

Satsang

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Fire Temple...Place of Fire

Many have written to SATSANG about the setting up of Fire Temples. What is a Fire Temple?

"I baptize thee with water; He who cometh after me is above me. I am not fit enough to bear His shoes. He shall baptize thee with the Holy Ghost AND FIRE."

Fire is the agency for the purification of the atmosphere. Purification of the atmosphere leads to unburdening the mind. This helps us follow the precepts of the Prophets, Avatars and Paigambers. When the mind is free, it is joy. One becomes full of joy. He is automatically established in the state of "Love thy neighbour as thyself".

Then one starts doing always the right Karma. Then comes the stage of doing the right Karma without the attachment to the fruit thereof.

"Offer fruits of action to the Lord
Make work a way you pray
You are the reaper of the deed
You are the planter of the seed
Thus you practice everyday
And Karma is the way."

Fire purification is an ancient technique in the science of bioenergy. These things were known to all races in the ancient days. Even today we find the remnants of this knowledge in all continents. In some places, the ancient techniques were preserved in all their pristine glory while in many other places the perverted and interpollated things continued. However, in all true Yoga tradition, the importance of fire to remove the tension on the mind is well recognized.

The latest in medicine states that if your mind is tense and the effect is transposed to the stomach, it becomes stomach ulcer. Fire as an agent to purify the atmosphere is held in high esteem in ancient systems of medicine. There are processes mentioned in ancient tradition whereby the likelihood of epidemics as a concomittant to change in season could be averted.

We are paying a very heavy price in terms of polluted atmosphere. Ecologists should be persuaded to take note of this ancient wisdom and verify the truth to the extent it is possible for the experimental sciences to do.

CANCER, LEUKEMIA, RESPIRATORY AILMENTS AND MISCARRIAGES produce a steep graph every year according to the statistician. Migraine headache is galloping. Species after species of birds and fish are disappearing. Medicinal herbs are losing their potency. All this because the atmosphere is polluted.

Setting up of Fire Temples is the need of the day. There is no priest in the Fire Temple and no deity is worshipped. You may call it The Place of Fire.

We reproduce below an article written at the time of setting up the Fire Temple at Randallstown, Maryland. This is one place in the series of Fire Temples that have come up in the United States and Europe.

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 pot 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 ancientmost 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 day on which Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount. 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 fields, 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, simple Agnihotra, a 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

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priest or prophet. It unburdens the mind and reduces the grip of tantalizing 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 dry 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 its 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 this smallest form of Yajnya 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 discouraged. 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 also some of the important occasions when the situation changes.

Changes in the atmospheric content through the agency of fire cause changes in the PRANIC content which brings an automatic 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. The Fivefold Path is the basis of the teachings of all Avatars, Prophets, Paigambaras, Divine Messengers. You become a better member of your community by practicing the Fivefold Path. When mind is a little free from the grip of desire, you experience joy. Agnihotra brings about this state soon.

Agnihotra eliminates the evil tendencies that may lie dormant. Agnihotra helps you keep in a joyful state. These moments get prolonged and durable. This leads to contentment in life.

Practice of Agnihotra makes you a true follower of Jesus whose message was "Love Thy neighbour AS THYSELF". From a vicious circle you enter a virtuous circle and then you go beyond both by always remaining in the state "Thy Will be done". This is the summum bonum of human existence.

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. Let us not waste precious moments in trivia.

Science Points to Vedas (Summarised from talks in United States)

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 ab-

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solite 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 its 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 its 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 Universe 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 shadowgraph 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 Jeans in The Mysterious Universe)

Since the Renaissance, science has shifted its 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 its 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 dematerialised 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 new 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 so sacred as knowledge.

Excerpts From SATSANG Correspondence

"It so happens that quite a few weeks ago and again this morning came one of those happenings, so quick, so evanescent that...the heart swells with love and hope.

Both times just after Agnihotra fire was lighted, a finger of light seemed to come through the window behind me, reach the Agnihotra fire and disappear in a twinkling of an eye. Today is heavily overcast with a combination fog, mist and fine wet snow - no chance of a stray sunbeam - the other day was overcast also. On this same day comes your cable. True or not, those 'events' fill me with love and bring happy tears."

(SATSANG has time and again mentioned the effect of energies. Subtler than the electromagnetic level as revealed in ancient Yoga teachings. One of our SATSANG readers writes the following which may be of interest to our readers.)

"An enlarged photo from a film taken on moon shows a halo surrounding astronauts. This is one of the most exciting developments of moon flights. It is not an electromagnetic field..."

"I am so happy to have the opportunity to be here at the Agnihotra Press among these wonderful people. It is truly a blessing to be in such a holy company...Mostly we have been going to bed late around here and getting up before Agnihotra time. It is freezing now...I must resolve to intensify my Mantra and feeling Shree's omnipresence...All are greatly awaiting your return."

Love,
T.

Resuscitate the Divine Blueprint or Perish

...By Vasant

There is only a thin layer of useful atmosphere that surrounds our globe. Any tampering with the atmosphere leads to a chain reaction which encompasses in its sweep the physiological and psychological functioning of the human frame. We are already caught in the jaws of atmospheric pollution, jaws of death. Let us face the fact and not be complacent about it. Let us not shun the issue like the proverbial ostrich. Ivory

tower syllogisms will not avail. Wrangling of politicians in international covenants, sophisticated gadgetry of the technocrat, sermons from the pseudo-spiritualist; none of these will save us from the impending catastrophe.

We are not only forewarned; we are also forearmed. The Vedas specify antipollutionary measures. They are material aids to human happiness. Ancient tradition has preserved this intact for posterity. All this is in Sanskrit, the ancient tongue that underlies English and all European languages. European scholars call it the mother of the Indo-European group of languages.

The Vedas speak of numberless billions of solar systems, non-differentiation of matter and energy, the effect of vibrations on consciousness, the effect of consciousness on matter and vice versa, and many other things from which the modern science may benefit. The Vedas prescribe a code for happy living on earth, which is called the Eternal Principles (Satya Dharma). The code is summarized as the Fivefold Path. The first step on the Path enjoins you to practise an anti-pollutionary exercise as a material aid to mental tranquility. Sometimes this is described as a process of fumigation. Of course, fumigation is only one of the grosser aspects of the process. You set in motion a chain reaction in tune with the elements, and this sets right many things.

With our greed to force nature to yield more and more, we have disturbed the natural cycle. Indiscriminate use of pesticides and insecticides eliminates nitrogen-fixing bacteria and pollinating agents. If man is to survive, he cannot do so independently of his surroundings. He is the part of the biosphere, and he must recognize this and adjust accordingly. Industrial society is paying a heavy price in terms of wanton destruction, which leads to the atmospheric imbalance. Do we want to aid in grinding the cosmic process to a halt? If we do, we will be starved of food, water and air. Nature will seek its equilibrium.

We are heir to numerous diseases, which manifest in a surprisingly multi-pronged way. Our mental health is rickety. We do have a way out of this tragic situation. We wish to focus attention on antipollutionary measures that each family may adopt with no cost. All this is from ancient wisdom; all this conforms to reason; all this is amenable to verification by available methods. We will reap a rich dividend in terms of mental health. This dividend brings in its train multifarious rewards.

Practise the Fivefold Path of ancient wisdom. It is sanctified by all true religious tradition in all parts of the globe. "I and my Father are one" is the aim of all Yoga practise, and the Fivefold Path is the means. Grace is yours for the asking; you must know how to ask.

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