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*Agnihotra Pyramids:
The Scientific Meaning*

Perform Agnihotra



Heal The Atmosphere

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Editor:

Lisa Powers

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Agnihotra Pyramids-- The Scientific Meaning

by Dr. Ulrich Berk,
Bruce Johnson,
and Frits Ringma

There has been some confusion about which pyramids can be used for the Agnihotra process, as there are some pyramids on the market which differ in size, shape and/or material from the Agnihotra pyramids which we have been using for decades now.

As this Agnihotra copper pyramid is an essential element of Agnihotra, this is an important subject. Let us look into it in more detail.

First we have compiled some of the statements from ancient Vedic knowledge about the role of this copper pyramid in the Agnihotra process, as given in the writings of Shree Vasant Paranjpe.

Shree Vasant on Agnihotra pyramids

“A copper pyramid of fixed size is used in the process of Agnihotra healing fire.”--*Homa Therapy, Our Last Chance*, Fivefold Path, Inc., 1989, p.14.

“Copper and gold are the only metals prescribed for the pyramid container used for Agnihotra fire. It is common knowledge of all ancient traditions all over the planet that copper and gold have healing properties. According to science of HOMA Therapy there is only a slight difference between the healing properties of gold and copper when used as pyramid containers for preparing Agnihotra fire.” Ibid., 13.

“There is a sound that emanates from the Agnihotra pyramid....

“Much energy, much positive energy, much healing energy emanates from the Agnihotra pyramid....

“In addition to other effects, at certain intervals bursts of energy emanate from the Agnihotra copper pyramid, depending on the phase of the moon and the position of the Earth in relation to the sun. These bursts of energy thrust nutrients and fragrance through the solar range, having a profound impact on the mind.

“Tremendous amounts of energy are gathered around the Agnihotra copper pyramid just at Agnihotra time. A magnetic-type field is created, one which neutralizes negative types of energy and reinforces positive types of energy. Therefore a positive pattern is created by one who does Agnihotra merely by his/her performance.” Ibid., 19-20.

“The pyramid is the generator, the fire, the turbine.”--*Agnihotra flier*, Fivefold Path, Inc.

“The energies spiral in a counter clockwise fashion when coming from the Agnihotra pyramid because a tremendous amount of impact and acceleration of those energies is generated that way. Also as the energies move in an upward direction, they are simul-

taneously moving outward from the copper pyramid in all directions, thereby spreading the effects of Agnihotra to a wider area. There is, though, a concentration of those energies thrust to the North. The word 'thrust' is important here.:" Ibid., 22.

"The pyramid, that vessel of a particular shape and size is the generator. It guides and directs the energy in a perfect way, in a direction that has a particular configuration which has an effect on what is really man, the soul." Ibid., 19.

"The specific frequencies of the different steps of the pyramid could be measured if a scientist wishes to put his mind into it. The most intensive sound waves have their origins at the four sides of the pyramid, forming a small angle. From inside the pyramid a standing wave of a certain frequency is sent out."--*Homa Therapy, Our Last Chance*, Fivefold Path Publications, 2005, chapter 12, 3rd paragraph.

"Just at morning Agnihotra time all the electricities, energies, ethers are attracted to the pyramid in its shape. At sunset these energies are thrust out in the same shape....

"For Agnihotra you require a copper pyramid of specific size. Copper is a conductor for subtle energies also."--*Agnihotra flier*, Fivefold Path, Inc.

Some of these statements from the ancient Science of Vedas are still difficult to understand in terms of modern science. But what we do understand is that the Agnihotra pyramid is a scientific tool which works on sound (vibration) and resonance.

Important features of this tool which affect production and resonance of sound are size, shape, and material.

Size

For sound, the size of the vibrating parts of an instrument is crucial; e.g. if you change the length of the strings of a guitar by just a few centimeters, the sound generated would be changed.

Similarly with the Agnihotra pyramid, if you change the size, the resulting vibrations would also change and thus affect the healing properties of this Agnihotra fire.

The specific size and shape of our Agnihotra pyramid were not available in the market (although there are pyramids of different sizes and shapes used in other traditional havans in India). Shree Gajanan Maharaj told one disciple to prepare a copper pyramid of this specific size and shape, and all the pyramids which are sold by Certified Homa Therapy Centres use these specifications. It was interesting to hear what one senior scientist from Eastern Europe said when he examined the Agnihotra pyramid the first

time. He was very much astonished and mentioned that only a genius could have designed this Agnihotra pyramid. He found so many mathematically astonishing relations in the pyramid, such as several ratios containing pi, and e (the basis of natural logarithms; next to pi, a fundamentally important mathematical constant).

Shape

“The specific frequencies of the different steps of the pyramid could be measured if a scientist wishes to put his mind into it. The most intensive sound waves have their origins at the four sides of the pyramid, forming a small angle. From inside the pyramid a standing wave of a certain frequency is sent out.”

From this description it is clear that changing the shape (the angles of the sides, the proportions of the three steps, the edge) would change the way sound is emitted from the steps of the different sides. Also this standing wave could be affected.

One Eastern European physicist mentioned that if you keep the Agnihotra pyramid at a certain height there would be a sound sent to all of your seven chakras: from the bottom of the pyramid your heart chakra would be reached, from the three steps of the side next to you your three lower chakras, and from the opposite side of the pyramid the three upper chakras.

Many years ago someone in Poland had the idea to put a raised dot on one side of the pyramid, which makes it easier to always keep the pyramid facing the same direction (which we now need for installing resonance systems). Only after we showed this pyramid to Shree Gajanan Maharaj (who at that time still was in the physical body) and got His approval, we continued with the production.

Recently some pyramids came on the market with embossed letters on the edge (rim). This will definitely interfere with the functioning of the Agnihotra pyramid as a scientific tool. These pyramids cannot be used for Agnihotra.

Samples of pyramids which **cannot be used for Agnihotra:**



Not suitable for Agnihotra: The sides of the pyramid are punctured to add handles, thus damaging the pyramid shape.



Not suitable for Agnihotra: Words are embossed on the edge (left side)

Material: Copper

“Copper and gold are the only metals prescribed for the pyramid container used for Agnihotra fire. It is common knowledge of all ancient traditions all over the planet that copper and gold have healing properties. According to science of HOMA Therapy there is only a slight difference between the healing properties of gold and copper when used as pyramid containers for preparing Agnihotra fire.”--*Homa Therapy, Our Last Chance*, Five-fold Path, Inc., 1989, p.13.

One physicist stated that the crystal structure of copper is in the shape of a pyramid; therefore, we have a special resonance which will be disturbed if copper is adulterated. Thus, it is important that only pure copper is used for the production of copper pyramids. Best is electrolytic quality virgin copper made from copper ore, not from recycled material. Recycled copper may contain traces of all

kinds of other materials and of course the vibrations of the previous usage.

As prices of copper have more than tripled in the last eight years it is tempting for producers who see the production of pyramids just as business to add some cheaper metals to copper in order to increase profits. This is not so easy to see, but these other metals interfere with the vibrational effects of copper.

Do not bang or scrape the pyramid, as it will interfere with the crystalline structure of the copper, thereby disrupting the Agnihotra process.

But even if you take proper care it happens that after years of performing Agnihotra pyramids show some signs of long usage. The main thing is that the shape has to be correct.

Sometimes it happens that some cracks or holes develop at the sides of Agnihotra pyramids.

These pyramids cannot be used for Homa fires any more. But instead of throwing them away one could use them as pots for plants or bury them in the garden, as they still contain the vibration of all the Homas performed in them.

Sometimes the shape of the pyramid changes; e.g. the edges or sides are no longer flat but become undulated.

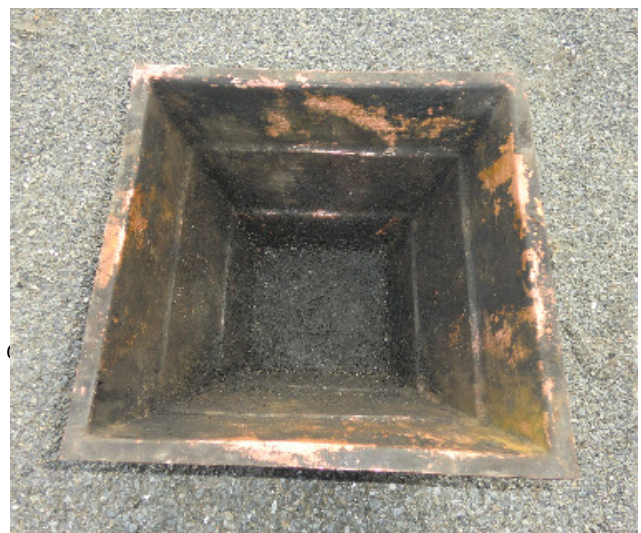


Above and below: Warped pyramids that need re-pressing. Below right, a repaired pyramid.

Similarly, when an Agnihotra pyramid falls on the ground and a corner is bent, you can either use the same method, or you can put the edge with the bent corner on some hard wood and then exert some pressure so that it will be even again. The main thing is that when you look along the top edge and along the sides, they must be straight. Also when looking from above into the pyramid, all sides should be square to each other (90 degrees).



As the shape of our Agnihotra pyramid is essential, these pyramids also should not be used any longer, but in this case you can repair the damage. One way is to send it back to the producer who can easily press it back to shape again. Or, if you have access to a stack of twenty new Agnihotra pyramids, you can put the damaged pyramid in the middle (ten below, ten above) and then put pressure from above. (See top right photo.) This will help to get the used pyramid in shape again.



Agnihotra Timings App for iphones

Ed.

How to be sure?

How to be sure that a pyramid you buy is of correct size, shape, and material for Agnihotra?

The best way is to buy only from Homa centres run by certified Homa Therapy teachers.

There, the main focus is to teach Homa Therapy in its pure form and support others to practise it. No compromise in quality of the materials will be made there, as Homa Therapy is the first priority, not profit.

A list of such centres can be found at www.agnihotra.org and www.homatherapy.org.

Also, you can recognize these centres by the official Homa Therapy logo. It is a registered trademark which, by law, can only be used by official Homa Therapy centers.



Great news! If you have an iphone, you can now get correct sunrise/sunset timings for your specific location from a low-cost app called iagnihotra, from The Vedic Society. Our family tried this app and found it to be accurate.

Simply go to the app store on your iphone and type in iagnihotra. As of this writing, the cost is \$1.99. You will need an itunes account to pay; then the app can be downloaded to your phone.

You can type in your city and state, or you can use the GPS feature on your phone to get exact coordinates for the phone's location.

The app includes some helpful features. It can show a month's worth of Agnihotra timings for a specific location. Daylight Savings Time can be taken into account. It can give a countdown until the next Agnihotra, and can give an alarm fifteen minutes before the next Agnihotra time.

An option to play the Agnihotra mantras at sunrise or sunset is also offered. **Please note, however, that the human voice is an essential part of correct performance of Agnihotra; the performer must chant the mantras, and not use the recording from the app as a substitute.**

This product can be a real boon to travelers, especially when exact locations are uncertain. No need to bring a stack of time sheets for different places!

HOOOFING!

by Taylor Logsdon

What is HHOOF? HHOOF is an acronym for Homa Helpers On Organic Farms. This is a spin-off of Willing Workers On Organic Farms, an organization that links volunteers to organic farm hosts. Volunteers work in exchange for room and board and the opportunity to experience farm life. A Homa farm is a very specific type of farm that incorporates Vedic healing fires, vegetarian diet and ahimsa (non-violence) practices that create a unique experience for the volunteer. They blend the physical, social and spiritual worlds into one interconnected happening.



Healthy harvest at Bhrugu Aranya, Poland--all-organic, from honey and veggies to home-grown kids! Back, from left: Daniel Maher, Leela Sawyer, Alana Maher. Front: Kabir Sawyer.



From left: Pedro, Cristina, Taylor and Ricardo at Bhargava Dham in Elqui Valley, Chile

I first came to know about Homa farms a year after finishing high school while backpacking in Australia. I wanted to be away from the cities and close to nature and through WWOOF was given a listing of farms and rural properties across the country that I could visit. I read about a place where Vedic fires were being performed to heal the land

and purify the atmosphere. I was intrigued and curious so I called the number listed and arranged to come for a one-week stay.

This is how I came to Om Shree Dham, a Homa farm of many years, nestled in the beautiful Hunter Valley of New South Wales. When I arrived I was thrilled by the beauty and peace of the place. I was happy to meet and make friends with the welcoming host family, Lee and Frits Ringma and their children. My intended stay of one week turned into three, and after a few comings and goings and a trip back to Canada I returned to spend nearly a year on this Homa farm Down Under.

More than four years later I have visited and lived on Homa farms and centers around the world. In India, Europe, United States and South America I have sought these places out and now would like to share some of my

experiences with you, the reader, to give an idea of what is possible through Homa travel.

I have been a lover of nature and the outdoors all of my life, and fond memories of childhood summers spent on my uncle's farm in northern Ontario left me with a desire to learn how to live a life close to the land. I have learned many of the things I needed to through HHOOFFing: farming, gardening, caring for and milking cows, pruning of fruit trees, growing and wild-crafting medicinal herbs, property maintenance, carpentry, vegetarian cooking--I have learned all of these during my stays.



Agni Shala at Bhargava Dham in Elqui Valley, Chile

Although these are all valuable and worthwhile skills and reason enough to spend time as a HHOOFFer, they are not what continues to bring me to Homa farms. It is the atmosphere that draws me--a peace I feel as soon as I step onto the land, something that resonates and speaks to the depths of my being and makes me feel at home.

This I attribute to the Vedic healing fires performed daily at Homa farms. They are the purpose, foundation and reason these places exist. Proper timings, Sanskrit pronunciation, the ingredients and performance of the fires, Agnihotra being the first and most important fire, can be learned at any of the centres from qualified, long-time practitioners of this ancient healing science. A Homa farm is the perfect setting in which to learn Agnihotra, as the atmosphere is already permeated by the effects of fires done over years in one place. This creates a deeper and more powerful experience of the fires. To stay at a centre can be a transformative experience. The fires provide us an atmosphere that nourishes and encourages self-development.



Sunday Satsang at Bhrgu Aranya, Poland

Nature seems to live in all her vibrancy in Homa atmosphere. At every Homa farm I have visited I have found the same to be true. I love to spend moments listening to the wind through the tree-tops, to the calls and songs of the birds, the hum of insects and all the workings of the natural world. In my

spare time I swim in the cool and clear rivers of Chile or the sacred Naramada River of India, walk through the rolling hills of fields and forests of Poland and Switzerland, and hike through the Australian bush. It seems these farms are always in places full of nature's beauty and wonder.

It is no wonder the people who would choose to live in such a place would reflect its qualities within themselves. In the way I find myself resonating with the land, I also find I resonate with the people of the land. Around the world there is a unique and diverse blend of people doing fires in all continents—different in culture, race and language, alike in the things of the heart. My closest friends I have met on Homa farms. For the volunteer staying with a family or a larger community, such as the one at Bhruhu Aranya Eco-Village in Poland, a lot can be learned about working and living together. Cooperation, communication, service, respect and kindness—all these develop if only the desire to help is within the volunteer. We learn ways to work together and support each other, to give and to serve.

I have found the creative arts to be effective aids in community living, and they can be found at most Homa places. Music, art, dance—all these things help to uplift us and bring us closer to each other. Bring an instrument and don't be shy!

A volunteer will have his or her ups and downs during a stay. That is natural. And it is natural that you will relate more to certain people than to others. Difficulties and differences may come up at some point. Reach out and open up to others and work through the



The author and Sona the cow at Om Shree Dham, Australia

challenges you meet. These help us in our self-development and are good reminders of what we need to work on.

I think HHOOFFing is a learning experience in the broadest sense. We learn skills that we need to live close to the land, we learn about ourselves and about others, we gain new impressions. I feel that the most important lessons I have gained during my trips can't be put into words. They are lessons that live in my inner world, lessons of peace and joy, of growth and harmony. I write this article in gratitude and I hope it inspires others to go out and experience this alternative way of life, a way different than that which our societies have chosen for us--ways that are holistic and sustainable, that will move us forward into a future with hope. I believe this is what Homa farms have to offer us.

(Taylor also has a HHOOFFing blog: hhooftheworld.wordpress.com.--Ed.)

Healing with Homa Therapy

Excerpts from conversations with some of the patients in the Homa program at Fenix-Foundation for Drug Rehabilitation in Armenia, Quindio, Colombia, South America:



Santiago

After 4 weeks with the Homa program:

I am 24 years old. I was a consumer of drugs (natural, synthetic, hallucinogenic, etc.) for 10 years. I took very strong drugs like heroin,

which was my drug of impact. It was the drug that brought me here. I also did cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, cocaine in various forms, coca base, amphetamines, pills, acid, glue, etc. At first it was very difficult to be here, for the stress you feel in your body due to lack of drugs. I had tachycardia, (high heart rate), bone pain, back pain, cold sweats, high blood pressure and anxiety. It was a disease of the body. The body was shaking, asking for drugs. It was like this for about 3 weeks. I could not sleep, nor close my eyes, because of the bad memories.

Now, with Homa Therapy, I sleep well, do not sweat in quantity and do not have the desire to consume. I do not need to consume. I noticed that I have more understanding and less aggression. I think before I act. I used to be anti-social and now I can easily relate to everyone. If someone who knew me before could see me now, he/she would not recognize me.

The drugs had stolen my will and even though I also wanted to do many things before, I always ended up immersed in the world of drugs. That was why I came here. I realized that even if I could make a lot of money on the street, I was getting wasted. The drugs were making me crazy, eliminating my reasoning and will. They were taking me into many bad things.

Although it is very difficult for me to believe I'm changing, the reality is that I'm changing my thinking, speaking, attitude, my way of dressing, etc. I'm changing even the way I breathe. I noticed that my will is much stronger, because I could go out for a few days and I remained clean. I still feel like I have to improve more. For me Homa is a way of life that guides you, as long as you keep the discipline.



Leonardo:
I am 30 years old. After one month of participating in the Homa fires 6 times a day and taking Agnihotra ash after each session, and in addition taking Agnihotra ash water at any time, I noticed that I have more peace, more knowledge, more reasoning, etc.

My impulsiveness has diminished considerably. This week I had to go to a doctor's appointment so the doctor could remove the cast. For that I had to go home, because my parents are the ones who bring me to the doctor. And something interesting happened: I like a certain type of music and I would not allow anyone to change that. But at home, I realized that my mother had discarded all the music; she had deleted everything on my USB memories.

I do not deny that I was a little bit upset, but I controlled it. I did talk to her and nothing happened. I remained calm. My mom noticed a lot of change in my attitude. I've been very quiet and I am very willing to continue the Homa program.

Before, I was very restless and unstable. I could be anywhere and get bored quickly and leave. Anything disturbed me. Now things are different. Although I have my lows, I can transcend them and I no longer have the desire to run away and leave the program. I am very committed to the recovery process; it is something that keeps me focused and ties me down. It's the tranquility and the love that binds us; here we have our family. I feel at home and if one of my friends seems to fall into depression, I say, "Stay here and invest more time into your life." I think three months with the Homa program is nothing

From Shree Vasant's Teachings

compared to the fifteen years I wasted on drugs.

Homa Therapy is very helpful for the mind; it opens the mind, it brings more oxygen, more light and helps to solve problems.

I was very vulgar, very rude in speech, but taking the Agnihotra ash took away my vulgarity. Now I express myself more beautifully. My language is decent and the same is happening with my dad. He is one who did not believe in the tale of Homa Therapy. But I have been giving him Agnihotra ash when he comes to visit every eight days. He used to say many bad words to my mom, but now says, "My love here," "Good afternoon," etc. In addition, he was sour, mostly in a bad mood and grim. He has changed a lot and that makes me very happy.

Now he laughs with my mother and me. Homa spreads much joy and that makes you better.

On Food Storage and Stockpiling September 21, 2005

You should order grains for six months period. Buy paper supplies for six months period. Get into the habit of stocking food items and necessity items six months ahead. After six months you can use those supplies if necessary and replenish the supply. That way, grains are never out of date. Matches you should have. Then, water, if water is not naturally available. If pump runs on electric power, how to have backup supply of water at least? Or alternative electric power. This you have time for, but it has to be a goal and not a long-term goal.

Then, put away as much food from the garden as possible for six months period--any fresh food that stores well if you do not have [it] in the garden. Buy sacks of potatoes, for example, to store in a dry basement or cellar.

On Teaching Agnihotra

When you show someone Agnihotra, whether they are going to practice it regularly or once in a while is not your concern. All you can do is plant the seed. The outcome is not your work. You can encourage regular practice of the fire by extolling the benefits you have received, but further you cannot do much.

Now many people who formerly practiced Agnihotra, those who have left, will come back. As the world becomes more difficult, they will realize. We welcome them with compassion. We must not judge another's errors, not criticize their decisions. Try not to find fault in others and you will be free of guilt and this disturbance on the mind.

There are so many disturbances in the atmosphere now. We must all be prepared for an influx of people turning to Agnihotra as their last resort. We will turn away no one. That influx begins. You will notice even as individuals and much more on a large scale. You do not see the whole picture. If one person comes to you--and many will--each person should be given equal respect and concern as if they were a whole country of people requesting knowledge of Agnihotra.

On Humility

It is not necessary to proclaim ourselves experts in any field. If you have twenty years experience in a particular area of work and someone comes to you with little or no experience and wants to tell you about this same work, then say, "Okay, I'll be glad to listen to you; perhaps I can learn something from you." This is humility. The person will come to know by experience your expertise in that area. You need not tell them. Always

remain humble, willing to listen to others. Do not judge others lest you yourself be judged. No man is perfect. All have flaws. Why not concentrate on the positive aspects and leave aside the imperfections?

Homa Healing Fire

The fire is most holy of holies. It should be seen and treated with respect by everyone now. It is shelter. It is the link with the Almighty Father--Moses and the burning bush given in the Holy Bible and repeated in the Holy Koran.

On Opportunity

Opportunity is given. Only way to meet that opportunity with clear mind and humility is through discipline. Good intentions do not carry any weight. It is like empty promises made without thinking how they are to be fulfilled.

On Service

Offer to help others any chance you get. Don't worry about whether your help will prove to be adequate or not for another. Your responsibility is to serve, so you do that. Where is the question of adequacy? You offer yourself to be of service to others. Finished. Serve, serve, serve. That is the way.

Fivefold Path Inc.
278 N. White Oak Dr.
Madison, Virginia 22727 U.S.A.

Website: <http://www.agnihotra.org>
Email: info@agnihotra.org

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.