

SATSANG

VOL. 31
NO. 6



RAIN-MAKING YAJNYA AT TAPOVAN

NEW ERA 61

MARCH & APRIL 2004



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Publisher:

Fivefold Path Inc.

Parama Dham

(House of Almighty Father)

278 N. White Oak Dr., Madison, VA 22727 USA

Published seven times yearly.

Please direct all *Satsang* correspondence to the Editor.

Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of *Satsang*.

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ISSN 0735-1321

Satsang is available on the Internet at:

<http://www.agnihotra.org/satlist.htm>

Hard copy of *Satsang* is also available from Fivefold Path Inc. at the above address. We request a donation of \$16.00 for a one-year subscription to addresses in the U.S. and Canada.

Parjana Yag in Tapovan--

Tapovan Celebrates Completion of Three Years Continuous Om Tryambakam Yajnya with Rain-Making Yajnya

Bruce Johnson

On 25th March, 2004 in Tapovan we passed the three-year milestone in our 24-hour round-the-clock Om Tryambakam Yajnya. By Divine Grace we have been able to maintain this unique healing fire. Several countries have hosted such a Yajnya over the past quarter century (Germany, Chile, Australia and notably U.S.A. where continuous Yajnya was maintained by a small group of dedicated people for approximately 16 years from September 9, 1978). But as far as we know, this is the only Yajnya of this type on the planet at the present time.

To mark the occasion this year it was decided to conduct another important event. We were approached by one Shri Nana Kale of Shree Yogiraj Veda – Vijnyan Ashram from Kasarwadi, Barsi, District Solapur in south Maharashtra to provide the venue for a Parjanya Yag (also known as Parjanyakmeshti Yajnya) which would be one of thirteen to take place simultaneously all over Maharashtra state from 18th to 23rd March, 2004. The special importance of the Parjanya Yag is that it is said to induce rainfall. The members of the ashram have been performing these Parjanya Yag and other Maha Yajnyas over the last 22 years and they claim 75 % success rate. Now Maharashtra and several other states of India have been experiencing severe drought for the past two to three years. Despite having had good rains

here in our area for last two years we decided to accept Shri Kale's offer to perform this Yajnya as a fitting occasion to mark the beginning of our fourth year of continuous Yajnya here in Tapovan.

On March 17th nine young Brahmin boys



average about 10 years plus their slightly older preceptor arrived at Tapovan to make ready for the beginning of the Parjanya Yag the next day. They were all housed nicely in the three new mud and grass huts which we have recently constructed. These huts, apart from being very cool in the hot climate, also have the distinction of echoing the days of the ancient Rishis when the entire ashram would be accommodated in huts similar to these.



In our huts we have made a few concessions to 21st century comforts and they boast semi-attached bathrooms with hot and cold running water plus electric fans.

On the morning of the 18th the preliminaries began with Vyahruti Homa in front of Parama Sadguru's photo in main bungalow followed by aarti (worship). Then at the Yajnya site to the chant of various Veda Mantras, the conduct of the Yajnya was passed officially from Abhay and Anjali



as owners of the land to the team of young Brahmins who would now carry on the proceedings for the next five days. At this time also the fire was started by traditional Vedic friction method



and kept alive till the Parjanya Yag started in the evening.

Everyone gathered for the auspicious official start of the Parjanya Yag at 10 P.M. As so often happens over here in this rural area we suffered a power cut at that time and so emergency lighting came into play.



The materials used for the Yajnya were the woods of special Yajnya trees, pipal (*Ficus religiosa*), audumbar (*Ficus glomerata*), banyan (*Ficus bengalensis*) plus laval grass (*Cyperus scariosus*) plus 100 % pure cow's milk and 100 % pure cow's ghee. A special kund (fire-pit) had been previously constructed which would contain the fire.

Once the Yajnya was started it would continue nonstop for five days and five nights.

The young Brahmin boys were very well-versed in the Veda Mantras as they practise at least ten hours daily as part of the ashram routine. They were also very well disciplined for such young boys and always took a bath before Yajnya and sat for Yajnya in wet cloth. They worked in teams of two, each team doing a two-hour shift before being relieved by the next team.



Each Mantra cycle lasted approximately six to eight minutes. It was a wonderful thrill to hear the Veda Mantras of these young boys mingling with the sounds from our own Om Tryambakam Mantra throughout the days and nights.



On the third day a television team came from the National TV channel and took some footage and did some interviews for the local news.

On the morning of the fifth day we decided to perform a Rudra Yag as well.



We started near the Parjanya Yag site straight after sunrise. It was a very sublime feeling knowing that these three Yajnyas were continuing simultaneously: Om Trymbakam Yajnya, the Parjanya Yag and the Rudra Yag.

The whole area was totally infused with Veda Mantras from these Yajnyas.

In the afternoon, as the last Parjanya Mantra was sung, we all gathered for the “poorna ahuti” (final offering). Again Abhay and Anjali were required for this last segment. The final offerings were made of cow’s ghee, using a very large wooden spoon fashioned from the wood of the pipal tree (*Ficus religiosa*).



And so, to the accompaniment of a final set of Mantras, the glorious Parjanya Yag came to a close.

As a fitting finale to the whole event, lunch was served to the large crowd of more than three thousand which had gathered for the last day.

After exchanging gifts we bade farewell to the young Brahmins who had greatly endeared themselves to us over the preceding

Letter to Satsang

five days, with a promise that they would come again next year to repeat the whole exercise.

Post script: At the time of writing (May 8, 2004) we have just experienced good rains on the last two days. This is extremely rare at this time of year, just one month prior to the start of the monsoon. The rains were related to a cyclone in the Arabian Sea off the west coast of India. Was this somehow connected with the thirteen Parjanya Yags in Maharashtra during March 2004?

The Agnihotra is such a big help to me. It gives one relief from the crazy world, especially here in the city. The longer Yajnyas are such a big help, too.

I get such a sense of peace and calm from the fires. Then, when I face the world and the various situations and people I encounter, I am coming from a more focused, centered place. It makes me feel stronger and gives me a sense of well-being.

Each fire is like a “health treatment.”

Love,
Maureen Hayden
Cleveland Heights, Ohio

Eco-Tourism at Tapovan

In January, we at Tapovan welcomed our first eco-tourism group from U.K. The tour was organized by Simon-Peter Fuller of Wholistic World Vision. Simon-Peter gathers together many groups each year and visits sacred sites all over the world, doing healing work at these sites. The tour at Tapovan was a great success and plans are afoot for a follow-up tour next year. We offered an Ayurvedic treatment program to each person as well as some hands-on experience of the various Yajnyas performed here, including daily Agnihotra, participation in round-the-clock Om Tryambakam Yajyna, Rudra Yajyna and the daily discipline program.

The healing treatment, including Ayurvedic massage and herbal steam bath, followed by an assisted bath with scented warm water poured all over the body to wash away toxins, was appreciated. Each person had a personal palm and horoscope reading from an Ayurvedic doctor to determine strengths and weaknesses in the astrological chart and guidance was given as to which gemstone could be worn to amplify the strengths. This was also very popular.

A visit by bullock cart, with gaily decorated bullocks, to nearby Shivadham Temple, followed by lunch in the local village, Ratnapimpri, was a highlight of the trip.

By about the third day, some healing crises emerged, as often happens here with the intense energy field. Natural healing, herbal and Ayurvedic treatments were offered to assist successfully in the healing processes. A communal Narmada Mud Bath (men and women separate) in the warm sun on the terrace rooftop, was thoroughly enjoyed by all and the revitalizing and rejuvenation effects were obvious to everyone.

Local artwork, rangoli (mandala design) with coloured powders and a demonstration of henna painting on the hands created great interest as local women shared their special skills.

A visit to a second village, Bhokarbari, included sight-seeing at the local lake which has grown remarkably in size since the rains have come abundantly in the last two to three years. This was an unforgettable experience for the group. The interaction with village people, with no common language, but sharing from the heart, touched each person deeply.

Vegetarian gourmet food, a mixture of eastern and western, served on the rooftop terrace buffet-style, was favourably commented upon by all.

A visit by young people from Poland and

U.S.A., led by Jacob Sawyer, was all too brief, but coincided also with the U.K. tour group, giving rise to some new connections and interactions.

Traveling 60 kilometres from Tapovan, the group visited Jain Agri Park, which is owned by Mr B.H. Jain, one of India's leading industrialists. He and his family have also embraced the practice of Agnihotra. This was a special outing which also included some exciting shopping. That evening, a talk by Francine Blake, founder of the Crop Circle Association of U.K., on the crop circle phenomenon, raised great interest in the audience.

On our last evening together some local boys came over to Tapovan with some musical instruments and we shared some spirited bhajans (sacred songs) together.

Bruce and I accompanied the group to Maheshwar where we took a boat-ride up the Holy Narmada River to the Homa Therapy nursery on the banks of the river. We shared a momentous one hour communal chanting of Om Tryambakam mantra, which seemed to be supercharged, followed by Rudra Yajnya. The day ended with a rooftop group Agnihotra, overlooking the Narmada River, as a spectacular red sun disappeared below the horizon. We proceeded next morning to

Indore, via Omkareshwar, a beautiful holy place on the Narmada River, renowned throughout India as the river forms the shape of an Om at this point. We finished in Indore with a short visit to Karin Heschel and her children as the group left Indore by plane. It was the end of a most exciting and blessed trip. The finale came with much sadness with the departure of many new found friends.

Please visit our websites:

<http://www.angelfire.com/realn/tapovan>

<http://www.bhrugaranya.org>

Healing with Homa Therapy



Karina Gomez Calderon, right, and husband

KARINA GOMEZ CALDERON
GUAYAQUIL
ECUADOR

Problems:

- * Pain in the spinal column
- * Insomnia

I am 24 years old. For a long time I had problems with my spinal column but I didn't give them much importance. I could not sleep well and my situation got worse when I had a head injury. That was when I began

having serious problems and I didn't treat them until the day I woke up with a stiff neck.

I went to a doctor, but the treatment was not giving the desired results. Rather the opposite, the pain increased. It was like a burning. I was in unbearable pain. I could not sleep. The incessant pain was through the deviation of the fifth and sixth cervical vertebra, which the doctor verified through an ultrasound. Then the doctor prescribed me antibiotics but without success. I became addicted to pills and I was on the verge of suicide.

Thank God, my desperate husband, who also did not know how to help me, brought me to Doctor Jaime Montufar, who practices the natural Homa Therapy of the Ayurvedic Medicine. The fires of Agnihotra helped me to relax and to be able to sleep again.

The fires we are practicing now at home help us to feel better. I am a little emotional because I suffered from this problem a long time, but I know that if I continue doing the healing fires I will recover completely.

Homa Farming Report

Dr. María del Carmen Ayasta Vallejo
Directress of the Ministry of Agriculture
Region - Huánuco
HUANUCO, Peru

Dear Directress:

We are potato farmers from the sector of Amaryllis. This is the first time that we are communicating with somebody like you who has a position in the Ministry of Agriculture. We take the opportunity to greet you and wish you success with your work.

Many years ago we heard our grandparents and parents talk about how the "Rancha" kept attacking our potato fields nonstop and each time with more intensity. We observed how year after year this disease lowered the yield of our crops.

The engineers and salespersons for agro-chemicals always come and offer us more and more potent poisons. Even if they did not bring any results, they still make us buy two or three different ones for weekly application. But the "Rancha" is still present and continues its attacks. Every six months we spent from 3,000 to 5,000 soles per hectare per crop, and only for the least expensive ones. Even though we used all these agro-chemicals, starting with the potato seed, we observed that our plants had, from the very beginning, pale, yellowish leaves, as if they

were sick and they remained this way until the end of the crop. How we miss the lush green potato fields that we saw years ago!

In spite of the agro-chemicals, which we use in pesticides and fertilizers, the "Rancha" strikes with force and dries up everything. It is unavoidable and nothing can stop it. Some of us who still had possibilities to buy more poisons against the "Rancha" did it, pushed by the desperation and the threat of losing the whole crop. But most of us lack the money to buy chemical pesticides. The fungus "Rancha", after affecting the leaves and stems, passes on to the tuber. The only thing we can do is to cut the plant totally before the fungus passes onto the tuber; if the "Rancha" attacks the tuber after it was formed we are able to have some harvest, but if the fungus attacks before, then we have lost all our crop. Also, we have to harvest very quickly after the "Rancha" attack, because two days later the crop begins to rot and we again run the risk of losing the whole production.

This emergency situation regarding plagues and diseases in our potato fields does not allow us to have our own seeds from our land. We have to go to look for potato seeds in areas above 4,000 meters above sea level. But to our desperation we have seen now the presence of the "Rancha" even in these high

areas. We wondered if soon we would not have any more seeds available. What will we sow? What will we live from? Since we were born we learned from our ancestors how to sow potatoes, for our own survival and to feed a lot of other people.

In the last years we still harvested per potato plant an average of 1 kilo, now it is only 200 grams per plant, mainly second and third class production, some of commercial size. Now, in the fields the biggest production is already harvested and is without possibility to be commercialized, since they are either very small, attacked by the "Rancha", rotting or with other diseases.

On the average we have harvested this season 3,000 kilos/Ha. In the previous harvests we still had crops up to 18,000 Kilos / ha. On top of this low yield is the low market price. As farmers we are extremely desperate and very affected seeing our land refuse to produce healthy potatoes and each time the production comes down.

In this situation arrived Engineer Ever Torres Martinez from Lima as a representative of the International Potato Center and recommended us to learn how to coexist with the "Rancha" since there is no chance that it will disappear because it lives in the soil we are cultivating. He told us to do what all those

who have visited us, already recommended. But we experienced that it doesn't work and it does not solve our "Rancha" problem. The same happened with the visit of the SENASA (National Service of Agrarian Health) Engineer Walter Diaz Burga from Lima, who again told us the same thing as all the other engineers. And every time we felt more left alone, without support, powerless before the plagues and diseases. Our plantations were hopelessly lost, as if a destructive force was behind all this, and nobody could win against it and we farmers were the most affected ones. It seemed as if we were living a nightmare; we hoped that everything was just a dream, but regrettably it was reality.

Approximately 2 months ago the farming family of León Huaco, whom we observed for many years in their agricultural potato development because they are farmers with a lot of experience and with good technical preparation for potato cultivation, stopped using agro chemicals. They are experts in the use of agro chemicals; they used it in their great potato extension. They were the biggest buyers of agro chemicals. But suddenly with the first rains of September and the time of the first "Rancha" attack we observed that they stopped applying chemicals. This was the time they started applying a type of organic agriculture that they told us is called Homa Therapy.

We kept on observing, more closely, waiting for results. For us this technique without use of agro chemicals was new. Even though some elements of Homa Therapy were familiar to us, like the consideration of the full moon and new moon, Homa Therapy added to this also the benefits of sunrise and sunset and the burning of dry cow's manure.

We continued observing; with the first rains the "Rancha" arrived and began to destroy potato plantations, but the farm where Homa Therapy was applied resisted the attack. They had only one month of Homa application. Quickly we took interest in learning the Homa Therapy.

The family of León Huaco welcomed us and assisted with our Homa Therapy training. Also technicians, who are actually farmers like ourselves, were invited in from other areas.

This was what we observed through the Homa Therapy effect on the potato crop:

--In 4-month-old plants: The sowing was done using agro chemicals and during the first four months the chemical applications continued. At this time the plants showed yellowish leaves. Then the work with Homa Therapy began and no more chemicals were used. The plants became very green and increased

their foliage. They remained green until the end of the crop and the whole plantation resisted the "Rancha" attack. A complete rejuvenation happened through the effect of Homa Therapy. We harvested healthy tubers of first, second and third class--that is to say, of commercial size. In areas where Homa Therapy was not applied, the crop was completely lost.

--In 2-month-old potato plants.:

The seeds received agro chemicals during the first 2 months. The first reaction to the effect of Homa Therapy was shown in the leaves. They were intense green, the foliage increased, and the plants had a lot of vitality and vigor. The growth of weeds was well controlled, facilitating the agricultural work. Besides making the Homa Therapy fires we applied the ash of the basic Agnihotra fire. The Agnihotra ash was applied in a water solution every 8 days, using a backpack fumigator. We observed that the Agnihotra ash solution acts as a foliar nutrient and controls the weeds.

Many of us don't know how to read or to write, but we learned easily how to carry out the Homa Therapy fires. We even observed that some of us with certain diseases got healed through the effect of Homa Therapy and the Agnihotra ash.

The farmer Alejandro Vega Elías had for 4 years very big warts on his hands; he consumed weekly 2 1/2 kilos of coca leaves, accompanied by cigarettes and alcohol. He was healed from his warts in only one week of applying Agnihotra ash crème. Also in little time he learned how to carry out all the Homa fires and stopped the consumption of the coca leaf, the cigarettes and alcohol gradually. He became one of the best farmers, qualified to maintain a Homa Resonance Point.

We were told that one Homa resonance point reaches 40 hectares. Now after almost two months of working with Homa Therapy, its effect has reached the fields of the neighbors, for which we feel happy. This is how our nightmare ends. Many are preparing their land and want to sow the next harvest with Homa Therapy, because we are convinced that through the effect of Homa Therapy the sick land can be healed.

This way we will have our own seeds, clean, healthy and without use of poison--everything only with Homa Therapy. We feel that our earth and our plants thank us for applying Homa Therapy. Again we can go to our potato fields and they are like they were many years back, very green, very beautiful and full of life.

We feel that life again returns to us, the same life which our land wanted to take away from

us, little by little.

We potato farmers want to share this beautiful experience with other farmers who are as desperate as we were. We are very willing to train anybody who wants to learn and apply Homa Therapy in their cultivation. We were taught for free and we want to pass it on as well for free, because we don't want there to be any more pain from food shortage caused by plagues and diseases.

Mrs. Directress, if you could, make it possible through the Institution, which works in the name for the improvement of the life of the farmers, to spread the word about the goodness of Homa Therapy to all poor farmers who are without hope. We once more state that we ourselves will train the farmers in Homa Therapy.

Sincerely,
(Signatures)

Victor Manuel León Noreña, Florián Rodríguez Cabrera, Alejandro Vaga Elías, Urbano Rodríguez Gamarra, Marcos Tolentino Florido, Antinio Culántres Elías, Orlando Vegas Elías, David Cabrera Rodríguez, Moises Cabrera Culántres, Antonio Cárdenas Mendoza, Diógenes Cardona Ramón, Hilarión Rosas León, Santos Amarillón Villegas, Fredy Rodríguez Arteta, Enrique León Huaco, Senón Dávila Rafaelo, Adriano Salvador, Alfredo León Huaco, Fortunato Lasarte, Tony Vasquez Venancio, Leandro Reyes Huaman

From Vasant's Talks

It is not a question of liking or disliking oneself. You take care of the physical body because it is an instrument. You take better care to train the mind so that it too can be utilized as an instrument. If there are habits you wish to change, do not concentrate on the bad habit. Replace it with a good one, one which promotes good health and awareness. If you tend to be critical of those nearest to you then make all effort to praise them, compliment them--not to employ flattery, but sincere positive efforts. It will help you. The other person may also benefit, but you are able to break your habit. It is like that.

To rid yourself of negative habit patterns, replace them. Concentrate only on positive thoughts. Positive actions will result. Get out of these material worldly desires.

The 1969 Yajnya performed in Shivapuri had a total effect on the world at that time. 1969 was the year for the turning point. Young people in America were given Light through vibration. If you look back you will know.

All the time take the Name on the tip of the tongue. Speak only love. Attitude of service. No vanity. All forgiveness. Always practice Fivefold Path in all you do. Be patient. Even if you have "no time", take time to speak kindly. Do not seek to find fault in others.

Then automatically you begin to see the Light and only the Light. Then at that stage you are full of love and transmit that love everywhere, to everyone all the time. This stage can be reached anytime. One does not have to be a monk or a sadhu. One need not perform years of selfless service in an ashram. Of course it is good to do service, but this alone does not usher in this Divine love. One can be a simple farmer in the field; it is by Grace given. Just be full of love. Do not despair.

This is the time to speak the TRUTH, to live by the Word of God and to LOVE THY NEIGHBOR in all sincerity, with all devotion. When the life is lived without fear there are no limitations to loving. One is free to love fully and without obstacle. MANY WILL BE BROUGHT TO THE FATHER VIA THE FIRE.

No amount of power brings happiness. Eventually the body is even overcome by this quest for power and control.

If you are all the time thinking, "How can I help? How can I serve?", then the question does not arise of not being good enough. If you can look back and see ways you have been of service, then you will have no cause for blame, self condemnation and regret.

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FIVEFOLD PATH for Happy Living

1. Perform **AGNIHOTRA** for purification of the atmosphere which leads to automatic purification of mind.

2. Practice **DAAN** (sharing of assets in a spirit of humility to reduce attachment to worldly possessions).

3. Practice **TAPA** (becoming better managers of our energy expenditure by training the body and mind to react to all circumstances in life with Total Love).

4. Perform **KARMA** (every action for self purification only and thus no expectations which bind us to the material world).

5. Practice **SWADHYAYA** (Self-study) for liberation. Who am I? Why am I here? My work on this planet is to learn to react with total LOVE with each opportunity given to me.

This is the Fivefold Path for happy living on the planet. By practicing the Fivefold Path you become better members of your society, group, religion, community, etc.