the polluted conditions of our existence.

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 precious moments on trivia.

SAPTASHLOKI
(Seven Verses)

Verse 3

Aspashtam, cha kada spashtam
Tatwa jnyana wiwechanam
Anyatra labhyate kintu
Pramanam paramam shrutih

Purport: THAT (Almighty Power) is described, sometimes clearly, sometimes not so clearly, at various places. However, Vedas is the standard reference.

COMMENTARY ON VERSE 3 (continued) by Vasant

We are living in the age of experimental science. It means free thinking, raising doubts, picking up fresh hypothesis and experimenting with truth. When religious orthodoxy attempts to take shelter under the name of tradition, prophet, or so called ancient wisdom, it causes suspicion in the mind of the seeker after truth. Truth has no reason to fear from anyone. Truth can withstand the most searching criticism. In fact, people benefit by such bold inquiry. Anything that fails to establish itself by scientific methods may not be worth the trouble. This is more true now than heretofore because the scientist has recognized the limitations of human reason. He is prepared to experiment with hypothesis in the depths of consciousness. The new spirit of scientific inquiry has invaded all branches of knowledge. People feel it is safer to trust an Einstein than a priest. He knows at least what he is talking about.

Science today speaks the language of the Vedas. The word Vedas literally means knowledge and comes from the Sanskrit root VID, to know. At no time in known history has science spoken the language of the Vedas. We are thus on the threshold of a new era which bids well for humankind.

Vedas state that the universe we see with varied names and forms is but the manifestation of one single Cosmic Intelligence. This is sometimes described as SAT, CHIT, ANANDA (existence, knowledge, and bliss absolute). This is One without a second. It is the Supreme Reality. The One Principle immanates all creation and transcends it. Vedas state that we perceive the universe as different from the universal Self due to AVIDYA (ignorance). Vedas state that Reality is One and it is beyond time, space, and causation. From the absolute standpoint, all that exists is ATMAN (or Brahman as the Upanishads put it), although we differentiate one thing from another due to name and form.

"Truth is one, Sages call it by various names".

(Rg. Veda 1. 164-46)

Modern science has reached almost the same conclusion by it's own methods.

When the Western science attributes unity, conservation, and continuity to matter, energy, and motion in a universe of obvious plurality and discontinuity, what it is in fact doing is to show that none of it's conceptions have any meaning

except on the assumption of the unity and unmoving continuity of consciousness in the sense of Vedantic CHIT." (Sir John Woodroffe in Universes Power, Reality)

"The frank realization that physical science is concerned with a world of shadows is one of the most significant advances. In the world of physics we watch a shadow graph performance of the drama of familiar life. The shadow of my elbow rests on the shadow table as the shadow ink flows over the shadow paper. It is all symbolic and as a symbol, the physicist leaves it... Then alchemist Mind transmutes the symbols. In the transmuted world, new significances arise which are scarcely to be traced in the world of symbols so that it becomes a world of beauty and purpose and alas suffering and evil..." To put the conclusion crudely, the stuff of the world is mind stuff. The realistic matter and fields of force of former physical theory are altogether irrelevant except insofar as the mind stuff has itself spun these imaginings." (Dr. A. Eddington in The Nature of the Physical World)

"Today there is a wide measure of agreement which on the physical side of science approaches almost to a unanimity that the stream of knowledge is heading towards a non-material reality; the universe begins to look more like a great thought than like a great machine. The old dualism of mind and matter which was mainly responsible for the supposed hostility seems likely to disappear, not through matter becoming in any way more shadowy or unsubstantial than heretofore, or through mind becoming resolved into a function of the working matter, but through substantial matter resolving itself into a creation and manifestation of mind". (Sir James Jeans in The Mysterious Universe)

Since the Renaissance, science has shifted it's ground from the mechanical concept of the universe to the Vedantic concept. The age of Galileo heralded a new breakthrough in notions held by science. He stated that the universe around us was built of atoms that possessed size, shape, weight, and motion. These atoms, acted upon by forces, produce the material world.

Then came Dalton who stated that the combination of two or more elements is the base of the substances of the physical world. He held that heat produced changes in the states of matter and it's motion.

At the close of the 19th century it was observed that the atom was a complex system and thus electrons were held to be the basis of the material world. This conclusion dematerialized matter into all energy.

The Wave Theory and The Quantum Theory held the sway. Science thus moved more towards idealism. The description of matter was no longer a "physical reality" but only a mathematical relation.

Then came Einstein with his Restricted Principle of Relativity in 1905 and the Generalized Principle of Relativity, a little later. It was conclusively proved by Einstein that "science does not tell us anything about the substance of the elements out of which we have built up the perceptual world. It tells us merely the mathematical specification of these elements." Thus according to modern science, the whole of material universe is reduced to a "big thought".

"The present day science is favorable to idealism. In brief, idealism has always maintained that at the beginning of the road by which we explore nature is mental, the chances are that the end also will be mental. To this present day, science adds that at the farthest point she has so far reached, much and possibly all that was not mental has disappeared and nothing now has come in that is not mental." (Sir James Jeans in The New Background of Science)

"There is thus a progressive release of consciousness from gross matter through plant and animals to men."

"My own conviction is that an examination of Vedantic doctrines shows that it is in most important aspects in conformity with the most advanced scientific and philosophic thought of the West and that where this is not so, it is science which will go to Vedanta and not the reverse." (Sir J. C. Bose)

Thus, we see how modern science has confirmed the great truths expounded by the Vedas. Vedas state that One energy pulsates through all creation from stone to man. All are manifestations of that One Entity. The material scientist has come to the same conclusion after centuries of research. The spread of science has reduced the dichotomy between science and philosophy.

The scientist has become extremely humble today. He has thrown away all dogma that enchained him to tradition. Will the religionist show the same courage and humility and cast off the shackles that bind him to creed and dogma? If he does, it will be a great blessing to humanity. If he does not, he will be the one to be wiped out of existence. Nothing in the world is more sacred than knowledge.

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SATSANG NEWS

Agnihotra Press has been shifted to Randallstown, Maryland. Richard Powers did a good job on the building to make it suitable for a print shop. Stuart Masill and Jimmy Hackley worked hard to get the print shop ready to receive orders from the public. Barry Battista was the coordinator.

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J. Braaksona writes from Middelburg, Holland:

Dear People,

"With some other people in Holland, we do Agnihotra for some weeks already. We are lucky to have Satsangs, but we like to know more about your ideas and the information given in Satsang by Vasant. Please send all Satsangs, if possible, all that are already written till now...."

We really appreciate what you are doing and like to hear very soon and very often of you..."

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Vasant, accompanied by John Brown left New York on May 26th for Holland to spread the message of The Fivefold Path in Europe. John Brown will be with Vasant for 20 days during his stay in Holland.

"Stop Looking For Happiness"

by Patrick Mullen

Papers, books, and volumes of all thicknesses have been written about one theme - What is the purpose of life? Scanning the different references, we find a variety of answers to this seemingly perplexing question. Unfortunately, however, after reading, assimilating, and digesting several hundred pounds of material, most of the answers fail to satisfy us. This seems rather odd because, after all, it's a simple, clear, concise question. Why then shouldn't there be a simple, clear concise answer? There is. Question: What is the purpose of life? Answer: The purpose of life is to be happy.

What else? If you walk up to a number of different people on the street and ask the question, "What do you want more than anything else in the world?", the answers will vary, but underlying each and every response is the desire for happiness. The various answers you receive to this question may be selfish or selfless, egotistical or humble, of the highest intentions or of the most sinister intentions, and so on through the cross section of the population. Although the answers vary, the actual motive behind the response is always the same: "I want to be happy".

This leads to the next question. What is happiness? You may think happiness is a warm puppy. That's a good answer until the puppy is run over by a car or until he messes your rug in response to nature's call. Then maybe it's not such a good answer.

You think happiness is having a million dollars, tax-free of course. That sounds good. But then you have to take time thinking of ways to spend it without getting yourself involved in all sorts of nonsense. Or maybe a thief will come in the dark of night and rob you.

Perhaps happiness is three cold beers after a long hard day. Well, let's face it, the mild euphoric state induced by alcohol or drugs is not a lasting thing. If we try to make it last, a hangover and eventually cirrhosis of the liver (not to mention various other physical ailments) are the result, causing not happiness, but unhappiness.

Perhaps happiness is sex. Okay, but somewhere along the line, after we have seen all the pornographic movies, read all the vivid books, and embedded in our minds all the ramifications of sex, we have to stop and consider; is this continual happiness?

Happiness is being in the company of a dear friend. Clearly, if our friend goes on a trip, dies, etc., the rug of pseudo-happiness is pulled out from under us.

If we can't find happiness in any of the above, where can we find it? Nowhere outside. Stop looking for happiness and you will find it. Happiness is a condition of the mind, not of the body. We must learn to love without attachment. This means continuing to do your duty to the person you love without expecting him to behave

towards you in the way you want. Love does not need any outside support; attachment does. Detachment frees you from the bondage of desires and you feel free and you are undisturbed. There is no place for resentment in your life, come what may. The Fivefold Path of Eternal Religion, given through the Vedas, offers material and mental aids to achieve lasting happiness. Satya Dharma is the only way. Follow the Fivefold Path every day.

"Dear Sadguru"

by Lisa Pappas

I think I want this
I think I want that
But what I really want is You.
Your love is the fulfillment of all desires.
When things make me happy
When I feel joy inside,
It is because You are there.

I want to be just like You - all Light and Love,
and through Your Grace
When all the dark errors of selfishness are gone,
There will be nothing left of me
But You.

Your love is perfect,
And can forgive anything.
You are the One who knows everything.
You have seen the silent tears of all.

Dear Sadguru,
I forget,
And linger in the darkness of ignorance.
But teach me always
Show me my faults
And may I embrace all reprimands
For they banish the darkness, that I may reflect Thy Light.

Dear Sadguru,
I look forward to the day
When my mind will be pure
And I will know
That the Self of me and the Self of You
Are One.

Editor: Vasant V. Paranjpe

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