

LET US FACE FACTS

Vasant

The time has come now. Theories put forth by scientists, physicists and other prophets of the new era all bear similarity. It is given in the Bible and other holy books from various religions. **THE END IS NEAR.** There are findings now which will limit understanding rather than further it. Fact is, atmospheric changes produce tension on the mind, so much so, that actually there are new diseases created by pollution.

Prophets of the Bible have predicted for the next years to come certain disasters will strike. Match this to reports from scientists and you will see strange similarity. It is not hard to decipher. It is only difficult for a man and a woman living in an era of great prosperity, luxury and convenience to even so much think of a universe coming to the brink of destruction. It is hard to face facts but the facts are there. One can argue with religion but not with science and when both come together in agreement on the conditions of the Earth and nearby planets one has to take a closer look. So it is, we must take a look at ourselves as it is we who make up the universe in which we live.

What are our habits? Are they self destructive? Do they benefit humankind? What are our strengths, our capabilities? Are we utilizing them to the fullest degree? What are our fears? Our hopes? What about our emotions? Particularly anger. Do we go around spreading angry vibrations in the world already so full of tension?

PREPARE YOURSELF

Vasant

In the course of events that will follow in years to come, you will be witness to great disasters. For this, you must prepare yourself. Gradually, as you become stronger you will attract others to you who are in need of help. This is how contacts are made. We do not need to knock on doors. **WE NEED TO SET UP THE PROPER ENVIRONMENT CONDUCTIVE TO HEALING AND MAKE SUCH "ENVIRONMENTS" AVAILABLE FREE TO THE PUBLIC.**

Let people for example come to a Fire Temple and meditate, pray, think, rest or simply sit quietly and peacefully. More and more people are needing such an en-

vironment. Whosoever wishes sincerely to set up such a place, a Fire Temple, there are certain basic disciplines to be followed. Agnihotra is to be performed there daily, sunrise and sunset. If you are not available to perform it, it is your responsibility to see that someone else performs it.

If you're offering one room in your residence you may prefer there be an outside entrance other than your private entrance which goes into the Temple itself. Then it can be opened at anytime which is the ideal situation. Literature can be provided, most of which is free and other is at printing cost to us for your own distribution. You can have one table or shelf where literature on Agnihotra, Homa Therapy can be available to the public. Then of course, the Fire Temple should be kept clean at all times and if possible cushions or small mats can be kept by the door for people to sit on. These are to make it comfortable for people who come for meditation at anytime.

There should not be at anytime any discrimination against any race, religion, sex, age. All people should be free to enter a Fire Temple. Of course if someone is destructive or disrespectful you must use your own judgment in the best interest of others who wish to use the Fire Temple for meditation. If someone becomes very disrespectful, you may ask this person to leave. They may come back at another time and wish to be respectful. If they are sincere you should never turn them away. Never use harsh words in dealing with such people. Always remain full of love in your approach, even if someone is harsh to you. Keep your own respect. Let this be an example to others.

Fire Temples need to be set up in various States. Let people know you are there. Provide this service to yourself and others.

HOMA THERAPY EXHIBIT AT NEW YORK FESTIVAL Ernest Collier

The Fourth International Festival for Mind-Body-Spirit was held in the New York Coliseum September 26-30, 1979. A wide range of New Age programs and activities were presented ten hours a day from the Coliseum's 150 booths to a projected 300,000 visitors over the five-day period Wednesday through Sunday.

One booth—HOMA THERAPY D-1—caught the attention of literally an unending stream of visitors. Its appearance was simple enough: on the left hung a sign which read, "HOMA THERAPY—A PROCESS WHICH HEALS THE ATMOSPHERE," and on the right hung a beautiful plant grown in Agnihotra atmosphere. A counter sat at the front of the 10' x 6' booth and two other similarly

grown plants hung in the rear. On top of the green-covered counter was displayed a copper Agnihotra pot and Homa Therapy literature including “Satsang Volume One,” “Grace Alone,” “Ten Commandments of Parama Sadguru,” “Five Magic Words,” “Come Join Us On The Fivefold Path,” “Light Towards Divine Path,” “Agnihotra University Farming Bulletins” and “Wholistic Healing: Homa Therapy Approach.” These were for sale and free literature was also available.

Initially the Homa Therapy Exhibit was strategically located away from other booths because of the nature of the Homa (fire) activities and the fact that a Yajnya would be taking place. An “open-flame permit” was obtained from the New York Fire Department. The booth sat directly across from the children play area which had a sign high above it proclaiming, “People are kids too.”

Near a large column about 20 feet in front of the booth a nine-hour continuous Yajnya was started each day at noon. A sign placed on the column connecting the two activities above the person sitting putting ghee into the fire read, “HOMA THERAPY – YAJNYA – FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE OPPOSITE BOOTH.”

On top of a low table near the copper Yajnya pot were stacks of *Satsang* issues and “Heal the Atmosphere” leaflets. Many people would stop to watch the Yajnya flame for a little while before walking over to pick up the free literature.

The tremendous drawing power of the booth and the OM TRYAMBAKAM Yajnya was evident from the outset. Right away on opening day the children were taken completely by the activity. Just a few minutes after the Yajnya started about 30 of them lined up under supervision taking turns putting ghee into the fire. Smiles and expressions of joy and delight spread over their faces immediately after each had finished his or her task. One two year old boy whose mother was affiliated with a Festival booth made a daily practice of coming over to the Yajnya, climbing onto the person’s lap sitting before the fire, taking the spoon and putting ghee into fire. Almost at once he learned “Swaha” and knew to say it before adding ghee.

To complete the Homa Therapy Exhibit, Agnihotra was offered in a third location inside the Festival each evening at sunset. The word spread after the first day and there was an increasing number of people doing Agnihotra each succeeding day. It had more than doubled by Friday, the third day. At sunset Agnihotra was also performed at the Yajnya before resumption of chanting OM TRYAMBAKAM.

The number of Festival visitors grew each day. The literature at the booth was moving fast and the message of Homa Therapy was spreading rapidly. More and more people were attracted and interested as they were curious about the Yajnya

fire. There were people lined up before the booth seeking information about Homa Therapy almost without stop. By Friday the crowds had grown to the extent that the energy generated around the Homa Therapy Exhibit was so high everyone was very excited. There were times when as many as seven people had small crowds gathered around them listening to an explanation of some aspect of Homa Therapy. The questions asked ranged from what is Agnihotra and how to prepare an Agnihotra fire to the scientific significance of using cowdung in the Yajnya.

Cushions were placed on the floor around the Yajnya for those who wanted to sit for any length of time before the fire. Copies of the OM TRYAMBAKAM Mantra were made available with this note printed at the bottom: "THIS FIRE IS THERAPEUTIC. IF YOU SIT UP CLOSE TO IT FOR A LITTLE WHILE IT WILL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER." The response was immeasurably great. Many people who were already seated pulled their cushions closer after getting a copy and within a few minutes began chanting the Mantra. The more people chanting the Mantra the more people the Yajnya attracted. Their demeanor when leaving clearly showed they enjoyed the experience. Others simply said so, "Thank you. That was good."

The crowds were even larger on the weekend when many people were off from work. It was necessary to have more copies of the "Heal the Atmosphere" leaflets printed. Names, addresses and phone numbers were being taken at the booth and copper Agnihotra pots were selling.

Sunday the last day, brought the largest crowd. Many came who practiced Agnihotra regularly making something good even better. It was arranged that a larger area be used for Agnihotra to accommodate the increasing number who wanted to attend. Agnihotra timings were posted in several locations around the Festival with periodic announcements over an audio system.

Peace and quiet descended upon the Coliseum as over 100 people sat doing Agnihotra. All those responsible for making the Exhibit a success were deeply humbled by the experience. It was a fitting climax to the Festival which closed shortly after Agnihotra at 8 p.m. All of New York may be a little the better for it.

AMSTERDAM WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON HUMANITY Barry Rathner

Two hours after beginning a 48-hour Yajnya in Amsterdam, Holland on April 8, 1979, I had a series of wonderful experiences.

The occasion was the World Symposium on Humanity being held simultaneously in four cities worldwide, London, Toronto, Los Angeles, and Amsterdam. Linked

by satellite relay of closed circuit television, the Symposium had gathered scores of teachers and leaders of many religions, yogas, New Age therapies, etc. who gave lectures and demonstrations.

Cárola Waterman, Homa Therapy Teacher from Holland, and myself had been asked if we could do a 48-hour Yajnya at The Kosmos, location of the Amsterdam activities.

After receiving permission to do “a small fire” there, we began OM TRYAMBAKAM YAJAMAHE Mantra at 8 p.m. in the attic meditation room. Two hours later we asked if our small Homa fire could continue 46 hours more. After consultation, the authorities made special security arrangements for Cárola, Corrie Hof and myself and the Yajnya continued.

A short while later someone asked me, “Do you know Ram Dass is speaking now?” I was surprised and then even more so when I was told he was speaking not on TV but in person, two floors beneath our Yajnya. He had been scheduled to speak at the Symposium in London but had problems with visa authorities there.

Ram Dass is the popular teacher of thousands in America especially, having begun the spiritual path after many years as Dr. Richard Alpert of Harvard University. I thought this would be a good opportunity to tell him about Agnihotra and the Fivefold Path (Yajnya, Daan, Tapa, Karma, Swadhyaya). I entered the lecture room and while I was organizing some literature to show him, a man looked over my shoulder and said, “Agnihotra.”

I asked if he had heard of it and he said that two days earlier in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. he had met a man from India who had told him in detail about Agnihotra, especially how it is used to increase yield in fruits and vegetables. So here two days and 3,000 miles away, he was seeing literature about it again. The man was Christopher Bird, co-author of *The Secret Life of Plants* and he had come to lecture at the Symposium. The book he wrote reveals many of the subtle changes plants experience, many of which have been documented. This includes the Backster Effect, the effect of human thought and emotion on plants. The man Mr. Bird had met in Washington was Vasant, the man who first brought word of Agnihotra and the Fivefold Path to America in 1972.

Overcome a bit by the “coincidence” of this, I sat down next to Ram Dass who had just finished his talk and first told him that I had recently been at the home of a friend of his in Texas, U.S.A. He then said that he had just a few days earlier been at that same home, site of the Homa Therapy Center in Fort Worth. Further-

more, he told that three days earlier he had received in the mail copies of Vasant's books. We talked about 10 minutes; I invited him to attend our Yajnya. And we both said goodbye with the look of amazement in our eyes. What appeared to be coincidence again proved to be Grace Alone.

SATSANG NEWS

Israel

Sam

An army base deep in the Sinai Desert on the Gulf of Suez is the newest location for Homa Therapy/Hatha Yoga classes in Israel. Located very close to Mount Sinai, where the Ten Commandments were given to Moses, the Et Tur Army Base has an air of silent tension.

"Purifying the atmosphere automatically purifies the mind and removes tension. This will have an effect on peace in the whole country," the soldiers were told. The scientists will soon come to know that there is a big science behind the story of Moses and the Burning Bush, a parable of Homa Fire.

After the first class on July 10 during which Vyahruti Homa was done, the soldiers requested that the classes be continued every week and this has been done.

Washington, D.C.

Barry Rathner informs *Satsang* that he has been appointed to the Adjunct Faculty of Washington International College as professor of HOMA THERAPY. The college is located in Washington, D.C.

Bristol, Vermont, U.S.A.

Helen Turner writes, "While John was visiting we went to a doctor in Bennington, Vt. who treats nutritionally, by acupuncture and by more traditional methods. After I told him about Agnihotra he requested information so I sent him the Agnihotra pamphlet and the "Wholistic Healing: Homa Therapy Approach" pamphlet. A six-year-old child being treated by the doctor for hyperactivity sat quietly for Agnihotra for the first time and said, 'I like that fire; let's do it again.'

"For the last three weeks I have lengthened the Yajnya time to two hours on Saturday mornings. Also have been reading the Upanishads. They seem clearer to me now The Yajnyas seem to magnify and clarify things for me so that I may better apply what I learn to my daily life."

***Practice AGNIHOTRA**

for purification of the atmosphere which leads to unburdening the mind.

***Practice DAAN**

(sharing of assets in a spirit of humility) for reducing attachment to worldly possessions.

***Practice TAPA**

(self-discipline) for fruition of thy affirmations.

***Practice KARMA**

(good actions without attachment to the fruit thereof) for self-purification.

***Practice SWADHYAYA**

(Self-study, Who am I?) 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 can 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.

Practice the Fivefold Path and you become a better member of your family or community. You will become a more righteous Christian, Jew, Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu, Zoroastrian, Sikh, Jain, whatever be your formal religious label. You may be an atheist or an agnostic, you will benefit by practicing the Fivefold Path. The Fivefold Path sets up life patterns based on biopsychological techniques given through Vedic knowledge. You need not carry the hypothesis of God to practice the Fivefold Path. You start the practice and knowledge will be unfolded to you from within. Believe only what you experience. This is the approach of a true scientist.

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