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Agnihotra And Microbes, A Laboratory Experience

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From Satsang Correspondence

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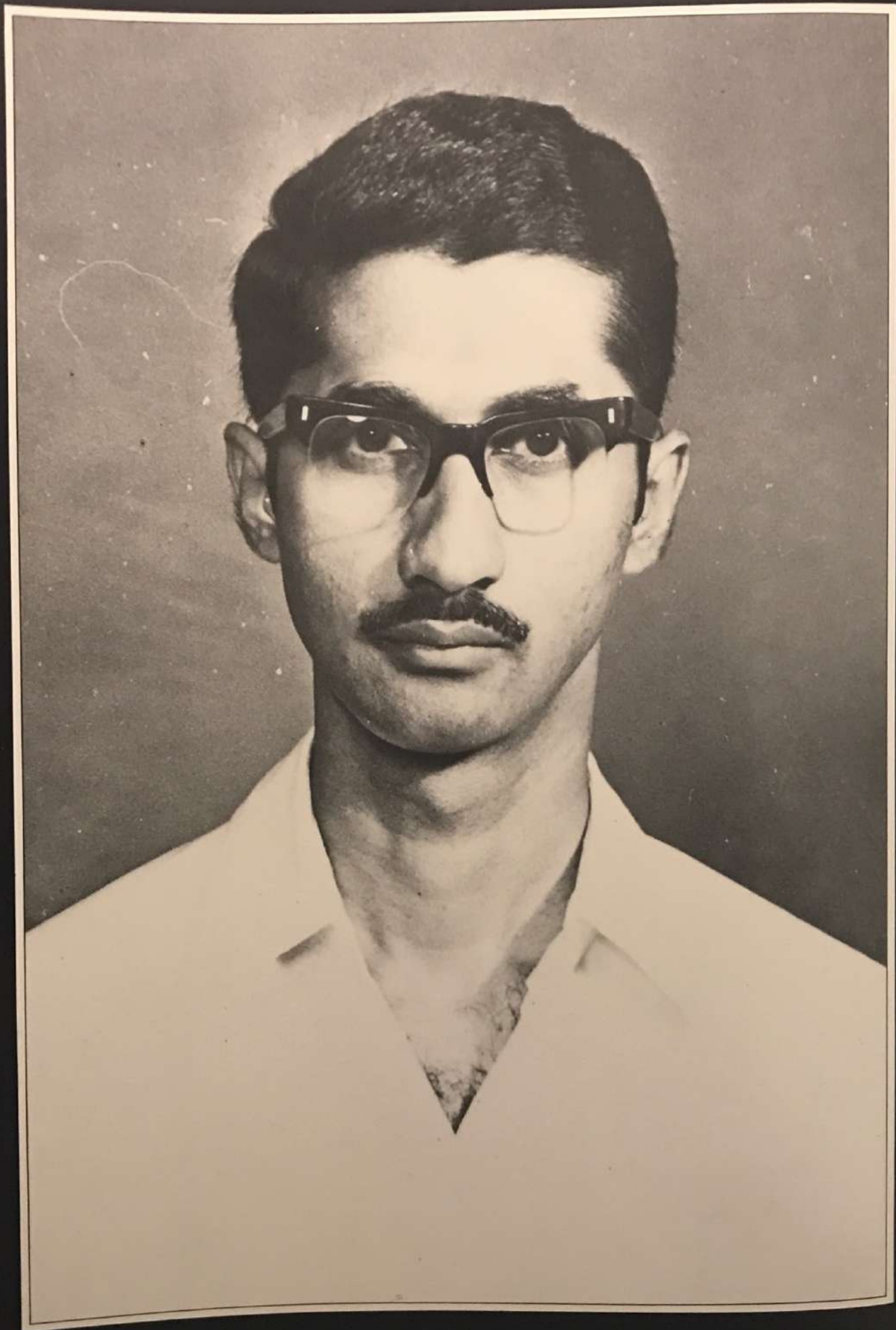
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Cover

The effect of Agnihotra upon microorganisms is documented by Dr. Arvind D. Mondkar.



Agnihotra And Microbes, A Laboratory Experience

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Our way of life has intensified the quantum of pollution. No place can be called safe from pollution. What varies is the type of pollutant and the degree of pollution. Pollution is of various types such as gaseous pollution, water pollution, food pollution, radioactive pollution and so on. Of these types, microbial pollution is the most important type of pollution for people in the medical or paramedical field.

Microorganisms are ubiquitous in nature. There are mainly two types, namely non-pathogenic or saprophytic (harmless and not causing any disease) and pathogenic (disease producing). There are certain opportunistic pathogens which given a chance can produce disease in human beings. Thus the mere presence of these microorganisms in a definite strength in various media can produce contaminants.

Microorganisms like Salmonellae, Shigellae or Vibrios contaminate water, eatables, milk and milk products. When the contaminated eatables are consumed the individual suffers from typhoid, bacillary dysentery or cholera. Similarly, organisms like Staphylococci cause food poisoning by increasing toxins in food. This microorganism also causes wound infections with pus formation. Streptococci infect the respiratory tract after inhalation of the drop-

let nuclei on which they are settled. Hospital infections by Staphylococci and Pseudomonas are not uncommon. Recently, Pseudomonas aeruginosa has been reported to have entered the space age. This microorganism was isolated from the lining of the fuel tank of a jet engine and was found to be responsible for the corrosion of the tank.

It is stated that Agnihotra helps to undo the effects of pollution. In this respect, it was decided to observe the last type of pollutant, i.e., microorganisms and the effect of Agnihotra on them. The present article restricts only to the effect of Agnihotra on microorganisms as observed in a microbiology laboratory.

Agnihotra Effect On Bacterial Population

A preliminary experiment was carried out to study the effect of Agnihotra on the bacterial population in a room where Agnihotra was performed. For this study, two rooms of equal dimensions (13¼' x 8' x 11') were selected. In both the rooms fire was prepared from dried cowdung cakes in copper pyramids and the basal reading of number of microorganisms in both the rooms was taken by exposing blood agar plates at four corners of the room for 10 minutes. This was done exactly half an hour before Agnihotra time. Agnihotra was performed exactly at sunset in one of the rooms.

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Bacterial counts were taken again in both the rooms in a similar manner at half hour intervals. Thus readings were taken in both the rooms up to two hours after performance of Agnihotra. It was quite interesting to note that microbial counts in the room where Agnihotra was performed were reduced by 91.4% (Figs. 1a, 1b and 1c illustrate the reduction in the number of microorganisms) whereas the room where only fire was generated did not show appreciable changes in the microbial counts. This leads one to think that it was the process of Agnihotra which was responsible for the reduction of bacterial counts and not the mere presence of fire.

Two other similar experiments revealed similar findings. The phenomenon could be explained by giving two reasons:

- Agnihotra fumes are rich in formaldehyde and other substances which have inhibitory effect on microorganisms.
- A phenomenon like smog formation and its diffusion in the upper strata might be a likely postulation.

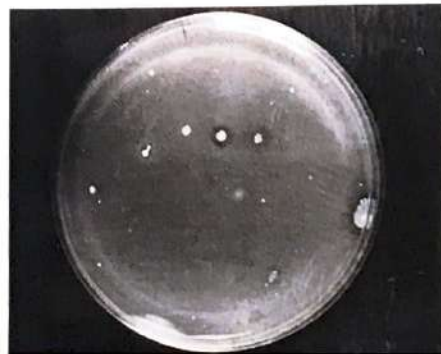


Fig. 1a. Basal reading

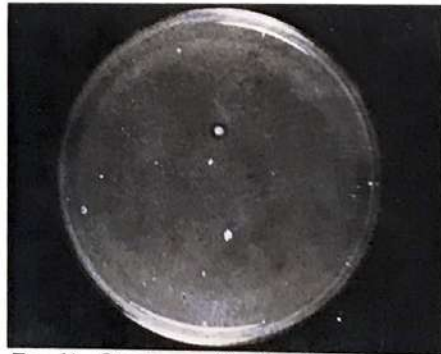


Fig. 1b. One hour after Agnihotra.



Fig. 1c. Two hours after Agnihotra.

In the regions of North and South poles, many times, carbon particles accumulate to form a layer called "smog." When fire is lit the hot currents push the smog into the upper strata and it is diffused in such a way that the carbon particles are no longer harmful in the residual concentration. In the present study perhaps Agnihotra fumes might have dissociated the microorganisms in such a way that the residual population was no more harmful and was well within tolerable limit to human beings.

Agnihotra Effects on Bioenergetic Systems of Individual Microorganisms

This kindled our interest and it was decided to study the effect of Agnihotra on the bioenergetic systems of individual microorganisms. A strain of *Staphylococci pyogenes* isolated from a pus sample was selected for the study. The strain showed all the characteristics of a pathogen. It was isolated from a lesion, produced beta haemolyses on blood agar, showed a positive coagulase test and fermented mannitol with the production of acid. The strain was inoculated on a pair of blood agar plates, one of which was kept away from the Agnihotra atmosphere (control plate). The other

one was exposed to Agnihotra fumes for five minutes and was allowed to remain in that atmosphere till next Agnihotra was performed (approximately 12 hours). Agnihotra is to be performed on the biorhythm of sunrise/sunset. Surprisingly, it was observed that the plate exposed to Agnihotra (test plate) showed a tremendous reduction in the zone of haemolysis as against a wide zone of haemolysis in the control plate.

Organisms from both the plates were then subjected to coagulase test. The organisms from the test plate showed a negative coagulase test demonstrating their inability to produce coagulase. Finally, the organisms from both the plates were emulsified in one ml of normal saline separately to give suspensions of equal strength. This was achieved by use of Brown's opacity tube no. 3. The suspensions were then injected intradermally into the thighs of an albino mouse. The mouse was kept under observation for five days.

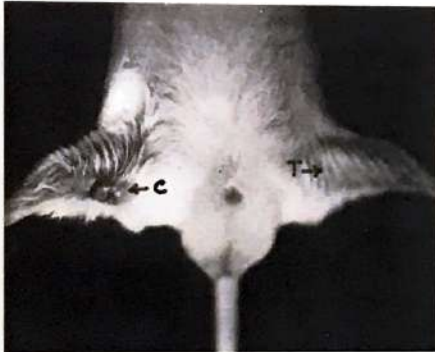


Fig. 2. T-Test—C-Control

It was very interesting to note that the suspensions from the test plate failed to produce any lesion in the mouse whereas the suspension from the control plate produced typical abscess (Fig. 2). These results suggest that Agnihotra played a pivotal role in controlling the metabolic activities of this microorganism. In this case, a pathogenic strain of *Staphylococcus pyogenes* showed characteristics of a nonpathogenic strain after exposure to Agnihotra atmosphere. This was just an observation and triggered quite a number of questions in the mind.

- Is this effect phenotypic or genotypic?
- Is it necessary to expose the strain for a prolonged time interval or will a short exposure cause a similar effect?
- Will the progeny of these microorganisms behave in a similar manner?
- Does the small or microdose of substances released from Agnihotra process boost the immunity mechanism of the patient to get rid of the infection or does the infecting agent lose its virulence? Perhaps both the effects go hand in hand.

Answers to these questions are still beyond sight and show a need for further experimentation in this field.

Therapeutic Effect of Agnihotra Ash

An attempt was then made to study the therapeutic use of Agnihotra ash against scabies in rabbits. Rabbits are quite often infected with scabies—marked by snow white crust formations on their nose, ear margins and skin. The infection then becomes systemic and the animal dies. Normally this sort of scabies is cured by daily application of benzyl benzoate and salicylic acid for about 6-8 days, depending upon the severity of the infection.



Fig. 3a. Before application 6/27/81

In one study, Agnihotra ash was homogenized with an equal volume of cow's ghee* and applied over the infected area above the nostrils of a rabbit (Fig. 3a illustrates one such infected rabbit. Note the white crust formation on the nostrils and the ear margin). Agnihotra ash worked extremely well and the crust was detached on the third day of application—and that too with a single application. (Fig. 3b illustrates the area of application and the detached crust. The blackish portion demonstrates the remnants of the Agnihotra ash. Also note the tiny hair growing on the "cured" area.)

With benzyl benzoate and salicylic acid, it took



Fig. 3b. Crust fallen after one application 7/30/81

five days for the crust to detach itself from the control rabbit. Another notable advantage of this was that the preparation was not irritating like benzyl benzoate or salicylic acid. The rabbits always lick that application because of irritation and the young ones die of poisoning. This risk could be avoided with Agnihotra ash.

These results promise a solution to microbial pollution by the performance of Agnihotra and ingestion of Agnihotra ash medicines.

* Ghee is clarified butter from cow's milk used in the process of Agnihotra.

Dr. A. D. Mondkar
Bombay

From Satsang Correspondence

8 Lech Stefanski brought Vasant's tape recorded message. Then he gave some general information about Agnihotra and Homa Therapy and we distributed leaflets and timetables with correct sunrise/sunset timings for Warsaw.

Krystyne then performed Agnihotra. We meditated for some time. We then chose officers. Krystyne became the leader because of her experience in the Association and with Homa Therapy. Mrs. M. is arranging for copper pyramids, etc. Siedlechi is going to deal with all of the editorial work. Andy and I became treasurers.

Many people had come. Some of them brought their plants because they knew Agnihotra would be performed and had heard of the wonderful effects it has on all plants. We started teaching people the Mantras.

Barbara
Warsaw, Poland

We stayed two days in the Hortobagy Pusztá, the great grassland in the eastern part of the Hungarian low plain near the Rumanian border. We shared Agnihotra and Homa Therapy with two Caikos (horse herdsman).

We showed Lajos and Gabor how to set up the fire with proper materials and told them of the medicinal quality of the ash. We informed them of the many cases where animals have had their injuries and diseases cured very quickly with Agnihotra ash medicines. Finally we told them that there were several people doing Agnihotra in Budapest.

Kurt and Anne
Hungary

Your magazine *Satsang* is very beneficial to us. Agnihotra is magnificent. I really enjoy doing it and sending love out to everyone.

Blessings upon you on this day and every day.

Tai Shain
Ludwig Kuglmeier
Maui, Hawaii