

maybe it is the discipline of having to wake up without the help of an alarm clock, to make the necessary preparations in time for the ritual that has enabled this new feeling to take place in my heart. I just know that I will always be grateful for having been introduced to agnihotra. It has indeed moved me into looking at life with a 'new' pair of eyes". (Yvette)

b) "Well, I don't know if it's my advancing age and/or the effects of agnihotra -- which has been practiced by my wife the Agni Queen of Laguna, our daughter and others in our household during the past nine months -- but I do generally feel more calm, at peace and happier. Though not an agni practitioner myself, I do attend the performances (when I'm home), drink agni ash water at home, and consume ash capsules even when I travel (which is often). In the past, I would have occasional colds and sometimes feelings like I was depressed -- "lock jaw" condition as my daughter eloquently puts it! But I haven't felt that way in months... Glad to have been introduced to agnihotra as a beneficiary! I also think our supplements and natural medicine bills have been much reduced. And we are also eating more plant harvest from our garden, which seems to have really flourished since we started doing agni and applying ash in the garden.

So it definitely seems to be a good thing -- even for a lock-jaw layman like myself! Gratefully yours, Chun (Spouse of the Laguna Agni Queen)".

c) "I normally have dysmenorrhea or menstrual pains. After a few hours on the first day I attended agnihotra my menstruation came. And lo and behold, no menstrual pains. Now I practice off and on. One time when my menstrual pains came I just rubbed ash on my belly area, and right away the pain was gone. What was more amazing was that on the same night after I attended a sunset agnihotra and drank some water with ash two things very unusual happened. My period came and I was without pains! I also decided, for the first time, to lock my room in the dorm and that very same night a burglar came, and was able to help himself with stuff in the other rooms. These could be part of what they say that agnihotra can improve one's intuitive sense." (Pearl)

d) "Doing agnihotra calms my mind. It helps me focus and meditate. The agnihotra ash can also ease the itching on my skin." (Shirley)

2. How may dogs and other pets benefit from the practice? May I know of the experience of others in this regard? From literature animals

are said to also benefit from both the atmosphere and ash. My pets are given daily dose of ash in their water. They also like the cowdung patties; they eat them like cookies. If animals know what is good for them then their liking the dung would be a proof of that. They also like to lick the ash powder to the point that if I fail to protect the pyramid after the performance, they sometimes get to the set-up before me. I have tried the ash on skin problems and injuries of dogs and indeed the problem disappeared in no time.

3. Thoughts on agnihotra and pest management. Here are comments from Q&A Part 4: #5. **Pest management.**

I read about other people in South America who were able to get rid of cockroaches and mice in their homes after doing Agnihotra. The pests in my house are still there after a month or so of Agnihotra. Do they really leave your house alone and how long will that take before you see the effects? *Maybe just keep on doing and observing. Mosquitoes and termites are also known to disappear with the practice. Yesterday I found in one of our small copper jars left open a cockroach, stiff dry with ash. It can happen with any ash I guess but that is another application, to spread ash on their path; some that stick to their bodies might successfully enter their breathing organs which are found at the belly area. Hmmnn. So now I also try to fill the sink-drain with some ash...that's where these roaches come in and out. Of course there are other more strong and subtle ways to manage cockroaches.*

Comments from Tony: This is a slippery subject as are all quantum effect related matters, anyway my question is how

much influence is from the ash alone and how much from our thoughts. Example, I have in the past been successful in eliminating ants from my kitchen table by making a 'deal' with them and placing a small dish of sugar water outside for them in return for them leaving my kitchen. This happened overnight and I was ant free in the kitchen after that although I cannot say if the ants would have left the kitchen for the sugar water without the 'deal' of course. My point being how much do we influence the effects of Agnihotra by layering our thoughts and desires on top of the Agnihotra effects? If we think that the effects of Agnihotra will be reduced if we don't make the precise time window then will that have an effect that would be greater than not having that thought? I'm not saying one shouldn't strive for an accurate ceremony, only that too much worrying about the fine details could have a negative effect. If I feel that I did not do the ceremony correctly, e.g. bad timing, unburnt dung or rice etc, then I just set that ash aside for use in the garden.

Pam's comment: Pest management can be approached in many ways and I have heard from many people who deal with them harshly, meaning aiming to exterminate them such as by the use of plants with pesticidal properties, or even using ash to kill them as mentioned above. Others go to the point of scaring, driving away or discouraging pests from coming in, such as by catching

the same pest then ashing them and spreading the ash back to the site at a super-diluted concentration (a'la biodynamic preparation). It may also be by catching one of their kind and slightly/partially hurting them and "telling" them to go back to their kind and warn them that the same fate may be experienced by them if they wander into the area that is forbidden for them. These are a common practices done by our local folks who swear that they are effective. Then there are those who want to approach it in a more humane or quantum way and that is by talking (in their minds) to the pests in question and asking them to leave. Our local people do this too, and often this is done with an offering or deal, like allocating some food for the pests before planting, after harvesting, or even during the growing season. Many variations occur, and while those new to the subject may look at these practices as amusing if not superstitious or unscientific, it might be worth considering their possibility. Indeed our thoughts are powerful; we can send subtle energy that may be aimed at and received by target pests. I would like to invite more thoughts, reference citations and experience on this topic. There are some basic scientific literature on the subject, as well as some videos that would be quite instructive.

4. I wonder if the agnihotra mantra by itself has a special effect on children's moods and tantrums. I experienced making a child stop crying and falling asleep when I offered to carry the child then I sang the "suryaye..." mantra. This happened twice. I know that it may be because of many factors but I also am thinking that there is a calming, soothing energy associated with the mantra.


5. What are really the meaning of the mantras uttered during agnihotra? I lifted the following paragraphs from some internet sites, to give you some answers; I skipped the references, hopefully this is ok, given that they are easy to track down. Thus,
"Agni (fire), also known as Surya, is the deity that represents all the other deities. Agni is said to be the mouth of the gods. Agni is known as the messenger of the gods. Whatever man has to say to the gods, to the higher powers, he conveys it through Agni. All the gods are fed through Agni. Agni is the link with the Supreme Lord of all the worlds. The words "Sooryáya", "Agnaye" and "Prajápataye" in the mantras are the synonyms of the Almighty."

"Etymologically, "SOO" means to give birth to, to create. The word Soorya refers to an aspect of Almighty power, the Creator. Prajapati means Lord of Creation, another aspect of Almighty power. The words Soorya, Prajapati and Agni all refer to aspects of Almighty power. By uttering the word Swaha in

the proper way a special effect is created on the Kundalini system"... Then "Idam – this.....Na – not...Mama – mine". Thus, "Idam Na Mama means "Not my will but Thy will be done."

6. How will we get a new set of sunrise-sunset times for 2008? I have a very simple program in CD that may be copied and used to generate calendars for different areas. But you could also get one from the internet. There are some websites you can visit to get a new calendar. Just browse through the list that comes out after you google" some word series like "agnihotra sunrise sunset timing calendar". You might need to look at your 2007 calendar and note the coordinates (longitude-we are at East; latitude-we are at North, of the standard earth divide; our time zone or distance from Greenwich is +8 units, etc. These information will be needed in calculation, and may be found at the top left portion of your 2007 calendar, or again, in some internet site (like "heavens above"). The agni site that you choose may do the calculation for you or will enable you to do it yourself. I could also help you with it, just email or text me. Will be doing reprinting of new calendars for some people esp. those who do not have access to computer, this holiday break.

7. Is there just one specific dimension of pyramid or could it be different

ones, but multiples of the basic? Here are some other thoughts from a "teacher" (JB, currently residing in the US): *There seems to be a formula for everything. In fact if you want to be really technical, I read somewhere that the ratio will depend on the individual measurements of the practitioner. This is from "Vastu". But I think at this point of time, the prescribed dimensions are fine. (Actually the individual measurements depend on the ratio taken from the digits of the hand and different body parts; the whole is in the parts). There are also fire pits for big ceremonies and there are female and male types of fire pits. It is a whole science by itself. But ultimately, it will depend on the consciousness of the practitioner.....how much pure consciousness or God consciousness, the practitioner is established in. But because we all have this consciousness, then there will always be some degree of success or non success, for one has to remain detached from the fruit of the action. The effects will be there. But the doer is not the practitioner. The practice is just a duty performed. Dharma. We may need more agnihotra in 2008 as per the vedic astrologers* 

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