8. Concluding Remarks

In ancient times Cretans, Babylonians, Sumerians, Akkadians, Semites, Polynesians, Greeks, Jews used to perform Yajñas - the sacrificial worship. Mexican Incas had a developed form of such worship. Fudo Myavs of Japan perform Goma - i.e. holy fire invocation. Even today one can witness the Goma ritual at the ‘Naritasan’- Shintoji temple in Japan, where fire offerings are given five times daily. Specific varieties of wood and other materials are offered to fire. Baku in Russia had fire temples. Indians are known as Yajña performers. Avesta, the scriptures of the Zoroastrians name this worship as Yasht - sacred act for attainment of the divine. The place of worship is known as fire temple and the supreme deity is Ahur Mazada. In Sanskrit known as Great God. The Supreme God of Hawaiian islands is called ‘Aah’ and its symbol is the flames of fire.

There are many views and differentiations of opinion regarding the theory of wandering of tribes in ancient times throughout the world. According to one such theory a race may be from parts of Europe came and settled down in India, that was called ‘Āryans’, whose scriptures are known as Vedas. How far these theories are true, is not the subject here, but Yogi Aurobindo expresses his views regarding the Āryan-tribes and their invasion in his book ‘The Secret Of The Veda’. They are significant and should be noted. He writes:

But the indications in the Veda on which this theory of a recent Aryan invasion is built, are very scanty in quantity and uncertain in their significance. There is no actual mention of any such invasion. The distinction between Aryan and un-Aryan on which so much has been built, seems on the mass of the evidence to indicate a cultural rather than a racial difference. The language of the hymns clearly points to a particular worship or spiritual culture as the distinguishing sign of the Aryan, - worship of Light and of the powers of Light and a self-discipline based on the culture of the “Truth” and the aspiration to Immortality, - Ritam and Amritam. There is no reliable indication of any
racial difference. It is always possible that the bulk of the peoples now inhabiting India may have been the descendants of a new race from more northern latitudes, even perhaps, as argued by Mr. Tilak, from the Arctic region; but there is nothing in the Veda, as there is nothing in the present ethnological features of country to prove that this descent took place near to the time of the Vedic hymns or was the slow penetration of a small body of fair-skinned barbarians into a civilised Dravidian peninsula. ¹

Even the explanation in his footnote is important.

In India we are chiefly familiar with the old philological division of the Indian races and with the speculations of Mr. Risley which are founded upon these earlier generalisations. But a more advanced ethnology rejects all linguistic tests and leans to the idea of a single homogeneous race inhabiting the Indian Penincula. ²

If the meaning of the Sanskrit word ‘Ārya’ is taken into consideration, it means a noble man, a civilized and cultured man. That means people of any race can be ‘Ārya’, for that matter they should not have to come from east or west.

Another significant point is that the Vedic gods are recognised with many different names, like Indra- as Varuṇa, Parjanya or Agni -Mātariśvan, Viśvedevā, Prajāpatī, Hiranyagarbha, Pūṣan, etc. It seems that this concept is not understood by some western scholars. One finds that they go with the etymology of the world and cannot understand that one god is known with various names.

As from the study if Homer the Greek grammar rose, so from the study of the Vedas grew the Indian, but investigations of the Indians, favoured by the constitution of their language, were incomparably deeper and more lasting than those of the Greek grammarians.

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Prominent among the grammatical writings are the Nirukta, a collection of a strange or obscure words of the Veda, together with the interpretation of the Vedic investigator Yaska (about 500 B.C.) And the Prātiçākhyaas, each of which contains, for various reasons of a single Veda, the most precise statements of phonetic changes, pronunciations, accentuation, metre etc. ... ... ... In them is presented the scientific treatment of a single tongue in a perfection which arouses the wonder and admiration of those who are more thoroughly acquainted with it; which even now stands, not only unsurpassed, but not even attained, and which in many respects may be looked upon as the model for similar work. ³

It is not only Kaegi, who has narrated the speciality and importance of Vedic linguistics and grammar, but same views are expressed by Max Müller and Benfey.

Max Müller writes:

I believe, I shall not be contradicted by Holmholz or Ellis or other representatives of phonetic science, if I may say that, to the present day, the phoneticians of India of the fifth century B.C. unsurpassed in their analysis of the elements of language. ⁴

Benfey is of the opinion that:

... by this method and its wonderful results the linguistic labours of Indians have pre-eminently - indeed, almost alone, - made it possible for modern philology to take up its problem and work it out its end with the

⁴ Op cit, p. 7.
success which is universally conceded to it.\footnote{Op cit, p 8.}

Hence the study of Indian grammar, linguistics, languages and literature became much popular amongst Western scholars. Some of the Western authors were so much impressed with the Indian ideas and views that they imported them in their own works, which affected in increasing the popularity of the original Indian immortal works.

In this study the first chapter deals with the ancient Indo-German relationship ties. The survey has been taken since when these relations existed, the reasons behind these ties and the fascination of Germans towards India. Here it has been tried to take a glance at the scholarly work of German Indologists and the present situation of Indology studies in Germany.

As the next chapter deals with the RV and deities in the RV, the survey of the work of German scholars is taken here.

The third chapter is regarding the Fire-worship - Yajñas. Here the types of Yajñas are explained with some examples of important Yajñas, that are performed today. Germans have tried to investigate the results of Somayaga especially with the help of Life Energy Meter. They are performing ‘Havan’ and ‘Vyāhṛatihoma’ in the farms for better quality of cultivation.

The fourth chapter is regarding Agnihotra - daily morning and evening sacrifice. Important references from the Vedas and other Vedic literature are discussed here, as it is the basic religious rite.

The important experiments that are performed on this Yajña with the help of modern natural sciences are discussed in the fifth chapter. The important of all is being done in Pune itself, i.e. PIP Imaging, with which the minute details and changes in the human auro are monitored.

In the sixth chapter the interviews are given for the interest of experts. The German scholars, Indian Yajña-expert were interviewed. Some common
practitioners of Agnihotra in Germany are given a questioner and their remarks regarding it are gathered.

7.1: Vedic Tradition:

The Vedic tradition of India is not simply a spiritual path, but a way of life. It includes many avenues of learning that an increasing number of people from the West are investigating and using.

This study will show the advantages of the Vedic paths of development that the reader can use in his life to attain more personal awareness, happiness and fulfilment.

The nature is a huge machine. In order to work this machine properly and regularly a working manual is given. As one gets the tips of any new device with it in a manual. The Vedas are given as a working manual of the nature-world. They are not created by any human being. The Rṣis or the Seers got illusions of the Vedas, deep in their meditations. This knowledge is acquired through wisdom. Hence it is eternal truth.

In Lindau in Germany at a get-together of Nobel-Prize winners in August 1976, Brayan Josephan, a scholar, who studied Vedas on the basis of modern natural sciences says:

The Vedas are the inspirations of the Absolute. There is a connection between the pattern of sound oscillations of words and their meanings. This fact corresponds to the correlation between the actual stage of the universe and its description by means of languages (in the Vedas as well as in physical formulas).  

The Vedas are the oldest documented spiritual teachings of humanity. They

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are the best preserved record of our spiritual ancestors - the famous sages and seers of many traditions. Most importantly they share a pluralistic view of truth - that though the truth is one and undivided, there are many paths and approaches to it, ultimately as many as there are individuals - this pluralism is the hallmark of Vedic thought.

Vedic texts proclaim that ‘the Vedas are infinite’. Vedic texts are just the starting point for the development of Vedic knowledge which is a living tradition of spiritual realization and communion with the infinite that is relevant to everyone and that exists more as an inner than as an outer reality.

The Vedic tradition is not mere a collection of various books, or preachings or teachings, but a way of natural and conscious living, a certain way of life. Vedic texts provide a living example and practical guidance to live a better life.

The Vedic tradition has managed to sustain and transform itself over many millennia, enduring wars, cataclysms and cultural changes. It is because of the firm foundation in universal truth and its capacity to renew itself in every generation.

The four Vedas signify the philosophy of the eternity and absolute complementary role of Yajñas in the divine creation. The YV contains the knowledge of principles and methods of performing Yajña as spiritual and scientific experiments for global welfare. The SV focuses on the musical chanting pattern of mantras and the subtle form of Yajña by defining the latter as the process of mental oblation on the surface of internal emotions through the cosmic radiation of omnipresent subtle energy sound. AV deals with sound therapy aspects of mantras for the treatment of ailing human system at the physical, psychological and spiritual levels.

It is important to note that Vedic tradition has gone global in modern times with Vedic teachings in various forms now occurring in all lands and countries. It is bound to grow further as humanity searches for meaning in life beyond the limitations of both scientific materialism and religious dogma.

The Vedic view of universe is of Oneness, consciousness and Bliss, that works on many levels.
In the West we are used to thinking in rather restrictive categories of religion, philosophy, art and science. Vedic culture contains aspects of all these and yet cannot be reduced to any one of them. ... ... And everything can and should be a form of worship or honouring the wonderful sacred universe in which we live.  

Vedas have a holistic approach. Yajña has scientific, psychological and parapsychological implications and as one goes on performing it regularly, one comes to know many more aspects. That is why, the western countries or more accurately those who perform Yajña - Agnihotra, in various parts of the world do talk about ‘Homa Therapy’, ‘Homa Farming’, etc. Homa is Yajña and the daily morning and evening Yajña is Agnihotra.

While expressing the same thought David Frewley writes:

Vedic teachings have come to the West in many forms, not as an overt effort to convert people to a belief or to spread a particular ideology, but as a sharing of spiritual and healing practices in many forms. Millions of people in the West today follow teachings and perform practice that have their origins in the Vedic tradition and its views of dharma.  

All the ancient religions of the world have praised Yajña as the basic religion. The Vedic tradition of India is not simply a spiritual path, but a way of life. It includes many avenues of learning that an increasing number of people from the West are investigating and using it.

Vedic thought has had its impact on Western religions as well, with

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8 Op cit, Forward, xv.
Vedic ideas and insights occurring in Christian mystics, Sufies and Jewish Kabbalists.  

Vedic culture implies a broad field of knowledge for self-discovery and well-being for everyone. It is meant for greater good society. It is rooted in Sanatan-Dharma - the eternal and universal truth. It promises the ultimate way for self-growth, self-healing, self-empowerment and self-realisation.

7.2: Yajña - the original ritual of every religion

Yajñas are described as the pillars of Indian philosophy and culture. The eternal source of universal knowledge, comprised in the Vedic mantras is deciphered and cosmic energy of sound contained in mantras is activated and expanded with the help of Yajña.

One finds the followers of Yajña in every culture of today’s world. Today after centuries, when the atmosphere around the earth is getting polluted, the rite of Agnihotra - consisting of just two oblations offered in fire at sunset and sunrise - is suggested as a solution. With the help of fire worship the benevolent positive energies are released in the atmosphere.

For fulfilment of various types of materialistic desires, different types of Yajñas are prescribed. They can be performed individually or in the community. Like Agnihotra is the individual Yajña, whereas the Somayāga, Parjanyayāga are to be performed by a group. Darśapūrṇamāseṣṭi, Cāturmāsa, Vājapeya, Rājsūya and Somayāga are performed to fulfil specific desires.

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9 Loc cit, Forward, xv.
Yajña has a potential to bring about certain achievement. With the advancement of physical sciences and consequent enlargement of human knowledge it has become easy to find out reasoning for such actions and reactions caused due to Yajña. In the present situation, when pure sciences are reeding and scientists are on verge to declare a new approach to problems of life, Yajña is a potent weapon and intrinsically an antidote to pollution. Besides being capable of generating homogeneous atmosphere can seed contentment in human mind and prosperity. As the atmosphere is already surcharged with greed and violence, the purifying effect of Yajña on the mind is a blessing to mankind, that can lead man towards spiritually higher goals. Satya-Dharma was revealed through Vedas at the time of creation of the world. Whenever imbalances are created in the society and evil predominates the Almighty has sent his messenger with specific allotted task to undo evil and protect the Satya-Dharma. The prophets and the messengers, who re-established the Satya-Dharma have stated again and again, not to make their idols of gold and silver, to increase the glory of the prayer-room, but to follow the path, they have laid before the society. They have shown the way which would lead to develop oneself step by step towards ultimate goal of enlightenment.

The history tells us that whenever the atmosphere is polluted by all means, when every where the non-religious and unscientific practices are followed, then the Lord has to take an incarnation on earth in any form, may be as a prophet, a messenger as a saint and so on and had to stop wrong practices and clean the minds of people.

In the Bhagavad Gîtā Lord says : the dharma that I am telling you was preached to Vivaswan by me, which he explained to Manu. Manu taught then to Ikšvāku. And the dharma was known to kings. These kings were seers. This dharma existed then as the tradition. (Gîtā 4.1- 4.3)

The message given by Jesus in the ‘Holy Bible’ is significant.
Jesus said, he never came to destroy the laws laid by the ‘Lord’, but he would fulfill then by conveying the message of Almighty.

While explaining the right path to Arjun - Lord Krishna has said: ‘I am telling you the original religion, that consists of Yajña, Dāna, Tapa, Karma and Swādhāya’. The scholars say that this tradition is of five-thousand years. That day it was not labelled as ‘Hindu’- tradition. But one can say, to stop wrong things and practices a disciplined lifestyle was established, which is called in the due process as Hindu religion.

In the ‘Holy Bible’ the illusion of Daniel throws light upon the Evening and Morning sacrifice. But he was told this rite will be followed eventually. It will take a long time to come this illusion true, till then keep it a secret.

When Daniel got the illusion of morning and evening fire sacrifice, he was told to keep it a secret, at the time of practising this ritual had not come or at that time this rite could not have become a medium of praying god. But the illusion showed him that the fire sacrifice is the original basic religion. It will come into power but the time is not proper, hence though it is shown to you, keep it a secret. As everywhere all unscientific and non-religious and non-ritualistic performances are followed. The earth has become a desert, in that sense. After a certain period a proper time will come, when everyone will practice fire worship.

In the first ‘Surah’ of ‘Quran Sharif’ the Lord is described as humble and
gentle. At the same time while paying thanks for his gratefulness, he is explained as the master and ruler of the world - 'Rab'. Actually the Arabic word 'Rab' means the person, who leads towards mental perfection step by step unto the last goal of enlightenment. This word makes the philosophers think in details, as it resembles the meaning of the first RV sūkta. The prayer of RV saying; 'we come near you at dawn and dusk', can be compared with the ‘Namaz’ timings of both ends of the day. Continuous practice of Namaz at these times takes the person near ‘Allah’, expresses the exact meaning of RV prayer.

The first Surah says further: ‘I have seen a fire. Perhaps I will get some fire from that or I will find way on this fire and when I reached there I heard: Hay Musa, I am your ‘Rab’. Remove your shoes for me. You are in the pious valley of Tura. No doubt, I am your Allah. There is no one else who can be worshipped like me. Hence do respect me and in my remembrance start praying - practising Namaz.

Moses gets the illusion of light and that light says; ‘I am your Rab’. The light is the symbol of Agni. In the RV the etymology of the word agni is the one, who develops you step-wise and leads you towards perfection. Hence the philosophers of comparative studies of RV and Quran do remember the fifth Rk of RV:

अग्नि सुख्या रायः अर्मान्विश्वानिं देव ब्रह्माणि विद्वान्।
युज्यस्य समज्ञुहारूणेऽन्ये भूयिष्ठां तेन उवित्व विधेयम्॥

[RV 1.189.1]

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Oh Agni, please lead us towards the path of making ourselves better.\textsuperscript{11} The importance of agni is explained in Quaran in 20\textsuperscript{th} Surah 10 -14 Ayats. The same is repeated in Surah 27 Ayats 7-10 and Surah 28 Ayats 29 - 31. Mohamad Paigamber has explained the importance of cow. He says; drink milk of cow, clarified butter made of cow-milk is a medicine. Do not eat meat of the cow. It can cause many deceases. In Koran Sharif the second Sura is called Al-Bakara. The arabic word Al means holy and Bakara means cow.\textsuperscript{12} The Indian emperors like Babar, Humayun Jahangeer, Akabar have prohibited the killing of cows in their kingdom, if anyone would kill a cow, he got death sentence. Hence should take into consideration that Darashukoha - the elder brother of Aurangazeb was Sanskrit-pundit. Aurangazeb was also well versed in Sanskrit. Muhammad of Gazani had kept Sanskrit Śloka inscripted on his coins.

At the holy place of ‘Kaba’ one oil lamp is kept burning for 24 hours. Even in the holy places like mosque or dargah a lamp is kept burning for ever. On the auspicious days the lamps are kept burning. This is very significant in connection with references of agni and its rituals.

Bhagawan Mahaveer criticised the violence strongly. ‘Gautam Buddha’ had severally criticised the animal sacrifice in the Yajña and celebrated only the right non-violent practice. He stopped the violent practice in the Yajña of the King Prasenjit and made him to perform Yajña according to the right way.

Buddha brought the message of reason, right conduct, absence of lust, freedom from passion and inward peace. His mission was to give a blow to flesh offerings in Yajñas, to resuscitate Yajñas performed in the prescribed manner eschewing violence or offerings of flesh and blood, to arouse people to their innate capacity to reason and sublimate intellect to right action, to pierce the shield of hypocrisy of the priestly class, to throw doubts in the armour of faith because it was on the wrong shoulder.

\textsuperscript{11} Op cit, pp. 4-7.
\textsuperscript{12} Op cit, pp. 4-7.
He declared that in the Yajñas like - Aśwamedha and Puruṣamedha - if animal flesh and blood is used, they would not lead to the desired results. He stated many times that sacrificial offerings to the fire which do not involve killing of a goat or a sheep are of great reward. Such non-violent Yajñas should be performed again and again.

Yajña, the fulfiller of the desire, the greatest boon given to the mankind, had become a liability due to violence involved or blood and flesh offerings. It caused vitiation of atmosphere. A strong condemnation from the supreme authority was necessary to drove people away from wrong practice. Buddha strongly urged people to perform Yajña in a right and prescribed manner. This type of Yajña does not involve any type of violence. He stressed the importance of performing Yajña, which would yield prosperity for all.

After attaining the ultimate knowledge Buddha paid a visit to a nearby
kingdom, where Somayāga was about to commence. Somayāga in those days meant slaughtering of hundreds of sheep and goat before the sacrificial altar. The king was delighted to welcome his guest and stated that due to performance of this Yajña he would secure his place in paradise. Buddha exclaimed that if slaughter of quadrupeds would achieve that object, it should be much more elevating, if a sanyasi like himself offered to die on the altar. The king was aghast and seeing things in proper perspective, surrendered before Buddha.

Buddha has explained Agnihotra in a particularly special manner. In the 'Selasutta' from 'Suttanipata' the references are found.

अगिह्वतमुखो वज्ञा, सच्चितो छन्दसो मुख।
राजा मुखं मनुस्सानं, नदींंंं सागरो मुख।
नवज्ञातानं मुखं चन्दो, आदिच्यो तपतं मुख।
पुरुं आकंक्षामानानं, संघो वो वजतं मुख।

[ Sutt 568-69 ]

In all the Yajñas, Agnihotra is the main, as it is the mount of the Yajñas. As the Sāvitri or Gāyatri Chanda is the main in all the Chandas. The important person amongst all men is the king and rivers it is the ocean, as all rivers flow into an ocean. In all the nakṣatras, moon is important. In all the stars and planets the sun is important. Same way any person, who has a wish to do good and with this wish tries to sacrifice something for the ‘truth’ or for the ‘satyadharma’ - ‘sangha’ - is the important and special amongst all the deeds. Hence, though many different types of Yajñas are performed the importance of Agnihotra does not reduces. This is a daily rite, that is to be followed for the life-time. All the other Yajñas begin with the performance of Agnihotra. At first
place only one fire, then three different forms of fire and then all other Yajña.

Goma, (Homa in Sanskrit) the holy fire invocation was in great vogue during Tang dynasty and was first introduced in Japan by founders of Tendai sect and Shigon sect about twelve hundred years ago. The Sūtras prescribing the ritual state that if body, speech and mind of Fudo, the object of worship, those of the principal master and those of worshipper are fused into one, mental purity is achieved. In such a pure state prayer works like a miracle. The fire symbolises the highest wisdom (Bodhi) and fire would the worldly passion and one has to strive for the highest Buddhahood.

Jesus Christ while describing his crucification said, “the last lamb is killed” and hence forth no violent practice will be followed.

It is finished.
John 19.29

The description of ‘Lord’ in the Bhagavad Gītā, the importance of ‘Almighty Father’ explained in the Bible and the thoughts regarding ‘Allah’ in the Quran are one and same. It says: the Lord is watching everything. Allah is listening every word.

Seest thou not that
God doth know (all) that is
In the heavens and
On earth? There not
A secret consultation
Between three, but He
Makes the fourth among them,
Nor between five but
He makes the sixth,
Nor between fewer nor more
But He is in their midst,
Wheresoever they be
In the end will He
tell them the truth
Of their conduct, on the Day
Of Judgement. For God has 
Full knowledge 
Of all things.

(Glorious Quran) 58.7

According to Quran Surah 58 Ayat 7, whatever is happening on the earth is known to Allah. To that extent that when you feel there are three persons present at a place the forth one is Allah- always there. When five persons are there the sixth is Allah. Nothing is unknown to Him. One can not hide anything from Him and nothing is away from Him.

Manusmṛti expresses the same : Keep your feet at the place that has become pious by sight. Tell the truth only. As the God is watching everything. As the Bible says :

And your Father who sees what you do in private will reward you.

St. Mathew  Psalms 94.9

In the Bhagavad Gītā while introducing Himself properly, the Lord says : the last hope of everyone, the benevolent power for all, master of all and the witness of every happening, surrender of all is only Myself.

गतिविरंतः प्रभुः साक्षी निवासः शरणं सुहल्द।
प्रभव: प्रलयः स्थानं निधानां बीजमन्यम्।।

[Gītā 9.18]

The language of explanation might be different. The way of explaining might be differing. But the core of the knowledge, its philosophy is just the One. ‘The
Lord is watching’, tells further more that whatever is to be done, is to be done keeping Him in mind. If this principle is followed the world will be full of love, justice and religious views. Actual religion is not followed properly, but only fights are undertaken on its name-sake. But the time has come to understand the core of religion and to follow these rules, that becomes benevolent for the mankind. ‘The Lord is watching’, this view will make human beings humble and gentle and will bring them on the right track of behaviour with the fellow-men. Another important message that Bhagavad Gītā conveys, is to be active without taking the effects of the action into consideration or without keeping them in mind. One should be away from the good or positive and selfish effects of one’s actions. One should be grateful towards the Lord for whatever He has given. In the Holy Bible same thoughts are expressed. It says:

"Therefore, I say unto you, 'take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink: not yet for your body, what ye shall put on.'

- St. Mathew  6.25

( Hence I tell you, do not think what you will get to eat or drink. Do not have that type of narrow views about life.) The life is much beyond this eating, drinking or wearing good costumes. The Bible gives further more explanation:

"If God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is tomorrow is cast into the oven. Shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith ?

- St. Mathew  7.30

( If the God has given a nice dress of green grass to the earth today, which will go in the hearth tomorrow, will he not give something nice to you to wear.) Have faith in Him. He will take care of you also. One has to travel on the path He has shown and He is there to take care for everything. Forget all
selfishness and the worries of tomorrow, do good whatever you can do and leave the fruit of this being good at the wishes of the Lord.

As Agnihotra is the fundamental rite, why this rite got forgotten or stopped in the due course of time, is the doubt cropping in mind. It increases further more that why it is necessary to re-establish this Yajña-rite again. One may think further, when the God is one, the original knowledge is one and the path of reaching the ultimate goal of enlightenment is one, why do so many different religions and beliefs are practised. Bhagavad Gītā tells the need of re-establishing the dharma again and again.

Lord Krishna says:

यदा यदा हि धर्मस्य ग्लानिम्भवति भारत।
अभ्युत्थानमधर्मस्य तदत्मां सूजन्द्रहम्।।
परिज्ञाणव राधुनां विनाशाय च दुष्कृताम्।
धर्मसंस्थापनान्यां सम्भवामि युगे युगे।।

[Gītā 4.7-8]

He told: When in the due course of time, due to selfishness, misleading, knowingly interpreting the meanings and words in wrong way the dharma got ‘polluted’. Whenever the dharma is ‘polluted’ I have to take a rebirth and re-establish dharma in its original form for the welfare of the mankind.

The evil practice of flesh and blood offerings pervaded the atmosphere and several messengers of Almighty had to appear on earth to cry halt to such misdeeds. Kurukshetra, Sarnath, Jerusalem and Mecca are some of the important places hallowed by the divine presence of these messengers.

The two main reasons of performing Yajña are - purifying atmosphere and making the atmosphere healthy, nourishing and benevolent. By using wrongs things as the oblations the atmosphere does not purifies, but has adverse
effects of it. Those, who used the practice of wrong things, have done the same. Finally in the different parts of the world, to show the right path of the religion or to lead different communities on the right path of the true religion, different prophets have started their work. These prophets knew that the Yajña is the main, basic and original religion. But when the practice of Yajña became violent and the animals were used as the oblations. One can observe a single common principle amongst all these happenings, the places, languages and people may be different, i.e. to stop violent practices in the Yajña, to stop unscientific rites and to establish the practice of prayer as a temporary ritualistic performance. Temporary, as every messenger has got illusions according to their ways and means of fire sacrifice. It is mentioned in the fundamental religious books.

When Yajña, the original religion, was attacked by wrong violent practices, many types of prayers took its place. When the atmosphere in the world is polluted, Yajña that can kill this pollution, is also stopped being practised.

The violent process of Yajña was not according to religion, or the Šāstras and had its bad effects. At this moment (all these prophets) lay emphasis on another aspect of the religious rite - ie. Prayers and idol worship. Prayers for different deities and Almighty God. This part of ritualistic performance is visible even today in all religions on the earth. When Yajña became rare people needed something external which might prove as an aid to purification. Thus idol worship was introduced, which itself became another liability at a later period, when man’s greed spread its tentacles on this type of worship as it did previously in case of Yajña. When overall in the world the bad deeds and wrong practices were performed, at that time the right practice, though kept apart, at least wrong should not be performed any more. Hence the prayer was emphasised. This was the important motto of all the religions that can be experienced. But the original fundamental religion was kept intact and unpolluted and every messenger laid emphasis on the fact that one day will come, when everybody will have to follow the fire worship. That is the exact way of living benevolent life.

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7.3 : Agnihotra

Yajña means selfness sacrifice for noble purpose - Sacrificing of the ego, selfishness and material attachment and adopting rational thinking, human compassion and dedicated creativity for welfare of all. The philosophy of Yajña teaches a way of living in the society in harmony, a living style to promote and protect higher human values in the society. A variety of Yajña is described in the Śāstras. Agnihotra - the daily morning and evening Yajña - is given in the ancient Vedic sciences of bio-energy, psychotherapy, medicine, agriculture, bio-genetics, climate engineering and interplanetary communication.

YAJNYA replenishes the nutrients that pollution robs from the our environment. The molecular change in the fission and fusion of atoms causes properties of elements to change in atomic structure and weight. The rotation of electrons and neutrons varies speeds. ... ... HOMA Therapy is totally a revealed science. It is as old as creation. In the course of time this knowledge was lost but it is now being resuscitated to give people guidance about how to correct the polluted conditions of the planet ... ¹³

Yajña in physical terms is a process aimed at the refinement of the subtle energy existing in matter with the help of thermal energy of the mantras. The knowledge of philosophy and science of Yajña is as essential understanding and experimenting the science of spirituality as the knowledge of elementary physics is for material based sciences. The experiments of Yajña when performed at a small scale in daily life are known as Agnihotra. Veda describe Agnihotra as a process of fumigation.

¹³ Paranjpe. Vasant V. Homa Therapy Our Last Chance, p. 10
A time is approaching when science and religion will reunite and harmonise. Science is nothing but the investigation of physical laws, while religion is realization of God and His laws in the metaphysical realm. A new consciousness for need of spiritual values is rising in the world. In order to achieve this goal the necessity of harmony is a must. Harmony is an atomic energy that keeps off evils of all kinds. The Vedic seers were acting as generating Divine power to attain perpetual bliss for the mankind. In that type of harmonised atmosphere they practised sacrifices.

Heat and sound are the two main energy systems that are examined in physics. While performing Yajña these energies - the heat in form of fire and the sound in form of mantras are combined to achieve the desired physical, psychological and spiritual benefits. Fire is a scientific method of subtlelisation of matter into energy and expanding its potential and positive effects in surrounding atmosphere. The electromagnetic waves generated thereby help in transmitting at cosmic level, the desired sonic signal stored in the mantras, that are chanted during the process of sacrificing the special material in the fire.

Thus, Agnihotra has three disciplines:

a. Burning of specific organic substances into fire
b. Mantra, i.e. Vibrations
c. Specific timings corresponding to one circadium rhythm of nature, i.e. sunrise, sunset.

If you miss timing then it is not Agnihotra. 14

The substances used for Yajña are special type of wood or samidhā, materials that create odour like camphor, saffron, sandalwood etc, healthy

constituents like clarified butter, milk, rice, sesame seeds etc., medicinal herbs, sweet substance like honey, sugar, gud (used in preparing certain haviśānā). They are offered in combination or some times as a single offering. The specifications depend upon the desired achievement. For Agnihotra clarified butter made out of cow’s milk is used, that is a tonic and a cardiac stimulant according to Āyurveda. This ghee removes all pathogenic bacteria and works effectively in purification of the atmosphere and makes it sufficiently fit for all - human beings, plants and the life on the earth.

All the alphabets of the Sanskrit language are endowed with special vibrations. They set out harmonious wave patterns when pronounced. This power of sound vibrations is acknowledged in the field of science. The mantras, that are chanted during Agnihotra, produce positive vibrations. They create a soothing effect on human mind as well as on plants and animal life. These vibrations help in spreading special energy waves in the surrounding atmosphere.

Hence in the Agnihotra one can see the remedy to different problems in the modern world. The practitioners can experience the changes in their situation clearly.

Agnihotra acts as an enhancer of the environment from a preventive angle. For minimal effort and even more minimal expense anyone can today begin to experience the effects of Agnihotra on mind. In a month or less he will be able to observe easily the effects of Yajñā on nearby plants. Interested scientists could work within simple experimental models to demonstrate efficacy of Yajñā.

After Chernobyl nuclear accident, in 1986, scientist in some Eastern European countries became more curious and wondered how this Agnihotra results on pollution. They found out that if they try to investigate the results of Agnihotra merely from the point of view of chemistry they might not be able to make much progress, but if they would try to examine Agnihotra from the point of view of Quantum Physics, they would find huge knowledge hidden behind this ancient Vedic science. After several experiments, one senior scientist made following remarks:
The chemical reactions which take place when Agnihotra pyramid fire, mentioned in Homa Therapy, burns are less important. Important is the radiation. We know the chemical aspects of fire. In the end we get $H_2O$, $CO_2$ and $CO$. Then there is visible light and infrared. This is the classical view today about fire. If you look into the more subtle structure of fire, you find that electrons jump from one atom to another (like a flash of lightening) and this causes some emissions on a very subtle level which hardly fits into modern quantum theory.  

When Agnihotra is practised nutrients and fragrance are injected into the atmosphere. One experiences phenomenal change in the atmosphere after Agnihotra. Practice of Agnihotra nullifies the effect of pathogenic bacteria. Homa therapy, the science of Yajña given through the Vedas, take care of all the problems faced by modernisation. It lays stress on purifying the atmosphere in order to bring about changes in the functioning of mind. Any change in the atmosphere automatically leads to a change in Prāṇa, the life energy. The effect of change in the atmosphere is automatically transported to the realm of mind. In Homa therapy the change in the atmosphere is brought about through fire. By burning specific organic substances in copper pyramid of specific size. The procedure is performed in tune with the bio-rhythms. A beneficial change is brought about, which affects the universal mind.

Atmosphere pollution is now proving devastating to planet life as never before. The public actually has no idea of the enormity of the situation. What public reads in papers has been watered down and delivered in gentler terms. Otherwise there would be mass hysteria. But there is terrible destruction of the planet, which is easy to witness in this 21st century. Many diseases are increasing and spreading rapidly with no known cure in sight. Yet people continue to live in their folly and feel, they can pollute and destroy wherever and whatever. Some of the people in Europa have witnessed and experienced

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15 Paranjpe, V. V. Homa Therapy : Our last chance, p 6.
the atom-bomb devastations, nuclear power plants accidents, effects of harmful pollution on the soil, chemical spills, poisoning water resources and the pollution has enacted on human minds as well. Many people are like walking time bombs - ready to explode anytime. One sees escalation of crime, child abuse, domestic violence, drug abuse and alcoholism becoming the wave of today's life. Today pollution has reached at a level where one is not sure of having reliable uncontaminated natural resources. In some parts of world is terrible flood, in some severe drought, in some acidic rains are experienced at a time. The scientist are aware of the rapidly deteriorating conditions of the planet. Some of them are trying to find out solution and are interested in finding solution in the way of life as discussed in the Vedas.

In Europe, U. S. A., South American countries and in some states of India Agnihotra has been widely practised in farming, psychotherapy, cease prevention and cure. As Agnihotra removes tension from the mind and makes the mind full of love. Agnihotra atmosphere and Agnihotra ash give nourishment to plant life and protection from disease. Agnihotra comes from the ancient sciences of bio-energy, bio-genetics, medicine, agriculture and climate engineering as given in the Vedas.

Agnihotra tuned to the biorhythm of sunrise sunset harmonizes the energy cycle of the planet. The harmony between the life energy in the atmosphere is balanced by performing Yajña. Due to the combine effect of the specific time, specific recitation of word vibrations and specific organic elements burnt in the fire the imbalance of energy in the atmosphere is attacked and harmonised balance is acquired. Many different types of energies are the product of Yajña. As these energies, tolerance and love power are an outcome of Yajña, that works in co-operation of these energies. These energies work on human mind at a subtle level to reduce the anxiety, fear, tension, jealousy etc. In the process of striving towards the mental perfection the practice of daily Agnihotra proves to be an important instrument.

In Chile they call Agnihotra ash ‘saviour’, as miraculous healing have taken place with this ash. The scientists, if they wish, can look into isotope analysis, spectrum analysis of the ash to unravel its potency no negate the effects of
harmful radioactivity on the atmosphere.
In simple word one can say about the Vedas and Vedic knowledge: try to believe in what you experience or develop scientific means of experiments, both the answers should be the same. Some of the people have no need of scientific results, calculated studies for Vedic laws, but some need. Agnihotra - Yajña is not just to be believed, but to be experienced.
Since 1974 some people in Germany are performing Agnihotra. Some of them have built Aghiotra - Houses or Yajñaśālās, in the main hall of which there is no idol of any God, but only Yajña is performed and in that hall silence is maintained. If any word is uttered there those are Vedic mantras. Werner Metzer, who performs daily Agnihotra since 1974 has opened a Agnihotra - Hause that is Kriya-Yoga-Schule, where one can get training of Agnihotra and Yoga. In the fields of Homa-Hof in Heidenberg ‘Homa Organic Farming’ is practised. The visitors of this farm, who enjoy the farm-trip, get the information about Agnihotra and its effects. Their agricultural produces are kept for sale in the supermarkets. They get handsome prises, as they are organic products.
In Haldenberg since September 1997 Dr. Ulrich Berk is running a homa organic farm and in 1998 he has built Agniśālā to introduce Agnihotra. Monika Jele, who is a pharmacist by profession, has experimented on Agnihotra-ash and has prepared medicines. Her experiments are still continuing till today’s date. The name of Klaus Wunderlich is known as a greatest musician in Europe. But his contribution in this field of Agnihotra is important. He has prepared a computer software by which one can get the exact local time of sunrise and sunset. It changes according to the geographical position of the place. Dr Hobber- the Yugoslavian nuclear scientist- performed many experiments and gathered their observations, especially regarding the effects on radio-activity and magnetic field that is generated around the Agnihotra pot and in the atmosphere. He has stated by his observations that Agnihotra generates a good amount of positive energy. There are many more who are working on these grounds all over the world. But these are the pioneering persons in Germany regarding Agnihotra studies.
7.3.1 : Further Research Opportunities

It has been already stated that different branches of knowledge should be involved in the analysing the effects of Agnihotra - Yajña. It is a great challenge in front of scientists and scholars. In the seminar in collaboration with Indian Planning Commission many scientists, agriculture experts, scholars and the persons, who are using Agnihotra for better results in various fields, suggested many dimension of research opportunities.

According to Dr. Ulrich Berk, a German scientist in this field, the fundamental research on Agnihotra should be carried on the following points:

Fundamental Research
Understanding the Agnihotra process on a deeper level
... if the proposed experiments in plant physiology do actually corroborate the hypothesis that chlorophyll activity is being enhanced in Homa atmosphere, then this would give us one explanation why plants grow faster, yields increase, etc.

Similarly with all the other underlying mechanisms which will be examined in the different fields like plant physiology, plat pathology, soil science, etc. If these mechanisms are validated by the research in these different fields, then we understand the effect of Homa on plants much better.

Acoustics
the physics of sound, vibration, and resonance, will help us to understand better how the vibration of mantras is reflected by the sides of the pyramids, which role the steps of the (ziggurat shaped) pyramids play and whether we can find proof of the following statement from Vedic knowledge.

>There is a sound that comes from the ash. It is this sound that heals. All the other physical things are there, such as nutrients, vitamins, minerals. But the key is sound. One subtle enough to detect can show this.<

Only recently it has been shown that sound dies have an effect on the growth of plants. Most popular were experiments on that subject described in the book “The Secret Life of Plants” by Tompkins/Bird. ...

How will these amino acids react on the sound of the mantras of Agnihotra and Tryambakam fires and on the sounds reflected by the
Different steps of the pyramid ... will be an interesting topic for further research.

**Electronic Fields**

Especially studies of very high and very low frequencies will be interesting. One approach is taken by Dr. Abhay Shendye who examines the Far Infra Red spectrum - what are the emissions of the Agnihotra process and how do these FIR fields created by Agnihotra affect plants and all living organisms.

Some Eastern European physicists claim that there must be electromagnetic field of very high frequency (and agnihotra pyramid acts as a Horn antenna radiating these waves), but this hypothesis still to be examined.

**Plasma physics**

Plasma-the forth state of matter-is known to react with many different kinds of pollutants and thus can eliminate different forms of contamination.

Studies should clarify how the effect of the pyramid and the specific vibrations can help in this process.

**Quantum physics**

According to some nuclear physicists of Eastern Europe, after so many nuclear tests, using highly enriched uranium in weapons, and after the Chernobyl disastrous nuclear accident all our environment is radioactive. So also the cow dung you use for Agnihotra has an increased level of radioactivity but the Agnihotra ash does not. The physicists who conducted these experiments were much surprised and they concluded that one has to go deep into quantum physics in order to understand how such changes can happen. Chemistry is not enough to understand these changes.

Again it is interesting to compare the work of modern physics with statements from the ancient knowledge of Vedas.

> Ancient tradition of Vedic knowledge states that due to performance of Yajnya ‘APOORVA’ comes about. This means some special effect occurs due to Yajnya.

The effect goes to the subatomic level.

**Biophysics**

There is some effect of magnetic fields on the growth of plants. Agnihotra creates some magnetic-type of field around the pyramid.

We can test the hypothesis ...

Recent research, especially in Germany and in Russia, shows that bio-photonics are crucial for the communication between cells in living organisms. If this communication is disturbed, diseases occur. ...

To lay out experiments in order to find out possible changes would be a worthwhile project.

**Subtle energies**

... quantum theory might be the key to understanding such notions and in the end hopefully the ancient knowledge of the Vedas and modern
science in its advanced form could come together.  

The chief consultant of National Horticulture Mission Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation Dr. R. K. Pathak is of the opinion that:  

After critical study of different aspects of Homa Organic Farming, it is apparent that sincere research efforts have not initiated on this novel technology. ... Hence, sincere research efforts are required to resolve many mysteries of this novel technology. ... With 12 years of my association with different organic systems, I am of the view that Homa can resolve number of issues and there is a dire need to promote this novel technology to assure Sujal, Suphalam and Malayaj Sheetalam and thus good human life by preaching and advocating the ancient knowledge of Vedas. ... Homa Organic Farming has become the need of the hour to resolve a number of crises being faced on every continent. ... The impact of Homa needs to be systematically assessed for its impact on water quality, environment, quality of produce and sustainability through cost benefit study.

He added further that organic farming and Homa farming subjects should be added in the syllabus of the Universities.

Dr. Pramod W. Basarkar, Professor and Head, Department of Biochemistry, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, is of the opinion:  

The successful Homa experiments need to be documented and shown to farmers through modern gadgets and equipments. Such successful farmers need to be projected in public. They should be made to express  

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17 Op cit, pp. 66-68.
themselves freely in public and suitably rewarded for their achievements.

There should be a Directory of Homa farmers. The mass awakening process needs powerful speakers to speak with authority. ... Farmers are slowly becoming aware of the impact of Homa Organic Farming and have started believing in its efficacy. Wide publicity and public awareness programmes will do the trick. ... Great future awaits Homa Organic Farming in India.  

On these grounds new Homa-organic-farms are established in different parts of the country, eg. in Navasari, Kodinar (in the vicinity of Sorti- Somanath) Saurashtra, Bhanavad (70 km from Junagadh) in Gujarat, in village Sajiwali, Tal Shahapur, Thane district of Maharashtra Mr. Vyankatesh Kulkarni is working on the Mango and Cashew plants, under the guidance of Dr. R. K. Pathak Mr. Ramesh Chandra Tiwari is experimenting on Dashahari Mango, in Maheshwar Karin Heschl is using Homa effects for soyabean plants and under her technical guidance some activities on Homa Organic Farming are initiated at Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture at Lucknow and in few farms Uttar Pradesh and in Parola, Jalgaon district Bruce Johnson enjoys the results of Agnihotra on Bt cotton.

Some bio-technologists from Pune are working on the new advanced version of Kirlian-Photography, known as PIP technique. With this PIP imaging one can monitor the minute changes and details in the aura - human as well as plants. Dr. Abhay Shende is trying to investigate the changes due to Agnihotra at different levels, like a person not known to Agnihotra to a daily performer of Agnihotra for years or the same way on plants, like a plant in the atmosphere of Agnihotra and not kept in the surroundings of Agnihotra. Some basic experiments are followed in Pune, but still much more has to be experimented yet. The outcome of these experiments will be interesting and can throw light on various important aspects of Yajña.

Here the Nitya-Yajña - Agnihotra is discussed with various aspects and its relevance in the daily life of common man in this IT era. In 2007 and 2009

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18 Op cit, pp. 69-70.
some experiments were undertaken while Somayaga was being performed by Dr. Puchalski, for measuring the life-energy that is emitted through the performance of this Yajña. The experiments should be undertaken for discovering further more effects and their details that are achieved through this and other different Yajñas, like, eg. Darṣapūrṇamāseṣṭi, which is again performed in the transition period of full-moon and new-moon day. The ritualistic significance is known through the scriptures. The importance of relevance of these ritualistic performances in the daily life should be found out, when the common man is facing the adverse effects of pollution everyday. As Agnihotra is proved as solution to the problem of pollution by experts, many more aspects of other sacrifices that are still unknown and are not yet noticed should be discovered with the help of the yardsticks of modern sciences. These effects of sacrifices should be made available to all and efforts should be made to literate people about these homogenous results and benefits.

7.4 : Summary

Agnihotra is a multi-disciplinary science. An attempt has been made to project Agnihotra from as many angels as possible. There is much more to be done in the field of experiments regarding Agnihotra, which would prove many more dimensions of Vedic knowledge. For these experiments scholars of different disciplines will have to work hand in hand.

In para-psychological impact on the present day world, dominated by economic considerations, is of prime importance. Agnihotra is therefore a worship, a prayer or a meditation, accompanied by what looks like a ritual or a physical act, performed much more as a sequence. Thousands of people on all continents belonging to different races, languages, regions and spiritual groups, who practice Agnihotra have remarked that simply by performing Agnihotra at sunrise and sunset, feel as if a protection film surrounds them. The scriptures call it a supreme act, Śreṣṭhātama karma, not only because it is
selfless action but also because of its multi-dimensional effects. The ancient vedic seers have given in the hands of man, Agnihotra as a replica of cosmic working and have thus opened before him the way to Vedic cosmology.

The fundamental books all different religions declare actually one basic concept. When the God created universe, he told the benevolent and right lifestyle with a basic ritualistic performance. As time and region needed many incarnations, prophets, messengers and saints took birth on this earth. According to their birth place, they used the language to convey the message. But this difference is just superficial. The original fundamental message is one and only one. Practice sharing your assets in a spirit of humanity (Dāna), practice self-discipline to train the body and mind (Tapa), practice doing good action without attachment to name, fame or reward (Karma), practice self-study of ‘who I am’ (Swādhāya), is the teaching of the Vedas. It is also the basis of all scriptures, teachings of all saints and prophets.

Thus it is observed that the Vedas, which were given at the beginning of life on the earth, have imparted the fundamental knowledge. The same is revealed again and again in various countries, in different languages - as and when required. Sometimes much detailed and clearly, sometimes symbolically. But principally the facts are just one and same. There cannot be any reason to tell many types of paths, as the truth is one and only one. Hence by different prophets the Vedic knowledge is explained as the benevolent way of life again and again, time, place and language may differ and the Vedas are to be defined as the working manuals of the universe.