

FROM EDITORS DESK

The sun is blazing at his scorching heat and the days ahead are likely to be more hot and humid, especially in the gulf countries. The time is apt for taking a short break and many of us visit our kith and kins back home. What other things could bring us more joy and happiness than visiting our dear and near. For those who do not go on vacation, plenty of summer camp activities are lined up in the cities, mainly targeting the children.

AGNI, though a bit delayed, comes out here with another issue of Newsletter. We are determined to go all out to provide you the maximum reading materials in our issues and we would always strive for more excellence in whatever we do.

AGNI wishes its readers a good vacation and "MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL WITH HEALTH AND WEALTH ALWAYS".

- Editor

JOURNAL ANALYSIS

- Sasi Kumar**
(Thottupurath Mana)
- Anoop**
(Koramboor Mana)
- Sreekanth**
(Karikkod Illam)
- Ram Prasad**
(Thiyyanoor)

The much awaited AGNI 4th anniversary took place at Sharjah Indian Association Hall.

Sri.Karuthedam Narayanan Nambudiri (Ex- Scientist-VSSC) who officially inaugurated the ceremony, by lighting the traditional vilakku. See next page for detailed report...



ആചാര്യ ശബ്ദം



കർമ്മം ഫലനിരപേക്ഷവും അനാസക്തവും ആയാൽ
മുക്തി. അതാണ് കർമ്മകുശലത അല്ലെങ്കിലോ അതാണ്
ആസക്തി.

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Note: -
All your write-ups those are to be published in our forthcoming issues of newsletter may kindly be forwarded to the below given mail ids: -
editor@agni.ws
webmaster@agni.ws

AGNI anniversary – A report

The much awaited AGNI 4th anniversary took place at Sharjah Indian Association Hall. Below is only a summary of the whole event.

After the Prayer by Arathy, Secretary and President gave a small speech and invited the chief guest, Sri.Karuthedam Narayanan Nambudiri (Ex- Scientist-VSSC) who officially inaugurated the ceremony, by lighting the traditional "vilakku".

The main programs were,

Childrens drama, songs, dance, and poems.
 Bharathanatyam and folk dance by Swathi Thiruvathirakkali by Dubai / Sharjah ladies
 Gujrati Dance by Abu Dhabi ladies.
 Chaakyar koothu by KB Narayanan
 Drama on "Harthal" by Abu Dhabi team
 Skit - Namboori Phalithams - Dubai team.

As a filler between each program, many members gave individual songs, mainly Hindi and malayalam numbers. Those who perofomed were,



Ram Prasad,
 Ranjini
 Jathavedan,
 Jyotish, Vinod,
 Prasad
 Madambu,

Sajan, Ani Ramesh, Rahul, Binoy Sailesh..etc..etc..

An event like this would never be a success without a great anchorer and we had Sri.Mananampatta Neelakandan who took charge of the mic and did a wonderful job.

The program lasted till 5.30 pm. Sri Cherloor Unnikrishn gave vote of thanks.

NEWS (From January – March 2005)

“Jeevitha Katha” – Biography of Sri. Venmany Haridasan

[Thiruvananthapuram, India:](#)

The famous Kathakali Singer Sri Venmany Haridasan's autobiography named "jeevitha katha" was released at Trivandrum Press Club Hall, Trivandrum on 5th February 2005. The book "jeevitha katha" is published by Rainbow Book Publishers

<http://www.rainbow-books.com>

- Sunil Kumar, AGNITE from Riyadh

Agnite (USA) Jayan Chengazhassery Mana became father

[Rockville U.S.A.:](#)

Agnite (USA), Jayan's (Chengazhassery Mana, Alwaye) wife Swapna (Eranchery Illam, Vatakara) has given birth to a baby girl, Vaishnavi Arya Namboothiri, on 27th February 2005 at 1.20 PM

(Eastern Time) in Holy Cross Hospital, Silver Spring, Maryland, USA. Agni congratulates them on this occasion.

Smitha Hari delivered a baby boy

[Abu Dhabi U.A.E.:](#)

Smitha Hari w/o Hari Karuthedam (Karuthedam Mana, edappal) delivered a baby boy on 01st March 2005 1030 hrs at Abu Dhabi.

Hari is an engineer at ADCO. Agni congratulates them and welcomes the new entrant to their family.

Vivek Namboothiri won Employee of the Year award.

[AbuDhabi U.A.E.:](#)

Vivek Namboothiri was given the 'Employee of the Year 2004' of Abu Dhabi National Hotels Abu Dhabi. Vivek Namboothiri of Kallampilly

illam is working as F&B Supervisor at Hilton Abu Dhabi.

Agni congratulates Mr. Vivek on achieving this award for his outstanding performance in his assignments.

Sreekanth weds Shreeja (Hyma)

[Karunagappally India:](#)

Mr.Sreekanth (S/O Mr.P.N.N. Namboothiri , Karikottu Illom Edappalli) got married to Ms. Hyma (D/O Mr. SreeKumaran Potti , Kaleli Bhagam Karithottam Maruthamangalathu Mana) on 27th March 2005 at the Brides residence (Karunagappally).

Sreekanth is working in Dubai as graphic designer and an active member of AGNI. All agnites wishes them a very happy wedded life.

Priesthood and Hinduism in Kerala - Some Critical Questions

This is an attempt to start a dialogue on an important issue concerning Kerala Hindus, who as we all know are almost cornered. No matter which caste. The question is about the internal problems of the Hindu faith as of today, which I believe is as important as the external variables. This I wish gets circulated among the Nampoothiri community by the medium of the site www.agni.ws Responses to the same, if forwarded, shall be suitably circulated.

Recently in a network of the nair community I received a strong request questioning Brahmin priesthood, from a victim of astrologer - priest - money nexus, which we know exists in Kerala. I did not entertain the debate, as it would be damaging to the Hindu consolidation process underway in Kerala, of which I am also part of. But at the same time it is an issue that deserves serious attention and why this mail. It is a historic necessity at this point of time as well. Ideally it should get resolved from within.

As we can infer Communism in Kerala was a kind of semi-conversion, so is secularism, which is fake conversion. People drifted to both also due to the inherent weakness of the faith cannot be ruled out. Post Communist Kerala Hindu society is undergoing a vacuum and a come back, where it becomes necessary that there is a renewed, healthy faith available to the masses. Not doing that would mean more and more conversions and weakening of the Hindu society further.

Priesthood is at the core of a faith. Unfortunately the salaries paid to the Hindu temple priests in Kerala are miserable. The society looks the other way. A poverty stricken individual obviously will try to make money whatever the means and that explains the case of many unhealthy stratagems prevalent. Recently there

were reports that the temple priests from the Brahmin community have formed a union to fight for their 'jobs'. It is a telling evidence of where the lofty ideal of communion with the almighty has drifted. We also hear stories of more unfortunate happenings.

As many seers and saints have pointed out mediation, if at all, with god is a privilege of those who had an experience of self-revelation. What came to be called Brahmajnani and Brahmin later. But soon this became a right of birth and a priestly caste emerged. Any Sankalp has meaning and doing pooja to a deity is all the more so. If anyone with out adequate capacities do that it is obvious that the doer will suffer as also those who go by him. Rituals alone don't mean much. Looking at the Hindu society in Kerala indications are not very positive with regard to mental health.

I also know, trained, as I am in Psychiatric Social Work, with my own spirituality, many Brahmin families who are undergoing severe crisis. Many I have helped as well, trapped in blind rituals. This happens among all other Hindus, more so among the Nairs. Which I can tell with grass roots knowledge; it is no wonder that the majority committing suicides in Kerala are Hindus as per statistics. Couple of years back I came to know about a Nampoothiri boy, from an orphaned family, from being converted to Christianity. From his surname being used in which the Hindu leader Kummanam Rajasekharan was also involved. Let us accept it we are in bad faith.

There is also this problem, a non-Brahmin tanrti tells me, of rudimentary Brahmin rituals plaguing Nair families. Many Nair families have spiritual and biological links to Brahmins, leaving aside the stigma of applying modern morality on old practices. Here again solutions will have to come from both the communities, rather than it leading to a conflict. Why it is important that these issues are not ignored. Leaving aside the superiority inferiority issues of castes there are deeper spiritual questions involved, which exist, as we see it around and hence cannot be denied. I wish to know how you react to these issues.

Thank you
Pradeep

Subject: Agni News Letter Issue no.4, Date: Fri, 1 Apr 2005 01:03:12 -0800 (PST)
From: Sooraj Namboodiripad To: webmaster@agni.ws;editor@agni.ws



LETTERS

Hi,

The Issue is having very interesting contents. I found one mistake in the crossword. The spelling of Pandava was wrong (in Malayalam).

Regards,

Sooraj

Microsoft India Community Star

A LETTER TO AGNI

From: vishnu namboothiri

To: webmaster@agni.ws

Sent: Mon, 30 May 2005 16:27:40 +0530

Subject:

Dear Friend

I am glad to know that you bring out a newsletter every month containing news about the activities of your

organisation AGNI, a body constituted by Nampoothiris residing in UAE. It is true that Nampoothiri is a community enjoying high esteem from time immemorial and they are the custodians of Vedas, the earliest documents of human society. It is therefore good to do something to foster and preserve the values cherished through the ages. I understand that you are accepting members from all over the world and thus providing facility for members to know each other and co-operate. Its name AGNI is so apt since Agni is the presiding deity of most of the Rigvedic Manthras. According to Chandogya upanishad Agni [Thejas] is the first creation of God in the making of Universe. Agni is aptly qualified as Ishtakrit in Vedas [Agniswishtakrit devata]. Let me wish well of all your activities both in cultural and charitable field

S.VishnuNamboothiri

Thanks to you all for your letters and suggestions. Your feedbacks always help us to improve our newsletter presentation. Please keep sending us your opinions and articles for the newsletter to editor@agni.ws or webmaster@agni.ws. Also please don't forget to mention the Authors Details such as Illam, Age etc.

OBITURY

Savithri Antharjanam Passed Away

Cheruvatheri India

Smt. Savithri Antharjanam (84) (Cherukunam Mana) w/o Late Krishnan Namboodiri Passed away on 30th Jan 2005.

Shastrasharman namboodiri, Parvathy, Parameshwaran, Subramanian, Madhavan, Savithri, Sreekumari, Unnikrishnan and Harinarayanan are her children.

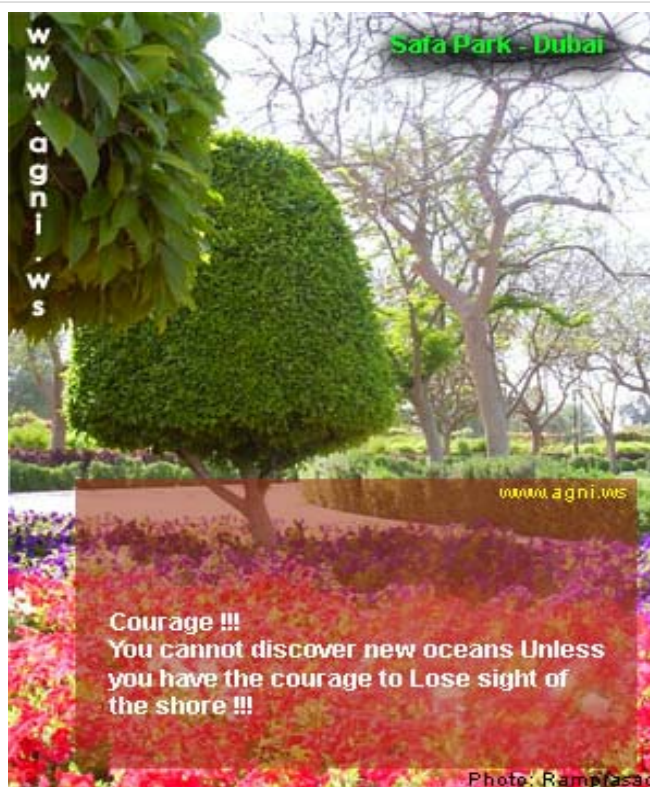
Sankhakali Artist Poongattu Narayanan Namboothiri Passed Away

Anjur India

Poongattu Narayanan Namboothiri (87) Passed away on 30th Jan 2005. He has been associated with 'sankhakali'. He was also very much actively involved into the social activities of his locale. Agni condoles on the sad demise of Sri Narayanan Namboothiri.

Due to some technical glitches we were unable to release this issue of Newsletter on date. We regret for the same.

- Editor



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