

# Path to Siva

A Catechism for Youth

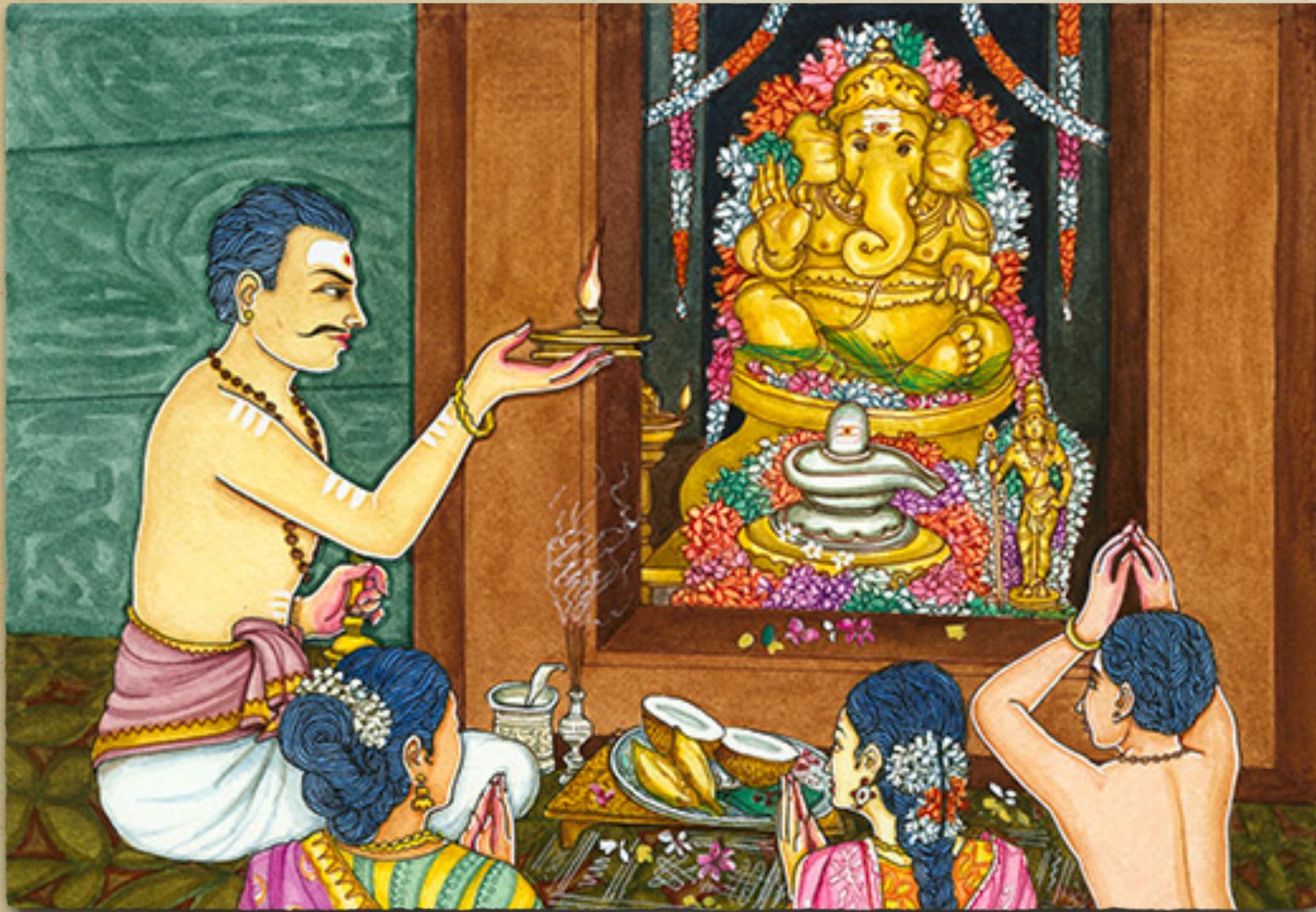
Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami

Lesson 53



**How Do We Use Our Home Shrine?**

# The family home shrine



**The home shrine is the family personal temple.**

**It is the heart of the home, a sacred place we go into to be close to God, Gods and the devas.**

# A entire room...

Hindus who are wise and serious about practicing their religion have an entire room for the home shrine.



# The shrine is a sacred place

They keep it just for this purpose and maintain it with a temple-like atmosphere.

They know that a closet or a shelf is not enough to create a sacred space.

In this special room, the family gathers to conduct puja, read scripture, meditate, sing bhajana, do japa and other sadhanas every morning.



# Holy days...

On holy days they devote extra time to these practices.



# What can a youth do?

As a youth, you can help with the shrine room and make it your special place.

---

You can collect flowers from the garden, help prepare prasadam and help organize the puja items before the daily worship.

---

Learn the Sanskrit mantras and chant along with your parents.



# The most beautiful room in the house

The home shrine should be the most beautiful room in the house.

---

It is adorned with pictures of your guru lineage.



# Deities in the shrine

The altar has images of God Siva, Lord Ganesha and Lord Murugan.

---

There are oil lamps, incense, bells, offering trays and flower baskets.



# Devas from the temple

Each time we return from the community temple, we visit the shrine and light a lamp.

---

This connects it to the temple.

---

If the shrine is kept pure, many devas come and live there, including your own guardian devas.



# Gurudeva explains...

Gurudeva said, "A room is set aside for these permanent unseen guests.

It is a room that the whole family can enter and sit in.

They can commune inwardly with these refined beings.

These devas are dedicated to protecting the family generation after generation."



# How do the beings of light help?

These beings of light bless and protect you, keeping the home secure and peaceful.

---

When we provide a home for God inside our own home, it is easy for the family to be happy.

---

It is easy to get along and love one another.

---

It is easy to feel Siva's protective presence.



# Gurudeva says....

Every Saivite home centers around the home shrine, a special room set aside and maintained to create a temple-like atmosphere in which we conduct puja, read scripture, perform sadhana, meditate, sing bhajana and do japa.



# QUESTIONS for Lesson 53



**53.1** Hinduism is both a religion and a way of life because  
(Check the correct answer)

- A. Many Hindus follow a vegetarian way of life
- B. Hinduism is a highly spiritual way of life
- C. Many Hindus believe in protecting animals

**53.2** To devout Hindus, all of life is spiritual; all of our daily activities are part of our religious practice.

- True
- False

**53.3** The broad name by which our religion is known and honored in the world is  
(Check the correct answer)

- A. Sanatana Dharma
- B. Hinduism
- C. Saivism
- D. Indian Philosophy

**53.4** The world in which we live is such a perfect place that it has no need for Hinduism's messages of peace, noninjury and open-mindedness.

- True
- False

**53.5** Hindus as a religious community enjoy many protections and a respected unified voice.

- True
- False