

COPY

Letter from C.S. Jones, dated 21 June, 1946.

Dear Fellow Associate,

Knowing how deeply you have studied the Agni Yoga Teachings and how familiar you are with the values they contain it occurred to me this morning that the enclosed list of questions might be found stimulating and of interest to you.

These questions were prepared some time ago in another connection and, with the exception of those of a purely personal nature such as 17 - 40, there exists a set of answers which according to certain standards may be considered true. If you would care to formulate a set of answers in the light of Agni Yoga Teaching as known to you (with or without 17 - 40 but including 41 and 42) on plain numbered sheets retaining copy of original questions, I will gladly thereafter supply the set of answers referred to above and the points of similarity or difference so arising might prove illuminating to both of us. This offer applies also to your Fellow Associate whose name I do not know but for whom I will send an extra set if the idea appeals to both of you.

Your sincere Fellow Truth Seeker,

REPLY

It is kind of you to send the questionnaire. However, on thinking about it, you will not be surprised to learn that those of us seeking to follow Agni Yoga are striving along a somewhat different way. One great cleansing, freeing, simplifying, energizing aspect of Agni Yoga is its power to make us ordinary individuals look up and out, while increasing our joy in daily labor. We come gradually to sense the meaning of goal-fitness. We expand. Our striving, our labor, helps. ~~Life~~ Life opens to us. The far-off worlds draw nearer. It seems to me that for many of us this is, even from the point of view of average psychology, a swifter and surer way of purification, of taking early steps in the direction of perfection. The constant emphasis on quality helps. Everything "takes us out of ourselves", enables the individual to "become used to thoughts of a great life" - a life of self-less labor. (407)

As you know by now, Agni Yoga Teaching concerns itself with action, with development of psychic energy, with the use of Fire. It is a "unifying Yoga, exacting in its obligation to construct the entire life in conformation to a discipline externally imperceptible". One passage, presenting a basic Agni Yoga ideal, says, "Each one worthy of attainment manifests his works, neither pronouncing them good nor evil, but performing them <sup>thus</sup> as is inevitable." So, "The real values of the surroundings emerge... Truth as the real conception enters the daily life". "The understanding of Our Teaching must essentially transform the lives of those who accept it. It must afford possibilities; otherwise why to assume the burden?" Agni Yoga is spoken of "as the perception and application in life of the all-embracing element of fire, which nourishes the seed of the spirit". "It is necessary to estimate the goal-fitness of the surrounding things". "Our Teaching is not steady in the hands of those who do not apply it to life.... There are too many speakers and too few workers". "Strive only for quality". "Through the evidences of life can one demonstrate the quality of attainment". "Have you finally learned to rejoice at obstacles?" (163) (169) (185) (187) (29) (38) (72)

"Man... thinks, primarily, through himself and bounds the world with himself. With such a measure, can one have true conceptions?" "The study of Yoga is not self-perfection..." "Think simply!" "The Teaching of Wisdom... is the decree of life applied to each necessity". "The Teaching of Agni Yoga must inwardly transform your life. But externally ... (no) marks" "... be most average". (126) (304) (304) (336)

(422) "Kindle simply the fire of striving and achievement". "The Teaching of Agni Yoga is nothing else than the expression of contemporary application of energy". "The development of psychic energy is the most vital task of humanity". "The manifestation of joy in the work is also the manifestation of a special form of psychic energy. Joyous labor results in success multiplied several times". (572) "How can one succeed if the fire is burning, but the eye is turned into darkness". (615) "Not by self-conviction, but by the quality of action, is the expansion of ~~XXXXXXXX~~ consciousness realized". "The best armor, the best rudder, the best eye, is the power of action". "He who follows the Teaching loses the inactivity so dear to people". "It is better to be mistaken in actions than in inactivity". "People usually not only desire results but they themselves define the methods of execution. Whereas, it is just the means of expression that must be individual". (440) "People easily repeat 'untiring labor'. But in spirit they fear it.... Life is being fused with labor, gaining from it strength of growth.... The tension of energy does not come from the mind, nor does it increase by an outer command. It grows only from within. But only a free consciousness can develop labor as a festival of spirit". (347)

Even beginners on this way are strengthened, guided, upheld by joy. And their desire to serve impersonally and constructively is satisfied. Life expands. The individual sees his place in the Whole.

This is a little of what Agni Yoga means to some of us. And it fills our lives.

Faithfully and sincerely,

Note for Mrs. Fosdick:- All references are from "Agni Yoga". (furnished for your use)  
The questionnaire from C.S.J. was many pages long - a beautiful example of attempted psychoanalysis, one might say. It would have required many hours of work and, of course, undesirable self-revelation.