

VOL. 40 NO. 1

### Fire and Sound Session



# Baltimore Homa Community Outreach Team Event

NEW ERA 69 MAY 17, 2012

## Perform Agnihotra



## Heal The Atmosphere

NEW ERA 69 MAY 17, 2012 VOL. 40 NO. 1

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Cover: Patricia Norton (second from left) plays crystal bowls as the Agnihotra fires burn. Please see the article on p. 11.

## May 17th Message

The following message was received by Parvati Rosen-Bizberg in meditation:

May 17, 2012 12:42 A.M. Shree Gajanan Maharaj

Every step is measured.

Every breath is of Our...

Walk lightly on the Earth.

For every moment is a life unto its own power.

There is never cause for fear or mistrust.

That which has been shown to you has been shown to you for a purpose.

Nothing is haphazard.

There is meaning within meaning.

Every word follows its own course.

Our message for this 2012 year is:

Walk with Grace.

Talk with Grace.

Live with Grace.

Depend only on Us.

Leave your burdens at Our Feet.

We will carry them from your shoulders, like a feather in Our Hands.

We are ever with you.

With all Love and Blessings.

OM TAT SAT.

### Two Special Remembrances in May

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 Almighty 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 Bhrugu 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.* Forty years ago, many of His talks and writings warned of the environmental degrada-

tion and deterioration that has come to pass in virtually all parts of the globe today, in the forms of atmospheric pollution, nuclear radiation hazards, water pollution, soil fatigue, noise pollution and more. But along with these warnings, He offered a solution that people all over the world could use to heal themselves and their environment. Agnihotra and Fivefold Path.

Glimpses of Shree Vasant's 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 people the world over continue His mission.

Beginning in 2007, a very special unfoldment of His work came forth. Under His direction, a series of seven Somayags, performed strictly according to Vedas, began at the Homa Therapy Goshala in Maheshwar, India. Four have been completed; the fifth one is scheduled for November 24th-December 10th, 2012. The purifying effect of each of these Somayags lasts for several decades. (For more information, please visit somayag.org.) The event has been attended by people from all over the world, who can attest to its powerful transformative effects.

In February, 2012, another important milestone was reached: the first Homa Therapy Teachers' Certification course was given in Tapovan, India. The certification program is a means of accurately preserving and conveying the Vedic knowledge given by Parama Sadguru Shree Gajanan Maharaj and taught worldwide by Shree Vasant Paranjpe. Through the program, Homa Therapy teachers can be more thoroughly and consistently trained, so that a uniform message of the teachings of Homa Therapy goes out to the world. This also promotes unity among Homa Therapy teachers.

Information on further Fivefold Path and Homa Therapy developments around the world can be found on the following websites:

http://www.homatherapy.org
http://www.homafarming.com.
http://www.agnihotra.org
http://www.homa1.com
http://www.agnihotra.com.au
http://www.homatherapypoland.org
http://www.fivefoldpathmission.org
http://www.homatherapie.de

A priceless heritage has been given to all of us who have been taught Agnihotra, the Fivefold Path and Homa Therapy. We can honor this gift by striving to manifest these teachings more fully in our lives, and by sharing the knowledge with others.

# Requirements for Becoming a Certified Homa Therapy Teacher

The March/April 2012 issue of **Satsang** featured an article on the first Homa Therapy Teachers' Certification Course held in Tapovan, India. **Satsang** has since received inquiries about the training. The following two articles, from the **Homa Therapy Certification Manual**, give more information about certification.

If you are interested in becoming a certified Homa Therapy teacher, please contact the Homa Therapy center nearest you; the Homa Therapy International Web Portal at homatherapy.org lists official centers around the world.-Ed.

# First requirement: One should have been practicing Agnihotra for at least one year

You cannot teach what you are not practicing.

### Second Requirement:

# One should observe transparency and honesty in financial matters

Financial interest should never be the motivation to become a Homa Therapy teacher. Agnihotra and Homa Therapy are always taught free of charge. Agnihotra ash cannot be sold; it is always distributed free of charge. The same is true for the installation of resonance points: We charge for the pyramids and the yantrams used, plus we can ask for

travel expenses and board and lodging, but there should be no charge for the installation itself; this is a service.

When we give seminars on Homa Therapy we can charge for food and lodging, plus some moderate fee for the seminar space, materials used, etc.

When we offer seminars on other topics we can charge normal fees for that.

When we travel to give talks, we can ask people to pay for travel costs and for our stay. If they agree, fine. If not, we have to decide whether we still go and cover the costs ourselves.

# Remember: Always the teaching of Homa Therapy has to be free.

## Third Requirement: No drugs

Persons who drink alcohol, smoke marijuana, use any recreational drugs, etc. will not be admitted to the certification courses.

They still can perform Agnihotra, of course, and can also show Agnihotra (and they have to make it clear that Agnihotra has nothing to do with the other practices), but they cannot become Certified Homa Therapy teachers.

### Fourth Requirement: Ahimsa

Agnihotra and Homa Therapy are Ahimsa methods. Homa Farming is Ahimsa Farming. Therefore, official Homa Therapy teachers have to practice Ahimsa in their personal life. This means especially having a vegetarian diet (including no eggs).

Again, people who have a non-vegetarian diet can perform Agnihotra and also can show Agnihotra to others.

#### Fifth Requirement:

# The message has to be clear and not mixed with other teachings

Homa Therapy teachings stand alone.

A Homa Therapy teacher can adhere to whatever spiritual or religious practices he or she likes, but when teaching Homa Therapy it should be kept separate.

#### Sixth Requirement:

# Let the message be in the foreground, not ourselves

Be humble when you teach this knowledge given to us through the grace of a Divine Incarnation, Shree Gajanan Maharaj.

No need to behave as a guru. No one is better than others

# Seventh Requirement: Develop communication skills

For the moment, let us start with the basic rules *of communication*:

Examine your thoughts and speech. Ask yourself:

Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary?

This will help us to become a strong, united group doing the work of promoting Homa Therapy.

## Responsibilities of a Certified Homa Therapy Teacher

In addition to the requirements mentioned in the previous article, a certified Homa Therapy Teacher has the following responsibilities:

- --Have communication with and cooperation with the main foundation in your country. In India it is Tapovan and Maheshwar.
- --A Homa Therapist should have a sound understanding of all the topics covered in the training course.

It is necessary to have some background knowledge about the ecological state of the planet, pollution, acid rain. (This material could consist of general knowledge, including terminology such as global warming, acid rain, greenhouse gases, ozone holes, etc.).

We have to keep ourselves updated on these subjects - e.g. following environmental news (pollution of the atmosphere, soil, our rivers and oceans), reports on pollution-related diseases, etc.

Also we have to be informed about what is going on in the field of Homa Therapy worldwide and especially in our own countries.

Reading publications such as *Satsang, Australian Homa Therapy Newsletter,* etc. are essential tools for that

--When giving talks about Homa Therapy, we have to communicate in a clear, scientific manner to interested people.

Stick to what Shree Vasant has told only, rather than making outlandish claims. Quote agricultural reports, medical reports, etc.

Distinguish between statements from the Vedas and observations and scientific findings.

--Each Homa Therapist should be able to supply Agnihotra equipment, brochures, Homa Therapy books and supplies for practice of Agnihotra, or be able to get them from the local Homa Therapy foundation or nonprofit organization which also certifies the Homa Therapist.

Be able to refer people to other Homa Therapy centres and Homa Farms in India and other countries when travelling.

Be up-to-date on any new information or further explanations, literature, etc. that are available. Only information from main foundation should be circulated.

- --Have a list of all official Homa Therapy websites online.
- --Homa Therapists should keep a concise list of the people to whom they have

### Agnihotra Experiences

Danielle Piotrowski Cleveland, Ohio

taught Agnihotra, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses, and supply the list to the main certifying centre or foundation in their country for the country's database.

--Required reading of every Homa Therapist:

*Homa Therapy Our Last Chance* by Vasant V. Paranjpe

*Homa Therapy: Ancient Science of Healing* by Monika Koch

**Light Towards Divine Path** by Vasant V. Paranjpe

- --Awareness of the origin of Agnihotra/ Homa Therapy and the history of Yajnyas.
- --Understanding and awareness of Fivefold Path.
- --Thorough knowledge of answers to frequently asked questions on Agnihotra, Fivefold Path and Homa Therapy.

I have been practicing Agnihotra for two years and have noticed a difference in my garden, the type of insects and type of people who live around me.

In Cleveland Ohio, last spring and summer it rained most of the time. Everybody complained about how they did not have a good harvest, but my husband and I had an overabundance of vegetables that tasted amazing. We were not bothered by annoying mosquitoes, even with our pond. The butterflies, bees and dragonflies were plentiful.

We live in an area that is plagued with violence, theft and loudness. Since I have been using Agnihotra to purify the area it has been quiet, crime has gone down considerably and we even are able to walk our dogs through our neighborhood with no problems. This has been the first time we have been able to do this in eight years.

I truly believe in the effects of Agnihotra and it has motivated me to start an organic urban community garden in our neighborhood. We are also working on acquiring vacant properties to start our own urban farm where we will teach Agnihotra. I am currently sharing Agnihotra at a local holistic center once a month. It is catching on, and others are feeling the amazing effects.

# Baltimore Homa Community Outreach Team Event

Patricia Norton and Adonica Hull

Patricia Norton, Baltimore Homa Community Outreach Committee Chairperson writes:
On Friday, May 18th at 7:30 P.M., the Baltimore Homa Community held a Sound Session and Agnihotra event at the Night of Peace Family Shelter. This homeless shelter is located at Salem United Methodist Church on Windsor Mill Road in Baltimore.

The event went well. BHC members participating were Jamal Wilson, Patricia Norton, Adonica Hull, Maria Broom, Norma Wooten, Henry and Jannette Gregory, Mimi Bennett, Sheryl Daniel-Park, John Haggerty and Ryan Couto.

At the shelter, there were about six women (two were employees), one man and about seven children

We started the with the crystal bowl, flute, and a Yajnya fire. Then we drummed for about twenty minutes. Maria explained Agnihotra simply and beautifully. We performed Agnihotra scientific healing and ended by singing four songs or more. Two women expressed interest in starting Agnihotra. We gave them contact information and a brochure.

#### Adonica Hull writes:

Yes, I, Adonica, went to this much-needed gathering at the church with Brother Jamal

Wilson, who was my first drum teacher. We entered the church and went downstairs where there were just a few young families being fed dinner. There were several children running around.

We noticed that the children were very hyper. I observed a few of them drinking what looked to be either Kool Aid or punch. That was not good for their energy or health.

I turned to Brother Jamal and said, "I think we need to go outside, since there is a grass field. The smoke detectors would be a hindrance to performing Agnihotra here in the basement." He fully agreed and asked Patricia, who was setting up to play her crystal toning bowls, to speak with whoever was in charge. She did so and we proceeded to go outdoors quickly, because the children needed the calming energies of the healing Fire ASAP. The children were all over Patricia's bowls and could have broken them quickly; they were being curious and would not stop touching them, even with repeated warnings.

The director of the center made the announcement to those gathered there and everyone proceeded outside. We helped bring out chairs as well.

Once we were outdoors on the field behind



Sheryl performing African dances

the church, we gathered the families, and as more Homa community members arrived, they started setting up their pyramid fires, which startled the mothers somewhat. Brother Jamal asked Maria Broom to introduce to them what the fire does as she set hers up.

I was playing the Djembe drum and Henry joined in with his flute, and his wife Jannette with her wooden percussion block. Cheryl got inspired and started performing African dances.

One inquiring mom asked if it would help the children be calm and quiet. Yes, she was told. So, she grabbed her baby daughter who appeared to be maybe, 18-22 months old and settled for her placement as close as possible to the Agnihotra fire immediately.

I love children because they are open and devoid of fear. Plus, they watched their parents and then were focused on the fire and what was happening at that moment.

Maria explained the ingredients used to

prepare the scientific copper pyramid fire. It shocked the parents especially, as well as a couple of older kids, when they heard it said that dried cow dung was one of the ingredients. Then Brother Jamal interjected about the healing properties of the ash and the smoke. Maria asked if anyone had asthma. A few kids near her answered, "Yes!" At Agnihotra time, Maria directed some of the smoke toward them. Prior to the start of the evening Agnihotra fire, Maria taught the children, lightly touching their cheeks, and the parents, the evening Agnihotra mantra to say. All but two parents repeated the Agnihotra mantra.

Patricia started her resonances with the toning crystal bowls before Agnihotra, and continued afterwards.

Two parents were truly intrigued and they stayed focused, for the most part. I couldn't help but notice one woman who appeared to be shut down a bit. She didn't say any of the mantras, nor did she sing the songs; however, she STAYED there until almost the end. She looked as though she may have been new to the place and maybe still coming to terms

with her personal situation. She did look just a bit calmer by the end and she never walked away from it. I didn't mean to stare at her, but I could see the internal turmoil she was going through caused by whatever had recently occurred in her life from which she had been removed.

However, I observed all the parents, including the one dad who was there. I noticed the calming affect that the fire had on all the kids, including the infant Christopher. He locked into the fire immediately, as well as the drumming that we did.

All the children got involved with playing a percussive instrument of some kind that had been brought there.

The same mom who placed her baby near the fire stated to her friend that her breathing/sinus cleared up and the baby that she is carrying seemed to calm down within her. The friend looked skeptically at her but did admit she felt good and the children did calm down.

We sang songs and prayed for them and the community, and asked them to sing a song that they liked prior to us leaving. One lady did, and then the two pre-teens wanted to sing "Firework" by, Katie Perry. They began sweetly, yet with a bit of shyness. They did

know all the lyrics and did the entire song. We ended the session and asked if there were any questions.

Then something amazing happened. First, one mom asked were she could get the "fire stuff," and two more wanted to know the same and how to learn it. Patricia, Henry, Maria, Dimples and Mimi let them know how and where they could get what they need to start performing daily Agnihotra. We asked if we could come again to share Agnihotra with the group. The director quickly answered, "Yes!"

I was affected by the experience! Although we all go through things in this life, we, as light workers, are here to be of service, by living and walking in the grace bestowed by God the Most High, Creator of all!

#### Peace and Blessings!

(Satsang applauds this effort. Homeless persons are so often marginalized and shunned by our society; bringing Agnihotra to the homeless is truly, "Love thy neighbor as thyself."-Ed.)





Luz Mery Mora Armenia, Quindio, Colombia

# Healing with Homa Therapy

#### Testimony after two days:

I am a teacher for handicapped children. I've been coming to Agnihotra for the last two days and I feel very peaceful. Now I feel as if my work is lighter. I work with twenty-one children, some of them with Down's syndrome, autism, mental retardation, and so on. Today I feel as if I have not been working, super-relaxed. I also saw that the fires really helped my daughter (with Down's syndrome), because she slept all night and was very quiet.

The truth is that I feel that bricks have been taken off my shoulders. Thanks to Homa Therapy I feel happy. I have never felt so happy, super-relaxed, and good. The work seems to be easier. I like everything and I don't get upset. I simply participated in the Agnihotra sessions and took the Agnihotra ash.

My daughter sometimes has difficulties in following instructions, but last night she wanted to brush her teeth, and usually I have to fight with her to do that. Last night it was super easy. I'm happy. Thank you very much.

#### After eight days:

I work in the foundation "Paths of Life for Peace." I've been bringing some children to the Agnihotra healing sessions at the Homa Medical Center "La Botica de la Abuela" (Grandma's Pharmacy) recently and I also started practicing Agnihotra myself. For three days, I brought Aurelis (twenty-three years old), who suffers from severe autism. She occasionally has a very severe crisis, especially when someone touches her. Today something very special happened, and I called her mother right away. Aurelis does not consent to be touched, for she immediately goes into crisis. That is one of the characteristics of some autistic children. And today, the same child who usually brings Aurelis into crisis when he tries to play with her, was sitting on her lap when I arrived. They were playing together and they were laughing. There was no crisis and no anguish.

When she goes into crisis, not even a strong man can handle her. She produces a lot of adrenaline. She is twenty-three years old and has had this problem since birth. She was born in Poland. I have been working with her for the last four years. I have seen these changes after she participated two times in the Agnihotra fires and took the ash. The first time I noticed that she was very happy and laughed without stopping. The second time she was more quiet and receptive and she could play with that child without getting into crisis. I think that is a great progress.

(Photos show Mrs. Luz Mery doing Agnihotra and participating with some of the children in the Agnihotra session at the Homa Medical Center 'La Botica de la Abuela'.)

### From Shree Vasant's Teachings

Many ancient cultures have long lost their fire rituals. In nearly every ancient civilization fire rituals of some kind were performed, generally for some kind of healing purposes. In old American Indian cultures certain tribes had ceremonial rites using fire as a spiritual force, source of energy, and healing vibration. Much of this has been lost or distorted, but still much literature remains and the elders themselves can be interviewed on such matters.

Agnihotra, science of the Vedas, is many ages old. We teach it now in brief form but Yajnyas for purification purposes and healing ceremonies were conducted every day in old times. Buddha himself used to perform Yajnya.

THE URGENCY OF THIS MESSAGE IS TIME. TIME IS THE CRUCIAL FACTOR.

Everyone has his ego. Each person has some inner conflict, some ego to deal with. So in each interaction, unless the people are coming together, each in devotion and service, there is bound to be conflict. When one person strives higher and sheds that destructive ego, the other person is at a loss. Either they have new-found respect for their partner or they go the other way because a conflict can only continue when two are playing at it. It is like tennis, for example. You cannot have a game of tennis by yourself. So, when one

person in a relationship ceases to be involved in conflict, the other person is left "holding the bag," as they say, and either realizes and becomes better for it, or simply cannot handle it and goes out.

Then, in many marriages, one person is more devoted than the other. So the less devoted may feel jealous or resentful. On the other hand, he or she may be inspired by the other partner's devotion. It takes a selfless individual to follow in such a way. Still, one must persevere always in service and devotion. Things come to that person no matter what difficulties befall him.

Never cast blame on anyone. Firstly, you do not know the reasons why a thing occurs. Secondly, when you point the finger in blame away from yourself, you are actually telling yourself an untruth. For every action there is a reason for it, so what you see is only on the surface, and further complications arise when you seek to blame others for events you may yourself be responsible for. Let the Almighty decide who is to pay what price, and that has also already been decided.

A person also passes through many stages on the spiritual path. These may include difficulties, loss and "soul searching". This is like weeding the garden. Only the strongest plants will survive.

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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.