



Earth Day Celebration at Bhругu Aranya

Perform Agnihotra



Heal The Atmosphere

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Two Remembrances

Ed.

For many practitioners of Agnihotra and Fivefold Path, May is a time for two very special remembrances.

May 17th marks the birthday of PARAMA SADGURU SHREE GAJANAN MAHARAJ (1918-1987) of Akalkot, India, who resuscitated the ancient knowledge of Agnihotra and the Fivefold Path for modern times.

From *I Wish I Had Known*, by Fran Rosen-Sawyer (now Parvati Rosen-Bizberg):

Shree is KALKI AVATAR. The word AVATAR means the descent of Divine Power on earth to fulfill an allotted task from Almighty Father. KALKA means pollution; hence, KALKI AVATAR means Divine Messenger for the destruction of pollution.

SADGURU means PERFECT MASTER. PARAMA SADGURU means highest among the PERFECT MASTERS. Shree's lineage reflects a glorious spiritual heritage. His mother Sonamata was a great YOGINI. (YOGINI is the feminine term for YOGI.) Shree's father Shivananda Swami was a renowned NADA BRAHMA YOGI...Shree's grandfather Tatyaji Maharaj was a saint who possessed great intuitive knowledge of medicine and astrology...

On Christmas day, December 25th, 1941 Shree's allotted task was revealed by the Will of Al-

mighty Father...Shree was further informed that the time for unfolding was yet to be... In 1944 Shree vowed, "I will resuscitate the Vedas."

Parama Sadguru once said:

"Whatever Almighty has willed to be done through our instrument shall be done. Our whole life is totally dedicated to Him. He who revealed to us our allotted task shall grant us the necessary strength to fulfill it.

"It is not for us to advise people to follow any particular individual.

"If it is the will of the Almighty to convey to the world any message through us He will do so. We are merely his slaves.

"We are not votaries of any religious denomination. Whether it is the Bible or the Koran or the doctrines of Hindus we will convey the message with equal yearning.

"We have asked people not to call us GURU. Many have imposed Guruhood on us. Many have experienced superhuman powers with us. Many have witnessed miracles. We are mere witness of, not the doers of these things.

"We surrendered totally to the Almighty and He started utilizing our body as His instrument. Each one has to tread his path of Self-realization.

May 13th marks the birthday of Shree Vasant V. Paranjpe, who left the body on December 30, 2008, at Maheshwar, India.

Words could never convey the impact of His life on countless people around the world to whom He carried the message of Agnihotra and Fivefold Path. In His mission, He circled the globe year after year, serving with unwavering devotion, utmost humility, astonishing energy and boundless love. He was instrumental in transforming the lives of people from all walks of life.

He so scrupulously avoided personal attention throughout His life of service, and never sought to collect followers. (For years, He declined to have His photo in this newsletter, which He Himself founded.) Humbly he guided people to focus on the message of Yajnya, Daan, Tapa, Karma, Swadhyaya--not the messenger.

Following are some highlights from Shree Vasant's life of service:

In 1970, Parama Sadguru Shree Gajanan Maharaj of Akalkot, India, who resuscitated Agnihotra and the Fivefold Path of Vedas in modern times, commanded Shree Vasant:

“Our words which lead to BLISS, convey them to all the people.”

Thus began Shree Vasant's thirty-eight years of travel and teaching, of Grace and total surrender to the Divine.

In 1972 He began teaching in the U.S. In 1973 He became the founder president of Fivefold Path, Inc., a nonprofit organization established in Madison, Virginia. In that same year, Shree Gajanan Maharaj commanded Shree Vasant to start this *Satsang* newsletter.

On September 22, 1973, Shree Vasant inaugurated the Parama Dham Fire Temple in Madison, Virginia, the first Fire Temple in the world established under Shree Gajanan Maharaj's dispensation of ancient science of atmospheric purification for the New Age.

In 1974 Shree Vasant carried the message to Europe. Over the years, His mission also took Him to South America, Australia, Africa and Asia. He was instrumental in bringing Agnihotra and Fivefold Path to thousands of people all over the planet.

In today's world He pioneered the use of Homa Therapy in agriculture, psychotherapy, alternative medicine, self-development and healing the environment. Under His guidance, Homa farms and centers such as Bhругu Aranya in Poland, Om Shree Dham farm in Australia, and Tapovan in India, came forth.

He is the author of *Grace Alone, Light Towards Divine Path, Ten Commandments of Parama Sadguru* and *Homa Therapy, Our Last Chance*.

Glimpses of His life can be found in *Messenger of the Sacred Fire, the Extraordinary Life and Works of Shree Vasant Paranjpe* by Parvati Rosen-Bizberg. In it, a number of people from various countries have shared their experiences with Shree Vasant and the spread of Agnihotra around the planet. But perhaps the greater story of His life is just beginning to unfold, as the seeds He planted in the hearts of people the world over continue to grow.

Information on further unfoldment from around the world can be found on the following websites:

<http://www.homatherapy.org>

<http://www.agnihotra.org>

<http://www.homa1.com>

<http://www.agnihotra.org>

<http://www.agnihotra.com.au>

<http://www.homatherapyoland.org>

<http://www.fivefoldpathmission.org>

<http://www.homatherapie.de>

<http://www.rippistal.ch>

To the readers who may not have met Shree Gajanan Maharaj or Shree Vasant while They were in the mortal frame, please remember that They never sought to collect disciples,

though some were brought close to Them by their Karma. I invite you to bring peace, bliss and prosperity into your lives through practice of Agnihotra and the Fivefold Path. Fivefold Path teachings offer a wealth of guidance on virtually every aspect of everyday life, to truly “Love thy neighbor as thyself”.

To the readers who were fortunate enough to meet Shree Gajanan Maharaj and/or Shree Vasant on the mortal plane, let us reflect upon the glorious examples of truth, purity, discipline, humility, unconditional Divine Love, and total surrender to the Divine we have been shown. In gratitude, may we follow the Fivefold Path with greater intensity. TOTAL LOVE is the goal; let’s achieve it.

Commandment Nine: Swadhyaya (Self study)

from **Ten Commandments of Parama Sadguru**
Commentary by Vasant Paranjpe

Pawaka Nah Saraswati -RigVeda 1-3-10

Purport: You will achieve purification through the study of Holy Science given through Vedas and others.

Commentary:

Swa is Self; Adhyaya is study. Swadhyaya is Self study. You say, "My leg is hurt; my finger is cut." This clearly implies that you are not the leg; you are not the finger. Continuing the search further you will notice that you are not the body. Who is this "I" which says, "my leg, my finger"? Who am I? Search him. This is Swadhyaya.

Someone hurled abuses at you. Someone played a dirty trick on you. Someone picked up the prize you aimed at getting. Someone stole a march over you. How are you going to react? Is it anger, hatred, envy, jealousy, greed? Or is it love, forgiveness, kindness? Intensify the search. Follow the Fivefold Path. Then you will establish yourself in the attitude of doing actions in unison with the Spirit that resides within. This is Yoga. This is Swadhyaya.

You cannot remain without action even for a moment. The action may be physical or mental. The law of Karma states, "Reap as you sow". With every action you forge a fetter around you. The chain may be golden

or iron but it is a chain. This ties you down to the cycle of birth and death. By non-attachment to the fruit of your action, you can transcend this law and cleave through the mountain load of past Karma. This is liberation. This is Swadhyaya.

The all-pervading Spirit could be cognized only through TAPA (self-discipline, austerity, purification). Tapa is the third aspect of the Fivefold Path. When the desires dry up, soul vision dawns.

"When you wish to hear, IT assumes the function of the ear; when you wish to see, IT assumes the function of the eye."

TAPA intensifies your conductance for the voltage of Grace to manifest.

"The Spirit, the size of a thumb, resides in the hearts of men. He is deathless. Even as you take out the blades of a reed separate Him from the bodily sheath." -Kathopanishad 6-17

The Supreme Spirit is designated in the Vedas as THAT. Words cannot limit IT and hence IT could only be described as "not this, not this". THAT is perceived when the mind conditioning is blasted. THAT is perceived when the trinity of knower, knowledge and known is no more.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." -Matthew 5:8

"No man hath seen God at any time." -John 1:18

These apparently contradictory statements are really not so. They connote the same thing. How? Study of Vedas will illumine us on the subject. This is Swadhyaya. Vedas are the first revelation given at the time of creation. All the Divine Messengers that came later reiterated the same message in the language suited to the conditions in which they graced our planet by their manifestation. Vedas were revealed in Sanskrit. Sanskrit was nobody's mother tongue at any time. All the languages of the world contain words that could be traced to Sanskrit. Sanskrit contains no words from any other language. European scholars call Sanskrit the mother of European languages. The word Vedas comes from the Sanskrit root VID, to know. Hence, Vedas means knowledge. Vedas contain knowledge from amoeba to Almighty. But again, even if you know all the Vedas it is not enough. That which is to be achieved is beyond Vedas, beyond all scriptures, beyond words. Vedas serve as the total guide.

"Intellect is beyond the senses or the mind but THAT is beyond intellect." -Bhagavat Geeta 3-42

"Self realization is established neither through intellect nor through sermons or discourses."-Mundakopanishad 4-3

Mundakopanishad states that Vedas are high knowledge but again it is lower knowledge. For higher knowledge you have to go to a qualified GURU who is not only versed in Vedas but has experienced the state of eternal bliss. This is Swadhyaya.

We may intellectually understand by reading all the scriptures that Almighty power is ever present but our intellect will never be able to lay its grasp on it. These are the intrinsic limitations of the intellect. This is Swadhyaya. This is Grace.

A mere intellectual may be able to dish out discourses on Almighty, soul and Karma while his own life may be a negation of his proclaimed principles. A saintly person, a man of wisdom, lives his life according to his tenets knowing fully well that bad Karma will bring forth evil results. He therefore avoids evil Karma as anyone would avoid poison. To know the difference is Swadhyaya.

A study of problems involved in the adherence to Yoga way of life, the solutions offered by Vedas and all Divine Messengers like Krishna, Jesus, Buddha, Muhammad, Moses and others is Swadhyaya. Swadhyaya unlocks

the door to the treasure of higher knowledge that is within us. Tapa and Swadhyaya give us the ability to draw on this source of knowledge whenever we wish. Then, we begin to do the right thing automatically. This step enables us to notice the subtle effects of our actions.

"The Truth shall make you free." -John 8:32

Through freedom you achieve tranquility, happiness and realize the Supreme Self. Swadhyaya is the intellectual understanding of the Truth that makes us free. The Truth is GRACE ALONE. Tapa prepares us for the unfoldment of Grace within us. This is the "Kingdom of Heaven within you"

"In the beginning was the Word." -John 1:1

Vedas call it SHABDA in Sanskrit. It is sometimes described as NADA. How could this vast universe with tangible objects be based on an integrated vibration? Discoveries in pure physics are a pointer in this direction. Can we establish communion with this WORD? Vedic discipline explains all this. This is Swadhyaya. The unstruck music of the universe could be heard with unfoldment of Grace. This helps your concentration. OM, the initial vibration, is meditated upon. The word OM does not belong to any language, not even Sanskrit.

"Before Abraham was I AM."-John 8:58

What does this mean? The words Abraham, Ebrahim and BRAHMA come from the same Sanskrit root BRIH meaning to expand. This leads us to the Divine principle that pervades all creation. This is Swadhyaya.

"Be thou perfect as thy Father in Heaven is perfect." (Matthew 5:48)

This is the ideal to be realized. Fivefold Path is the means. What is perfection? How do I cognize that I am perfect and made "in the image of my Father"? This is Swadhyaya.

Unwittingly, we have handed ourselves over on a silver platter of technology into the jaws of death. Begin AGNIHOTRA, the first aspect of the Fivefold Path. This is the Divine blueprint for human survival given through Vedas. YAJNYA is purification through the agency of fire. AGNIHOTRA is the smallest form of YAJNYA. Practice of this purification will culminate in surrender to His will. All your load of anxiety and tension is reduced. A new substance is formed in the atmosphere which undoes pollution, cleanses the water resources on earth and nourishes plant life. With added doses of pollution we are adding to tension on the mind. We are in the grip of deadly bacteria on land, air and water. Agnihotra is an antidote to all this and it puts

us harmoniously into the energy cycle of the universe. All this is stated in the Vedas. Atmospheric purification leads to pranic purification and thus to mind purification. This is Swadhyaya.

What is Karma (action), what is Akarma (evil action), what is Vikarma (specific allotted task of a person)? Swadhyaya throws light on all this.

What is bliss? A child is engrossed in playing with his toys and is happy. An adolescent is happy but the toy changes. The mind gets attached to a thing and a person becomes happy. The consequences of this attachment push us into the unending dualities of pleasure and pain. Why not train the mind to get attached to something which will deliver us from this duality? What is the best method for this? This is Swadhyaya. Sugar is sweet. But what is "sweet"? You will not know until the tastebuds come into contact with the object. What is bliss? You will not know until you meet a genuine Master. He grants you the state of soul vision and this is bliss.

What is destiny? What is free will? Destiny is a cheque drawn on the bank of accumulated Karma. By exerting free will you can override the pangs of destiny. Free will is the biggest boon granted to humankind. By judicious use of free will you can get over the cycle of birth

and death. Maybe you do not swear by rebirth. It does not matter. By proper use of free will you will get rid of the cycle of a few pleasurable sensations followed by many moments of unpleasurable ones. This is Swadhyaya.

Learn to control PRANA (Life Force). PRANA conquered is mind conquered. This is Swadhyaya.

Buddha said in his last days to Ananda, "Be ye lamp unto yourself. Be ye refuge unto yourself. Hold fast to Dharma as a lamp". Buddha stated at Benaras, "He who strives after holiness must avoid the two extremes. Which two? A life addicted to pleasure for it is enervating, worthless, and mean. Also the life given to self mortification, for it is painful, vain and profitless..."

"By avoiding both these extremes has the THATAGATA arrived at the Middle Path." Pondering over this is Swadhyaya.

"It is the promise of God
But most men understand not
They know but the outer (things)
In the life of this world.
But of the End of things
They are heedless." -Quran XXX-6, 7
Pondering over this is Swadhyaya.

Occult sciences bring home the fact that there are subtler regions beyond the electron microscope, telescope or the scalpel of the surgeon. It is merely probing into another subtler world with which the average person is not familiar. Spiritual seances deal with departed people and disembodied spirits. This is not the Holy science of the soul. Spirituality is beyond this. This is Swadhyaya.

Jesus said, "Love thy neighbor as thyself."
--Matthew 22:39

Only in the company of holy persons do we realize the main significance of this sentence. We blurt out equality, liberty, fraternity. Sermons are poured out en masse on this subject. Reflect deeply and you will realize that all this is skin deep. We have to grasp that the same Spirit pervades all and further that we have the freedom to be free. Then alone will we be able to implement, "Love thy neighbor". Again, we should not forget the latter half of the command which says, "as thyself". To perceive a subject correctly the intellectual faculty has to be unclouded. Non-attachment, practice of Tapa, brings this about. This is Swadhyaya.

We go through vicissitudes of life as the pattern of destiny fructifies in time. We may have to witness the marriage of a dear one one day and his funeral some other day. It is

not given unto you what to see. However, it is given unto you how to see by proper use of free will. This is Swadhyaya.

After what you have read above, you may think Swadhyaya is a very difficult thing and maybe it is only for the intellectuals. If you do think thus you are not thinking in the right direction. You start practicing Agnihotra, Tapa and the other aspects of the Fivefold Path and automatically the clouding of the intellect will disappear and you will be enabled to perceive things the right way. This is unfoldment of GRACE. In due course your intellect and your volition will be given proper bent and you will be thrown into the company of holy persons. Circumstances shall be so arranged that you will be given a link with a liberated soul, Master. If you choose to exert your free will and be devoted to him your progress will be quick. If the Master is an AVATAR mere concentration on his physical form brings back gift waves to you. Our purification is thus aided.

If you talk to your auto for three hours and tell it, "Listen, do not leave the highway and dash against a tree," it is of no use. If the steering wheel is turned it is bound to leave the highway and dash against a tree. Even so is our mind. It works in grooves of habits and conditioning. A thrust in some other direction is required. Devotion to the Master gives this

thrust and our journey is made easy.

Almighty is the Guru of all Gurus. It is the Divine plan that the chain of Sadgurus continues. Every Master has an allotted period to do his work. When the period is over he departs from this world. It is important to respect this Guru tradition. Even the great AVATARS respect it. John the Baptist said,

"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance; but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear; he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with FIRE."-- Matthew 3:11

"Then cometh Jesus unto John to be baptized of him. But John forbade him saying, 'I have need to be baptized of thee and comest thou to me?' "--Matthew 3:13, 14

"And Jesus answering, said unto him, 'Suffer it to be so now; for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness.'"--Matthew 3:15

"And Jesus, when he was baptized went up straightaway out of the water; and lo, the heavens were opened unto him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting upon him."--Matthew 3:16

Like all Avatars, Jesus respected the Guru tradition and was baptized by John. The

words of John, "whose shoes I am not worthy to bear," represent the ancient Eastern tradition which Jesus fulfilled.

It is not given unto you what so see; however, it is given unto you how to see. This is Swadhyaya.

Without a living Master we can progress thus far but not further. By loving thy neighbor the Master will pick you up. This is Divine will. Swadhyaya knows no vacation. Purify yourself and be at your Swadhyaya all the time until Reality dawns. "THAT, knowing which everything is known" is Swadhyaya.

Earth Day Celebration at Bhругu Aranya

*Parvati Rosen-Bizberg
Wysoka, Poland*

April 22, 2010

To celebrate the worldwide 40th anniversary of Earth Day, our Bhругu Aranya community planned a celebration that included tree planting, Yajnya, a mini workshop on Homa herbs and teas, a showing of the straw bale house, a potluck vegetarian dinner, followed by Agnihotra and crystal singing bowl with toning. We sent out emails and letters to everyone in our network, knowing that Thursday was not the best day for working people, and many live at a distance from our farm centre. Still, we wanted to connect with the energy of Earth Day being celebrated around the world, which also coincided with the global Mega Yajnya also scheduled for four hours during the day.

About thirty people attended. We had purchased flowers, trees for the border of our farm and flowering plum trees for the event. Fortunately we had dug the holes ahead of time, as that morning we awoke to a thin layer of snow covering the ground! Fortunately by 12 noon, as the people arrived, the snow had melted. The day was rather crisp and cold, but moods were high and everyone was enthusiastic. Fifteen trees and a multitude of flowers were planted with Agnihotra ash, and Yajnya accompanying.

The group who attended brought a huge variety of vegetarian dishes for what turned

out to be a lovely potluck dinner. We had everything from home-baked breads to tasty salads, main dishes Polish style and Homa apple cake. Everything went well, even though our original plans for outdoor dining were scrapped and we all gathered in the loft living room upstairs in our home.



After dinner, another group, young people from Wadowice, showed up just in time to join in a visit to the Mahers' newly built and still-in-construction-but-lived-in straw bale house. Everyone was interested in that, since straw bale building is quite new in Poland and in our region of Malpolska, it may very well be the first one. Rory and Asia conducted a mini workshop on growing and drying Homa Herbs, highlighting their medici-

nal as well as culinary uses. Everyone enjoyed a variety of their amazingly healing Homa Herb teas.

We all gathered together upstairs for Agnihotra at sunset. The high energy of the fire was palpable, calming and invigorating at the same time. Following Agnihotra, I played the crystal singing bowls, inviting the group to tone with me. I didn't do much explaining, but they just began toning beautifully! It was kind of an organic happening! Another example of the powerful energy produced by Fire and Sound.



Part of the group left for home, while eight people from Jastrzebia Zdroj remained, staying overnight in our log guest cabin and guest caravan. Before they left the next day,

we had an impromptu 'Satsang.' It was very interesting, as they gave us a slice of life in an alternative-minded Polish person's life. Certainly, there are the obstacles of family resistance, since this is culturally a rather conservative country, but these people have such a strong spirit. We talked about believing in one's self, no matter what the obstacles, be they historical or familial, clerical or economic. It was a rousing discussion, in which I took part, a rare moment for me, as I usually remain quiet and in the background, perhaps due to language difference or cultural distance. This was a real open forum and very exciting.

Everyone left with a smile on their face. Many commented on how wonderful the energy was here. We explained that it was due to the fires we perform regularly--sunrise, sunset, four hours Yajnya daily, 24-hour Yajnya on full and new moon. We felt as if we really developed a nice connection with the three groups who attended, like an extension of our global family once again.

Let's make every day Earth Day. Our planet needs our attention. Keep those Homa fires burning and the lights in our hearts aglow. Bhrgu Aranya Homa Organic Farm and Healing Centre is the base for our growing eco community in the Tatra mountain region of Southern Poland. At present we are ten

Opportunity at a Goshala and Sustainable Farm

*Linda Voith
New York*

adults, four young children, three cows, two dogs, two turtles, and a lot of cats.

Bhrugu Aranya is considered to be one of three Points of Light, the other two being Maheshwar, India and Elqui Valley, Chile.

We welcome visitors. We are also open for volunteers who wish to learn Homa Organic Farming and participate in life and work in a Homa farm community.

www.homatherapypoland.org

Volunteers and visitors are welcome at our goshala (cow sanctuary) and sustainable farm in southwestern New York state. Activities at the farm include:

- Morning and evening Agnihotra ceremonies.
- Hand milking two protected Jersey cows.
- Feeding and cleaning stalls for 7 cows and 6 goats.



- Learning compassionate animal training and healing modalities.
- Making milk products, such as yogurt, butter, cheese and ghee in small batches.

--Installing and maintaining electric fences for paddocks in a pasture rotational grazing system.

--Planning, planting, weeding and harvesting an organic vegetable (and strawberry) garden.

--Baking bread.

--Selling farm products at a farmers market stand.

--Playing with kittens.

--Putting together newsletters, and videos of the animals and farm activities.

Also included are washing dishes, pots and milking equipment, mowing lawns and/or managing the animals who mow our lawns, and greeting guests to our Goshala.

Accommodations are available in a solar guest house (electric use is limited at this time). Expect adventures in learning to live in a house run by an off-grid solar electric system. Vegetarian meals only (no meat, fish or eggs). Family atmosphere. No drugs or alcohol use permitted on the property.



Qualifications:

Common sense, self-determination, love of animals and willingness to be ready to work by 6-7 A.M. are of paramount importance. (There will be lots of free time during the heat of the day). Carpentry skills are a plus, but not necessary. Expect to help with (or live around) some light construction this summer in the solar guest house (i.e. drywall, electric wiring, painting etc.) References required.

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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.