

Agnihotra Philippines Forum 1

Posted: July 2007

Part 1 Question-Answer on Agnihotra

Following are some questions or concerns that are posed by people who have been introduced to agnihotra. I provided some answers where I can, based from my own insights or from my agni-teachers from other parts of the world. Please add your questions, comments, insights, etc. so we can continue fine-tuning our practice. More next time.....Thank you very much. Pam

1. We have a hut where we do agni. The floor is made of bamboo slats. When we move about the floor shakes a bit and so does the table where we put the pyramid on. Will this affect the process? *The pot should be in a place where movement is minimized or non-existent. You will get some of the "powers" still but the maximum effect will not be guaranteed. Build a stable base (have a structure that is anchored on the ground?)*
2. The area where we practice agni is surrounded by metal objects such as chimes and chairs with steel bars. Will these interfere with the process? *I was told it should be alright, for as long as they are not excessively present.*
3. Is use of cotton to build fire ok? *In the earlier practice I used to occasionally help the flame with cotton. Old scripts on agnihotra allow this but recently I was told better to avoid it. Perform agnihotra only with the basics, do away with the herbs, camphor, barks etc. It had been said that the original agni is far from how it is practiced now, as culture and religion progressively modified it. With only the basics we preserve the original power and avoid contamination, distortion or lessening of effect. With the intention of building a good fire without any aid from cotton, I managed by preparing early, arranging patties more carefully or giving sufficient time for the kindling. Still I believe one can use cotton under specific and rare circumstance, but just use the ash for the garden rather than medicine.*
4. If the flame goes off right after the mantra, can I ignite the pot again? *The process is underway, the engine is on(pyramid vibrating) and the turbine operating (through the mantra), so to speak. Anything like other sound or movement or spark could affect or disrupt the process. The extent may be great or small but there is a disruption anyhow so avoid doing anything to disturb the process. Best also to arrange the dung so that they will not collapse during the process as this may also reduce the effectiveness of the process.*
5. Is ghee that is solid/creamy not pure? *Ghee solidifies a bit (and turns lighter in color) under our ambient temperature, although it may start out as golden liquid just after preparation. This state of ghee is better for spreading than the liquid where one may tend to use more.*

6. Why is there so much smoke when we build the fire? *Smokiness may be due to several factors: the dung is not dry enough or has reabsorbed humidity, the patties are too compact or thick, the ghee contains a lot of moisture (not sufficiently simmered), the air/weather is very humid, the patties are arranged too compactly that air is not flowing through freely.*

7. We are also doing agnihotra by our practice of meditation or by “palina”, “suob”, “tuob” which is being done by local people, and where smoke is generated at certain times, but esp at sunset, to help balance energies and heal people. *These are certainly healing practices but agnihotra’s effects extend far and wide (quantum effect). The healing energy is gathered from the quantum scale energy generated or flooded into the atmosphere at sunrise and sunset powers from the sun. Agnihotra be done without meditation but would greatly benefit the performer if he or she is in a state of calmness or meditation. Inner work is not a prerequisite to agnihotra which can start as an outer work (more of a will force).*

8. Can a pregnant woman perform agnihotra, given that they are not in their “normal” state, similar to a menstruating woman who is shunned from entering farm fields by farmers and gardeners lest their crops weaken? *Here’s the thoughts of one of our mentors: “In regards to pregnant woman . It is encouraged that they perform Agnihotra and especially where the baby and mother will be housed after she has given birth. It is good for the mother to perform Agnihotra herself. Once she has given birth she should refrain from performing Agnihotra for 12 days. She can restart after that cycle. However if some family member performs Agnihotra she can have the benefit when the fire is performed at least one room away”.*

9. What will happen if unhulled rice is used? Wouldn’t it be better because it is in a more natural state than unpolished rice?

10. Smoke and coal (from rice), aren’t they said to be not good for the health?

11. Will red or purple rice be ok to use given that literature says brown rice?

12. Some challenging comments about the practice:
 - It is a form of worship to fire (or other idols) and not to God.
 - It adds to pollution or global warming because of the smoke and the burning.
 - It is Hinduism at the very core.