

Path to Siva

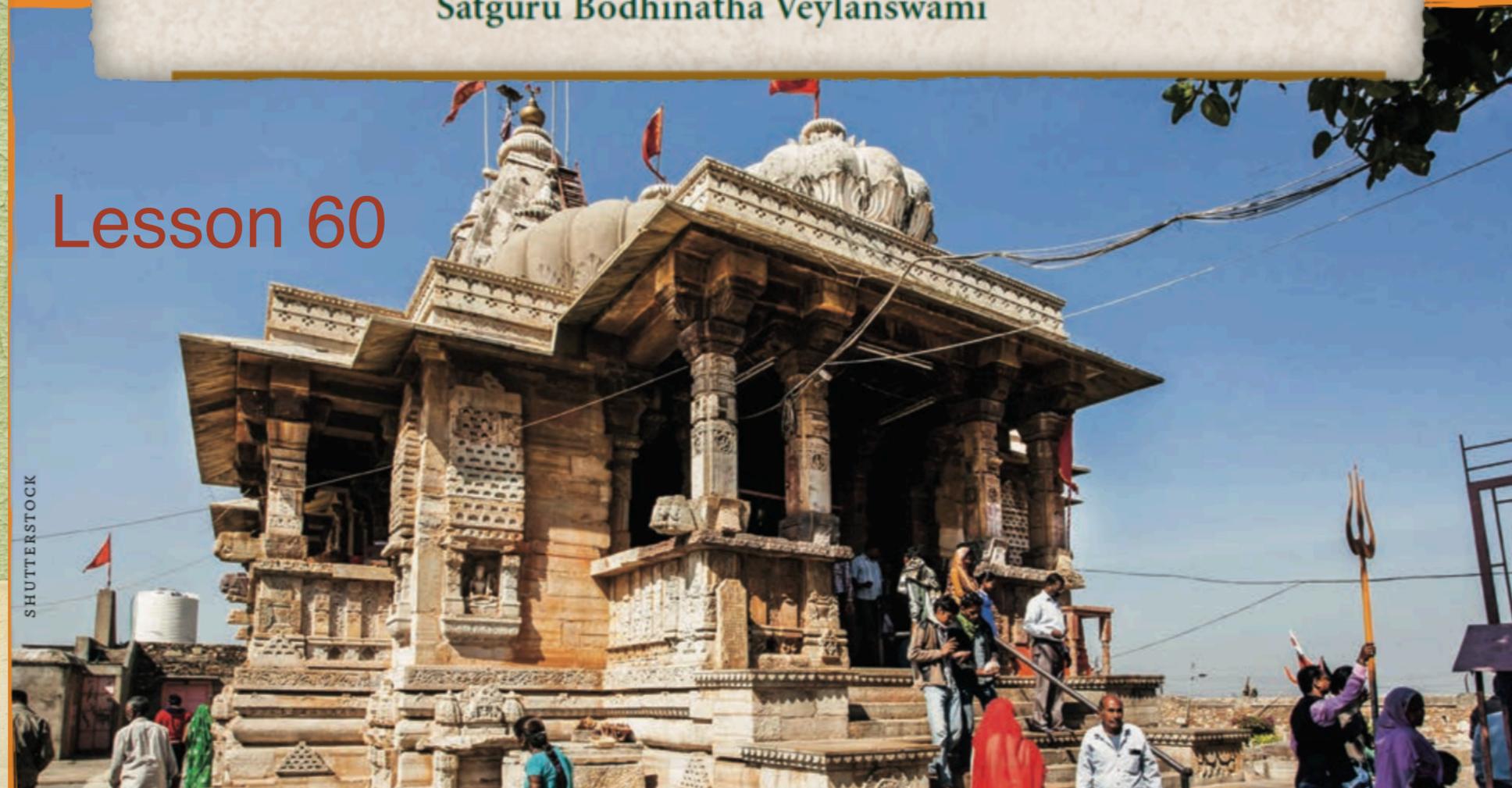
A Catechism for Youth

Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami

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DRAW

Lesson 60



SHUTTERSTOCK

What Is the Purpose of the Temple?

Why are temples important?



The temple is where we worship and commune with God and the Gods.

Here, devotees are uplifted and receive the inner help they need to live a positive, fulfilling life.

Temples are sacred for three reasons

Temples are sacred for three reasons:

they are constructed in a mystical manner,

they are consecrated with special, complex rites,

and thereafter continuous daily worship builds a holy force field.



Saiva Temples...

Our grand Saiva temples are like no other place on Earth. Some are more than 1,000 years old.



Saiva Agamas on temples...

Strict rules from the *Agamas* are followed to create such holy spaces where holiness, God, can reside.

Devas, Gods and people work together to establish the temple and assure it will be used only for worship.



Glass-like bubble around the temple...

Over the years, the power becomes strong, forming an invisible, glass-like bubble or shield around the temple.

This keeps out gross vibrations and allows the heaven worlds to be strongly present.



Your prayers can easily be heard

As you approach God's home, you can feel the spiritual energy, and as you go inside you are engulfed in peace.

Here the devas and Gods can easily hear your prayers.



A place for scriptures and festivals

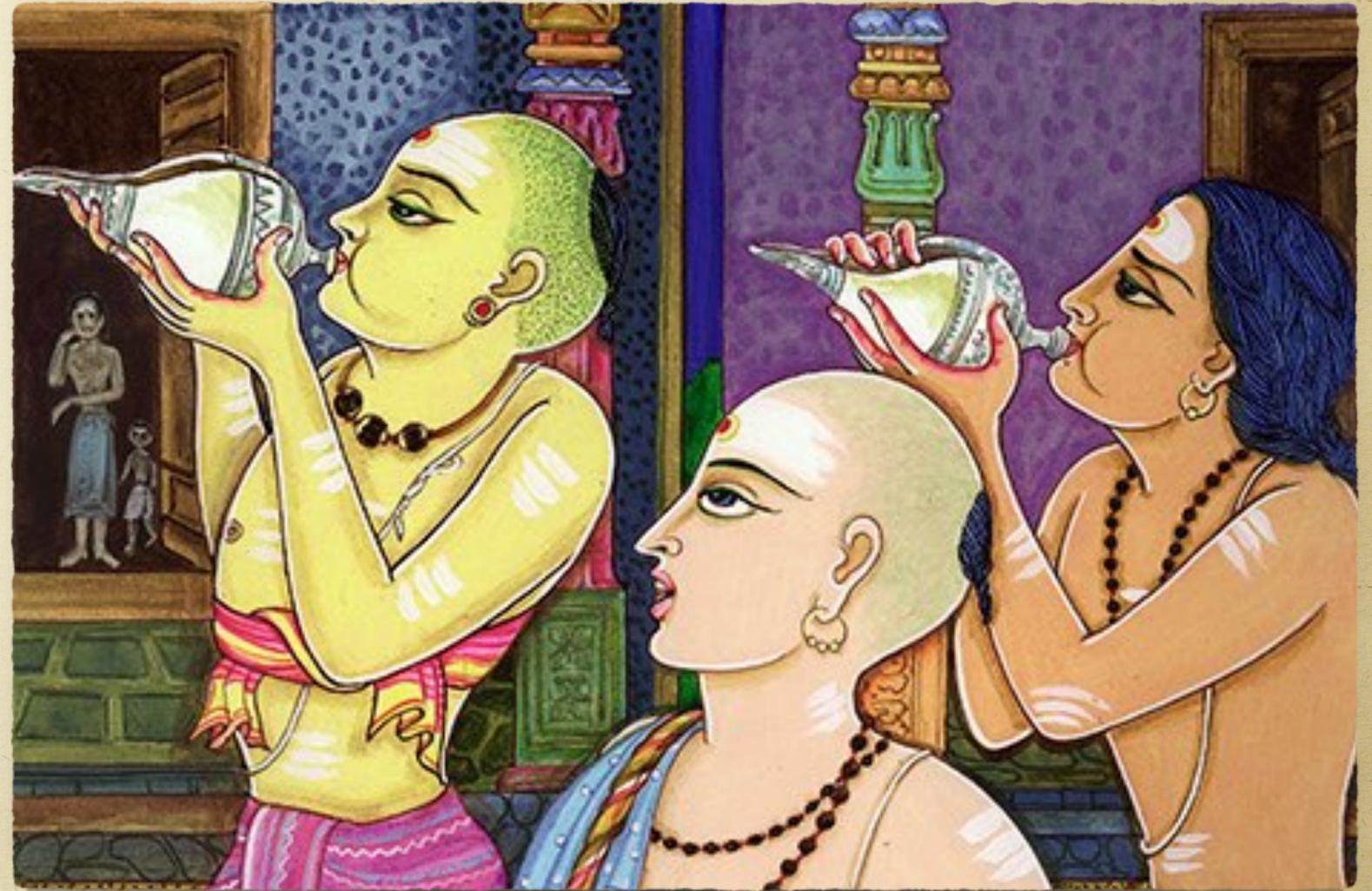
Here the ancient scriptures are chanted, the traditional rites knowingly performed.

Here joyous festivals are celebrated and arduous pilgrimages concluded.



What happens during puja?

At the high point of puja, as bells ring loudly and conches blow, the Deity sends rays of blessings through the enshrined image, or murti.



How does the Temple energy work?

Flooding your aura, this energy can erase worries, clear confusion and relieve sadness.

Devotees leaving the temple feel inspired and lightened of burdens.



Temple images explained...

Gurudeva explained that the stone or metal images are not mere symbols of the Gods.

The image is the physical-plane form through which the God's love, power and blessings flood forth into this world.

The image is like a temporary physical body the God uses during temple ceremonies.



God's home is the Temple

The temple, God's home, becomes a truly sacred place for us when we know that the Gods are real beings and the purpose of going to the temple is to experience their blessings.



Gurudeva explains...

A Siva temple marks an agreement between God Siva and the people on the Earth as a meeting place where the three worlds can consciously commune.



QUESTIONS for Lesson 60



60.1 The temple is where we worship and commune with God and the Gods. As a result, we are uplifted and receive the inner help we need to live a positive, fulfilling life.

- True
- False

60.2 Enter the letter from below of A - C for the phrase that correctly completes the idea. Temples are sacred for three reasons:

- ___ They are constructed
 - ___ They are consecrated
 - ___ And thereafter continuous daily worship
- (A) Builds a holy force field
(B) In a mystical manner
(C) With special complex rites

60.3 Some Saiva temples are more than
(Check the correct answer)

- A. 100 years old
- B. 1,000 years old
- C. 10,000 years old

60.4 Enter the letter from below of A - C for the phrase that correctly completes the idea. At the high point of the puja, as bells ring loudly and conches blow,

- ___ The Deity
 - ___ Flooding your aura, this energy
 - ___ Devotees leaving the temple
- (A) Sends rays of blessings through the enshrined image
(B) Feel inspired and lightened of burdens
(C) Can erase worries, clear confusion and relieve sadness

60.5 Gurudeva explained that the stone or metal images are mere symbols of the Gods.

- True
- False