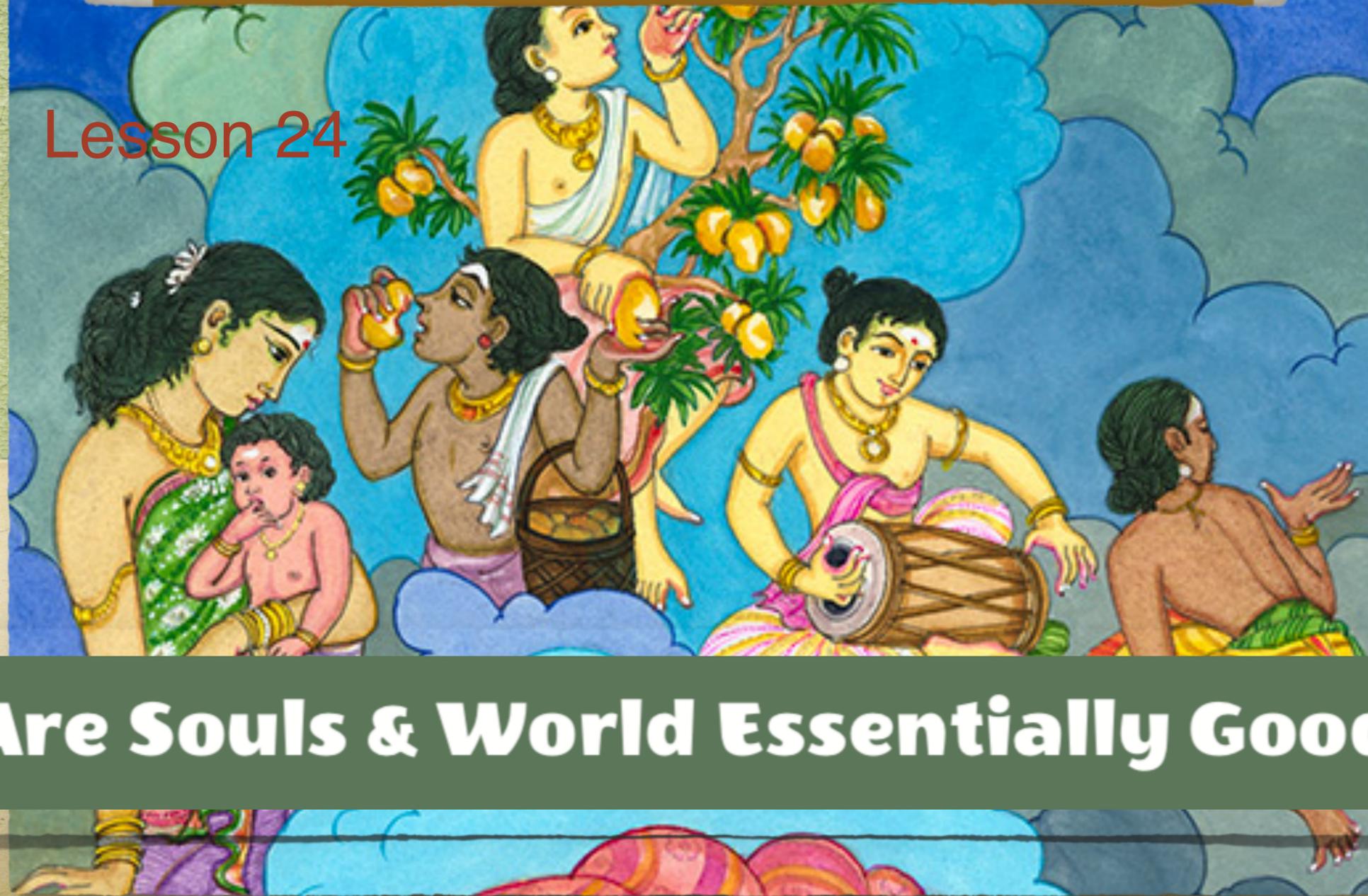


# Path to Siva

A Catechism for Youth

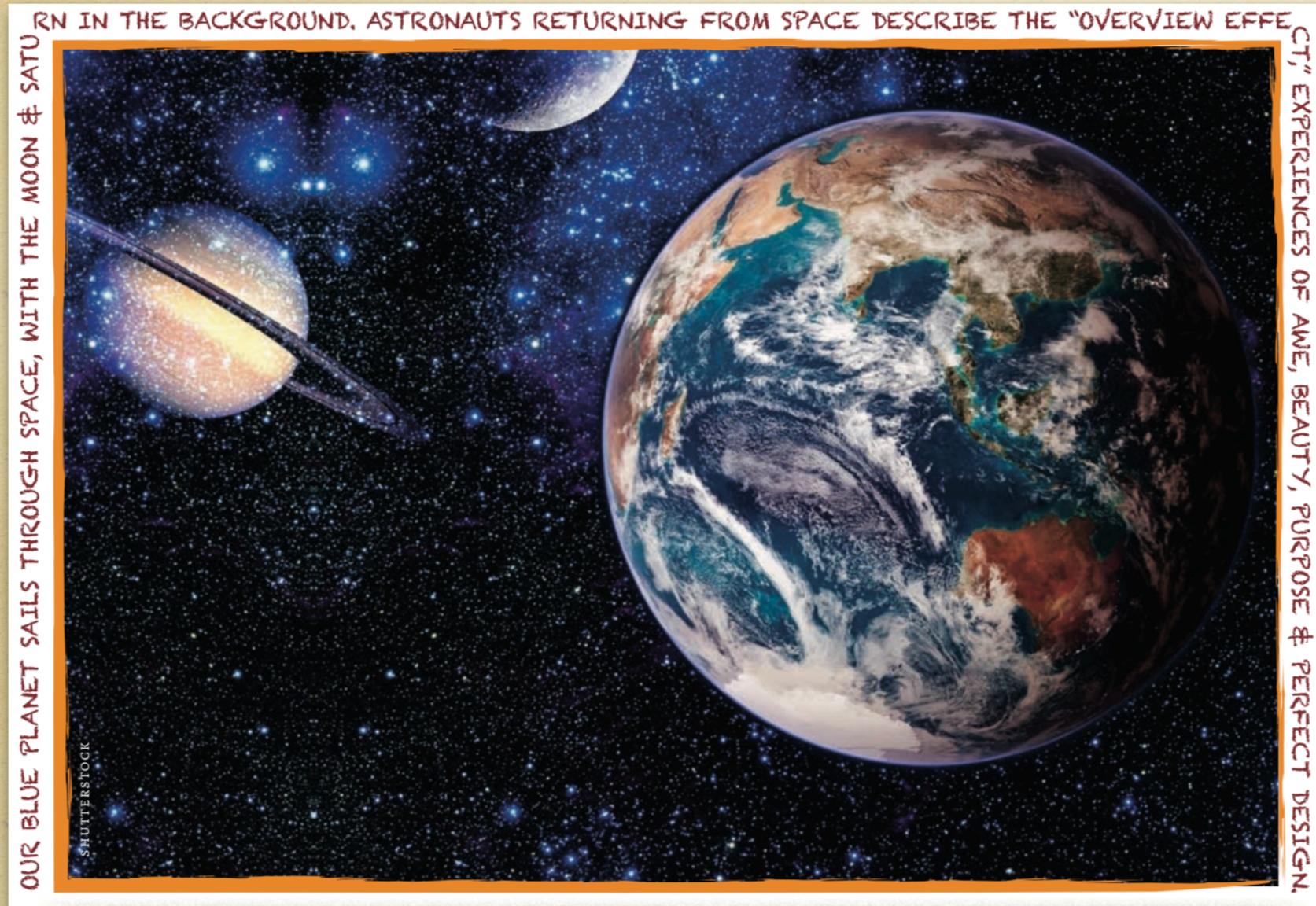
Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami

Lesson 24



**Are Souls & World Essentially Good?**

# All souls are essentially good



**All souls are essentially good, for their inner nature is divine.**

**Each soul is created by God Siva from Himself. Siva's nature is pure love.**

# Natural qualities of the soul

So, goodness, compassion,  
understanding and joy are natural  
qualities of the soul.

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Wisdom and pure knowledge are the  
intrinsic nature of the soul.



The world, too, is God's flawless creation.

All is in perfect order and balance.

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Since God is everywhere and in all things, there can be no place for evil.



# There can be no place for evil

Since God is everywhere and in all things, there can be no place for evil.

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Evil is often looked upon as a force against God.

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But we know that all forces are God's forces, even mean, hurtful actions

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This is sometimes difficult to understand when we see the pains and problems caused by people against each other.



# What is called evil has its own purpose in life.

Looking deeper, we see that what is called evil has its own purpose in life.

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Yes, bad things do happen.

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Still, the wise never blame God, for they know such things are the return of our self-created karmas, tough lessons that help us learn and mature.



# The nature of the world is duality.

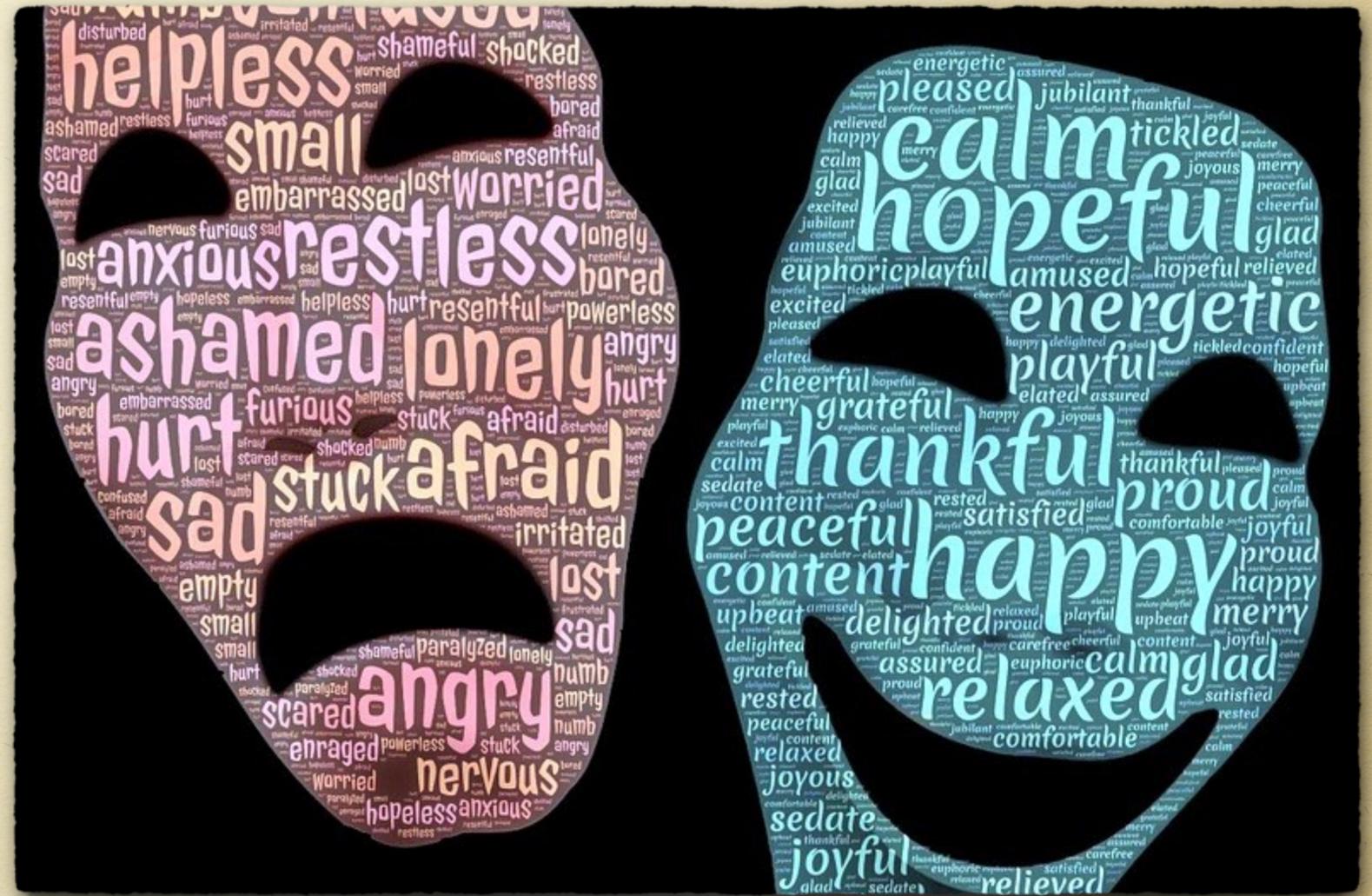
It contains each thing and its opposite:  
joy and sorrow, goodness and evil, love  
and hate.

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Suffering cannot be totally avoided.

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It is a natural part of human life that  
causes much spiritual growth for the  
soul.



# The wise accept suffering from any source

Knowing this, the wise accept suffering from any source, be it hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, famine, wars, disease or personal tragedies.

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Suffering offers us the important realization that true happiness and freedom cannot be found in the world, for earthly joy is bound to sorrow.

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Having learned this, devotees seek a satguru who teaches them to overcome suffering through understanding and acceptance.



# The world is the bountiful creation of a benevolent God

The world is the bountiful creation of a benevolent God, who means for us to live positively in it, facing karma and fulfilling dharma.

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We must not despise or fear the world.

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Life is meant to be lived joyously.



# Gurudeva says...

This is my advice: gain the perspective first that it is a wonderful world, that there is nothing wrong in the world at all.

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All men and women on the Earth are doing exactly as they should and must do



# QUESTIONS for Lesson 24



**24.1** The qualities of the soul are  
(Check the incorrect answer)

- A. Goodness, compassion, understanding and joy
- B. A tendency to act in evil ways
- C. Wisdom and pure knowledge

**24.2** When bad things happen to us it is because of  
(Check the correct answer)

- A. The hurtful nature of some people
- B. The return of our self-created karmas
- C. God

**24.3** The nature of the world is duality. It contains  
each thing and its opposite:  
(Check the incorrect answer)

- A. Joy and sorrow
- B. Goodness and evil
- C. Love and kindness

**24.4** Suffering is  
(Check the incorrect answer)

- A. Unnecessary
- B. A natural part of human life
- C. Causes much spiritual growth

**24.5** We are meant to live positively in the world,  
facing dharma and fulfilling karma.

- True
- False