

# Path to Siva

A Catechism for Youth

Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami

NAMI

S. FAMI

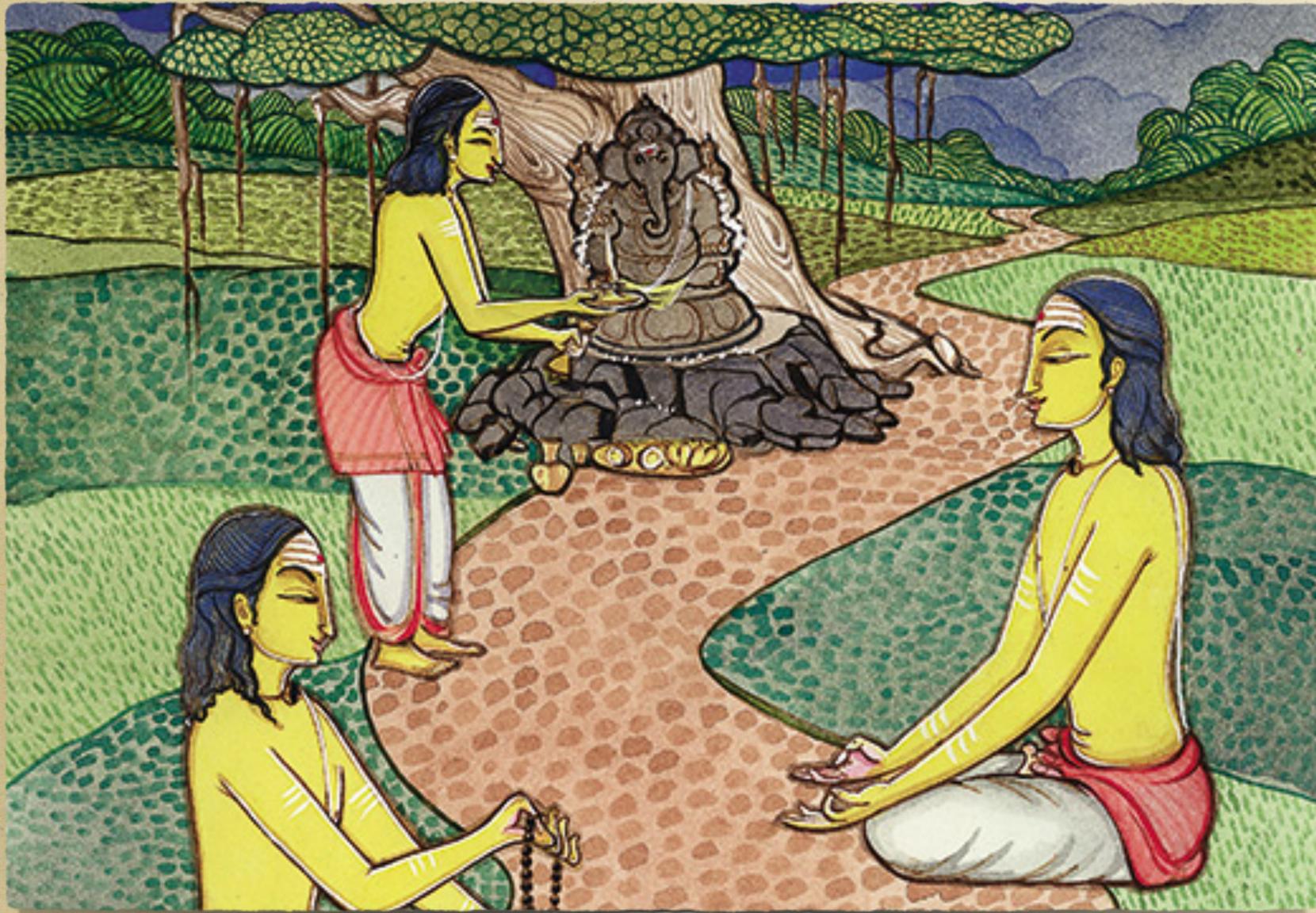
Lesson 37



**What Are the Two Paths?**

COURTESY CHINMAYA MISSION

# Two ways to live our adult life



**We call them the two paths.**

**Most people follow the family path.**

**A rare few follow the monastic path.**

# The Family Path

A married couple has great responsibilities.

---

They create and run a home together.

---

They raise their children as spiritual, well-educated citizens of their nation.

---

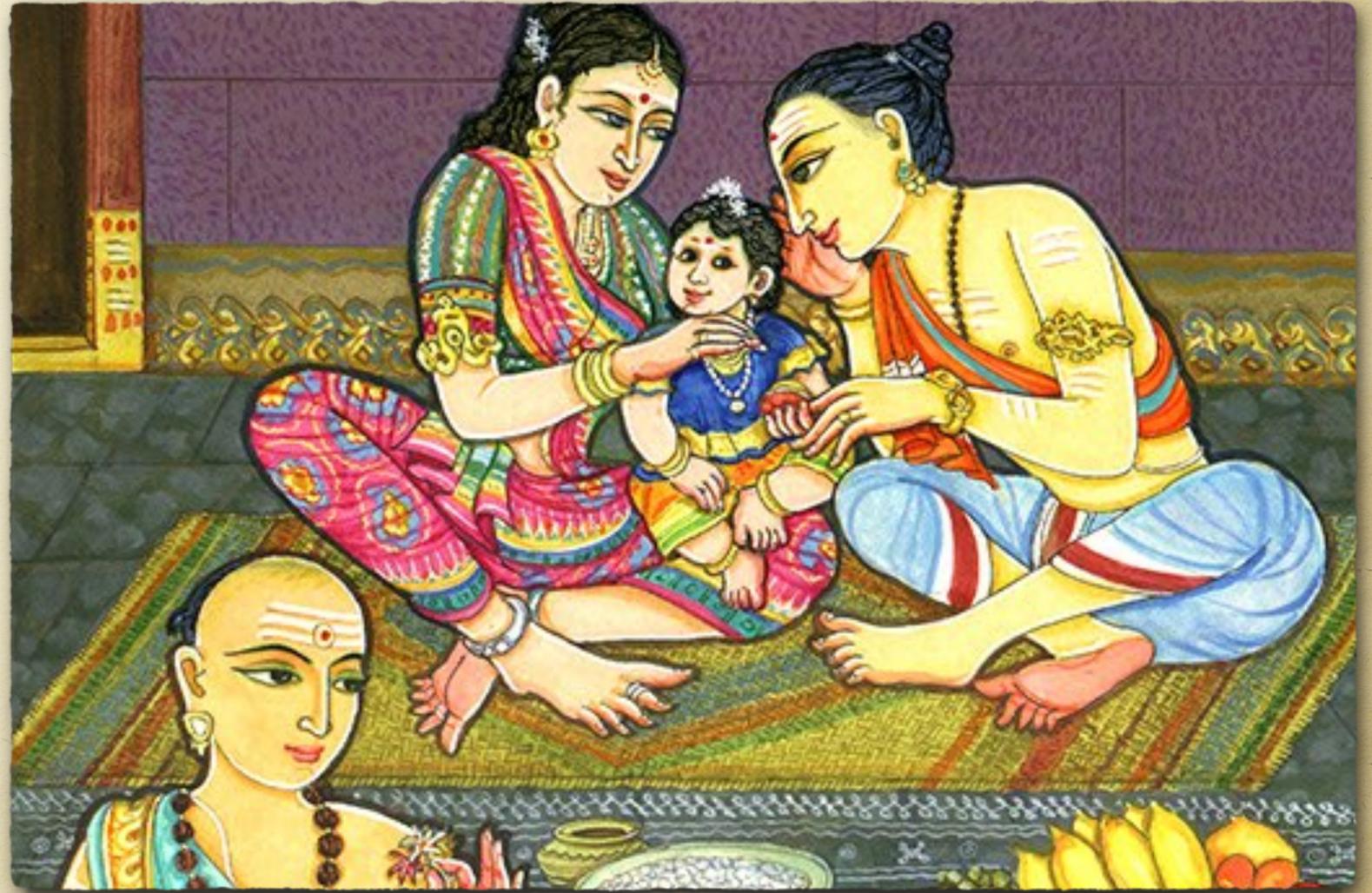
They provide support to the young, the aged and the monastic community.



# The Tirukural states:

The *Tirukural* summarizes:

“The foremost duty of family life is to serve duly these five: God, guests, kindred, ancestors and oneself.”



# Married Life

Married life begins with the wedding ceremony, where vows are taken to be faithful and follow dharma for life.



# Monastic Life

Monastics follow a different path.

---

Instead of having a spouse and children, they embrace the whole world as their family.

---



# The two goals of Monastics

They have two goals: to serve humanity and realize God.

---

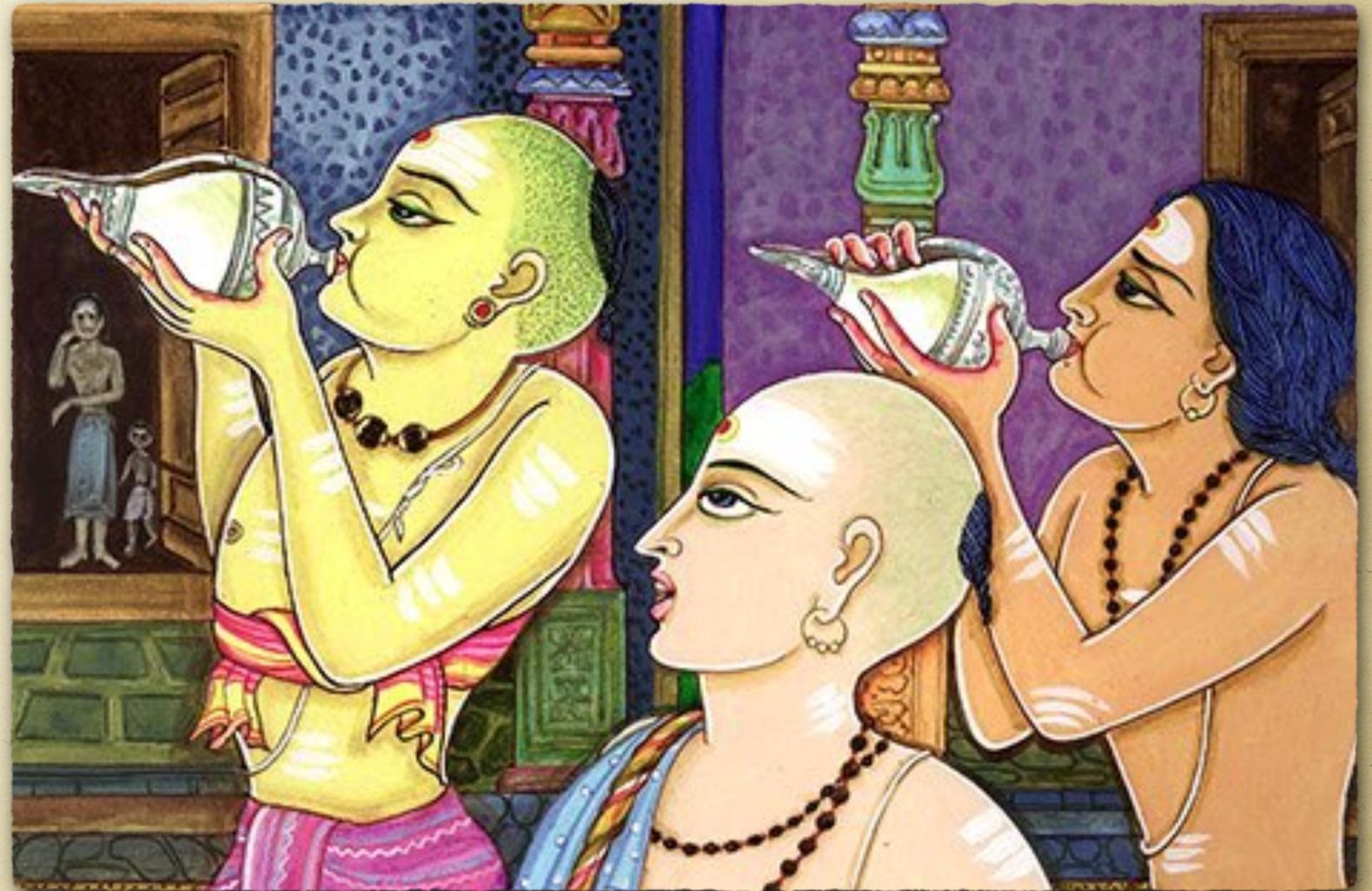
They renounce name and fame.

---

Their focus is worship, meditation and yoga, which makes them pure and wise.

---

They inspire and uplift those on the householder path.



# Who are the Monastics?

Some wander or live alone, and others join monasteries.

---

Some are dynamic teachers, some are swamis with many followers and others are unheralded hermits.

---



# Saivite Monastics

In Saivism, most monastics are men, but there are also orders for women.

---

Monastic life begins with vows to stay unmarried and celibate, devoted to God, Gods and guru.

---



# How do we recognise a monastic?

Most Hindu monks wear orange robes.

---

Others wear white or yellow robes.

---

Some shave their heads, while others have long hair and beards.



# The Tirukural praises the two paths

The *Tirukural* praises both paths:

“Behold those who have weighed the dual nature of things and followed the renunciate’s way. Their greatness illumines the world.”

---

“Domestic life is rightly called virtue. The monastic path, rightly lived beyond blame, is likewise good.”



# Which path to choose?

The key is to choose your path carefully  
and follow it faithfully.

---



# Gurudeva says:

**The two paths—householder and renunciate—every young man has to choose between them. ...**

---

**The choice is his and his alone as to how his soul is to live through the birth karmas of this incarnation.**

---

**Both paths take courage, great courage, to step forward and embrace the responsibilities of adult life.**



# QUESTIONS for Lesson 37

**37.1** The two paths refers to  
(Check the incorrect answer)

- A. Karma yoga and bhakti yoga
- B. Two ways to live our adult life
- C. The family path and the monastic path

**37.2** For each concept below, enter “F” if it relates to the family path and “M” if it relates to the monastic path.

- The whole world is their family
- Provide support to the young and the aged
- Serve humanity and realize God
- Renounce name and fame
- Family is spouse and children

**37.3** In Saivism, monastics are  
(Check the correct answer)

- A. Always men
- B. Mostly men
- C. Always women

**37.4** The Tirukural praises  
(Check the correct answer)

- A. The family path
- B. The monastic path
- C. Both paths

**37.5** The key is to choose your path carefully and follow it faithfully.

- True
- False