

# Path to Siva

**A Catechism for Youth**

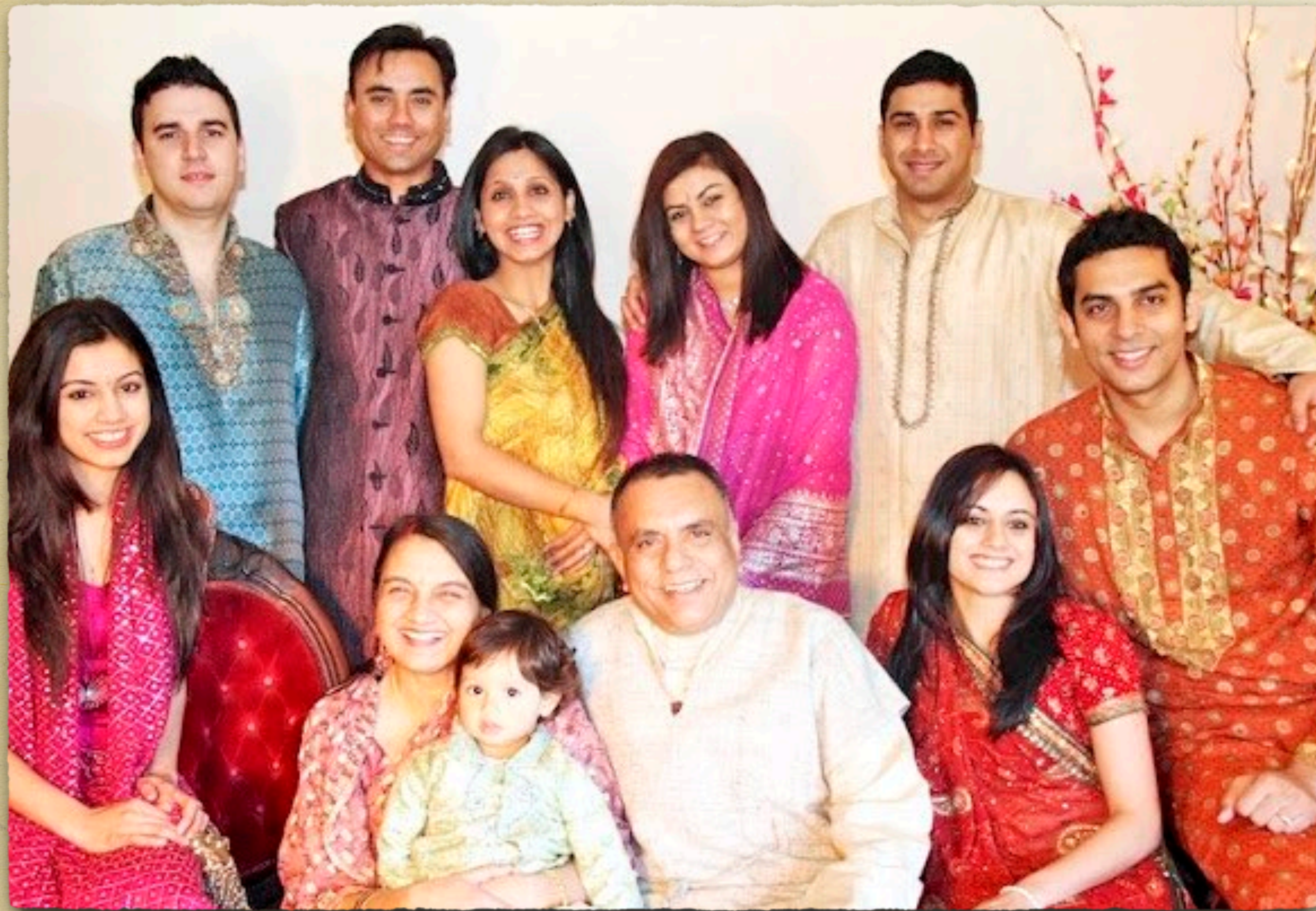
Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami

Lesson 51



**What Is the Ideal Home?**

# So magnetic and harmonious...



**The ideal home is a place so magnetic and harmonious that it's difficult to leave.**

**In a true home family members enjoy love, kindness, sharing and appreciation.**

# The home: a place for selflessness

They help and support one another.

It's a place of selflessness and  
togetherness, where each person has  
time for everyone else.

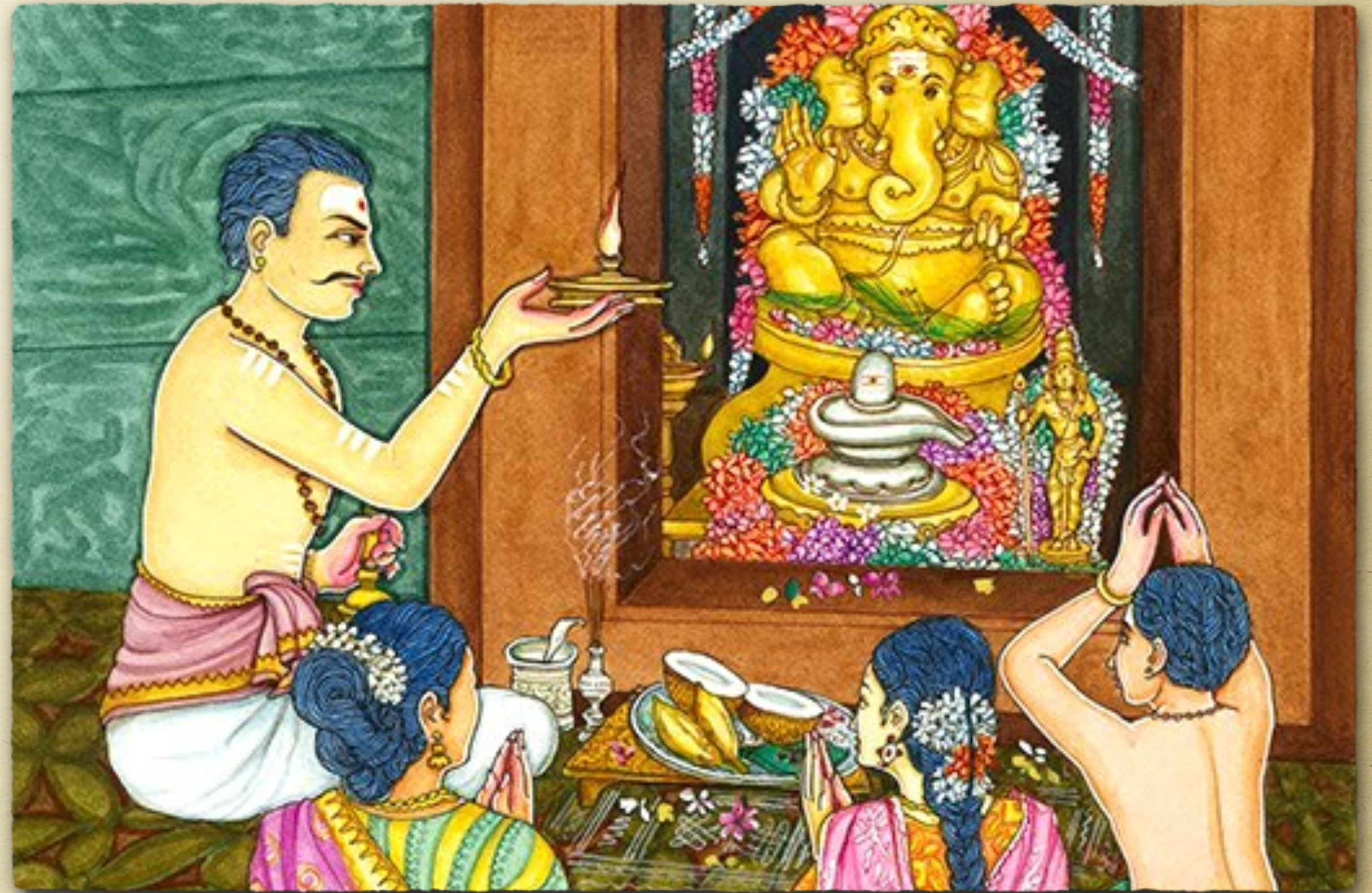


# The duty of parents...

It is the duty of the parents to turn a house into a home.

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They do this through their loving care of each other and the children, and their worship in the shrine room.



# The power of spiritual vibration

This builds a spiritual vibration, giving the home a temple-like atmosphere.

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The Gods are worshiped in the home.

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Devas, guardian devas and ancestors are honored and invited into the home.



# Cleanliness and meal taking

All the rooms are kept sparkling clean.

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Puja is done every day in the home shrine.

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Whenever possible, meals are taken together, preceded by the food-blessing chant.



# Observing Hindu festivals

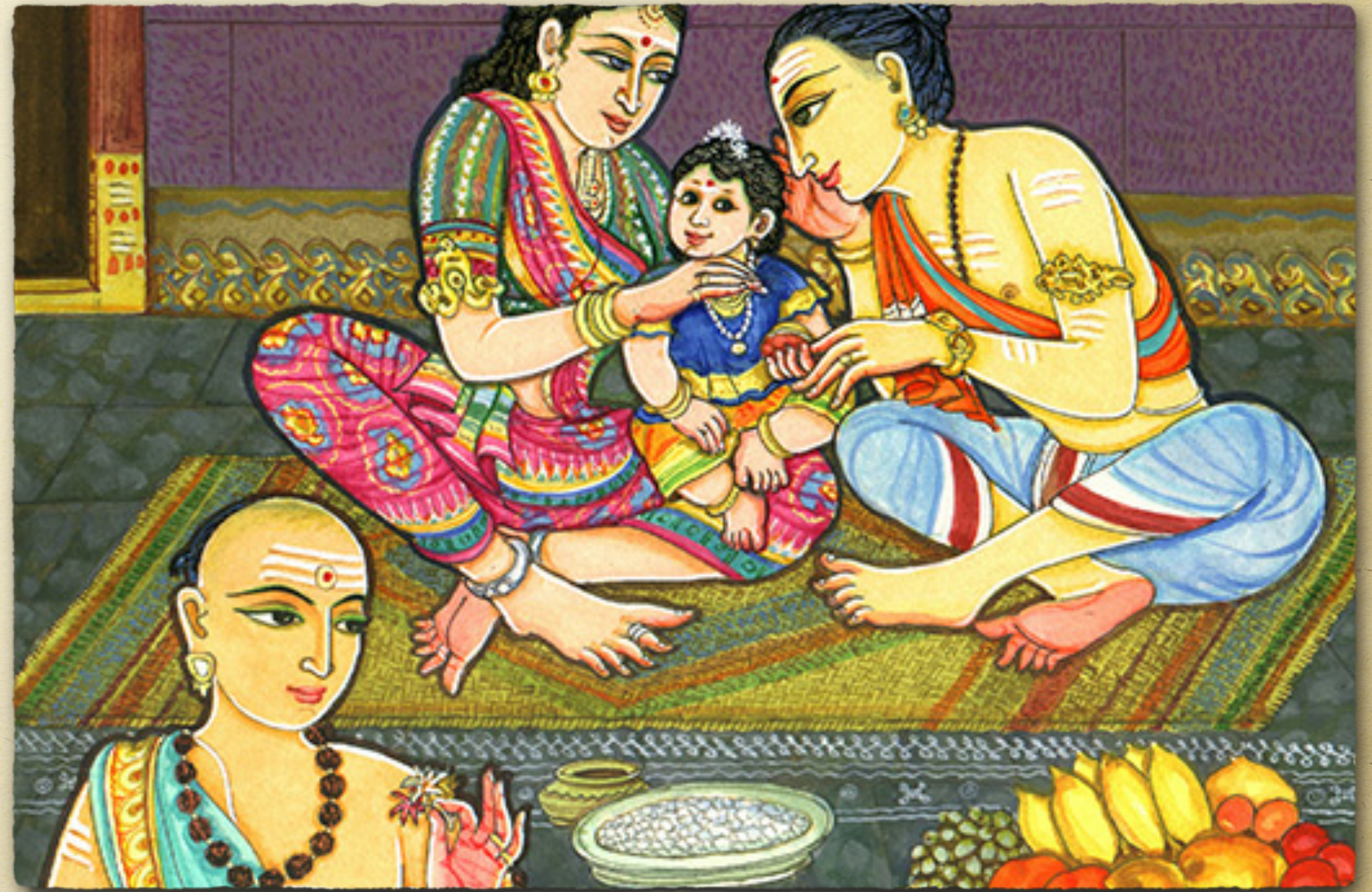
The family observes the Hindu festivals together in the home.

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Devotional songs are sung and traditional music played.

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Saivite art and artifacts adorn the rooms.



# The family protects harmony

All this creates a secure, wholesome living space, a refuge from the harshness of the world.

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Harmony is a fragile vibration which the family protects by seeking to see one another's point of view, finding points of agreement and avoiding argument and harsh words.

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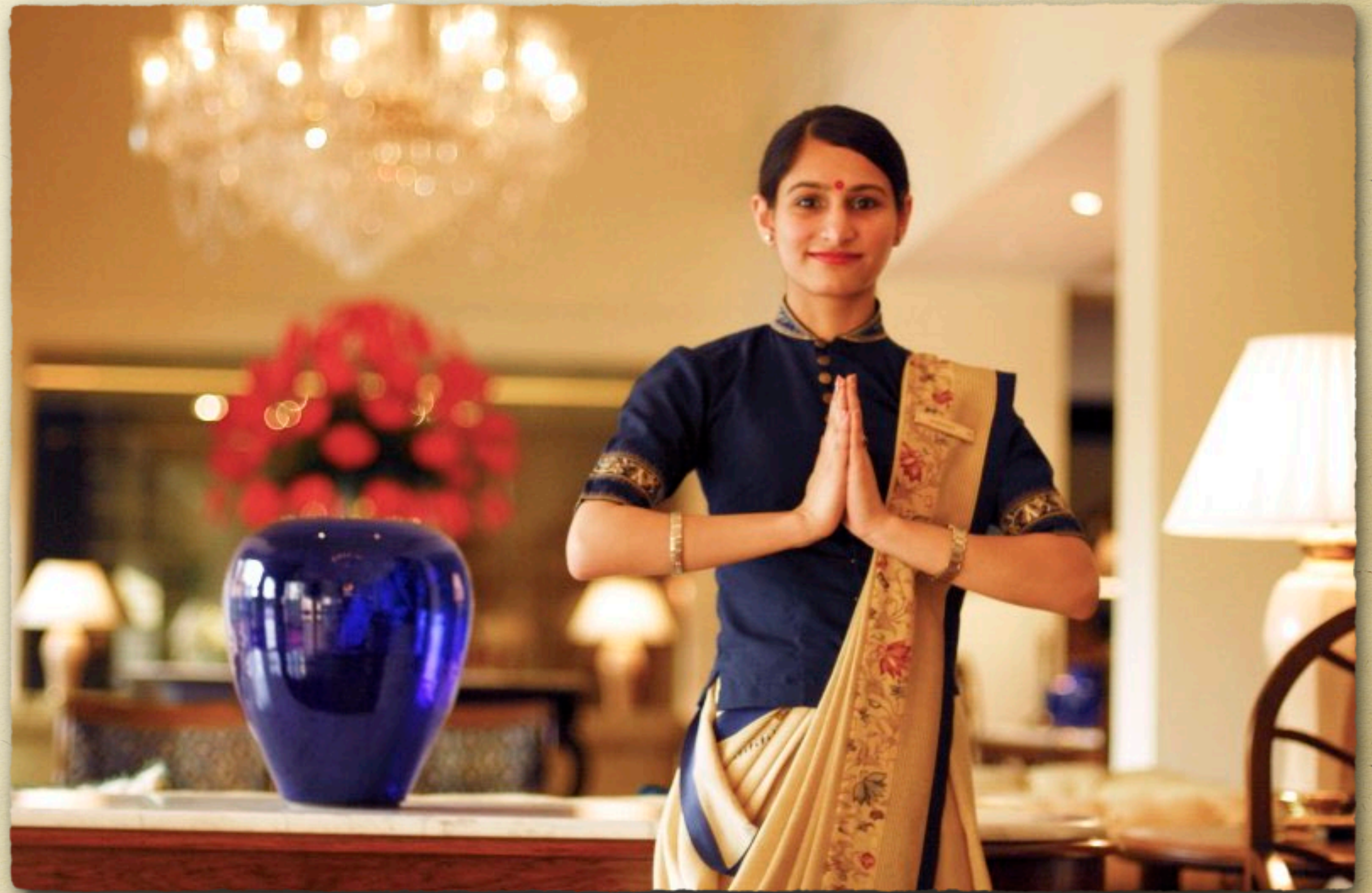
All disagreements are settled before sleep.





# How does the family treat guests?

Guests are treated as God, and hospitality is given generously.



# How do children help?

Children can help their parents keep the home strong.

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They assist during the morning puja and annual festivals.



# Family home evening

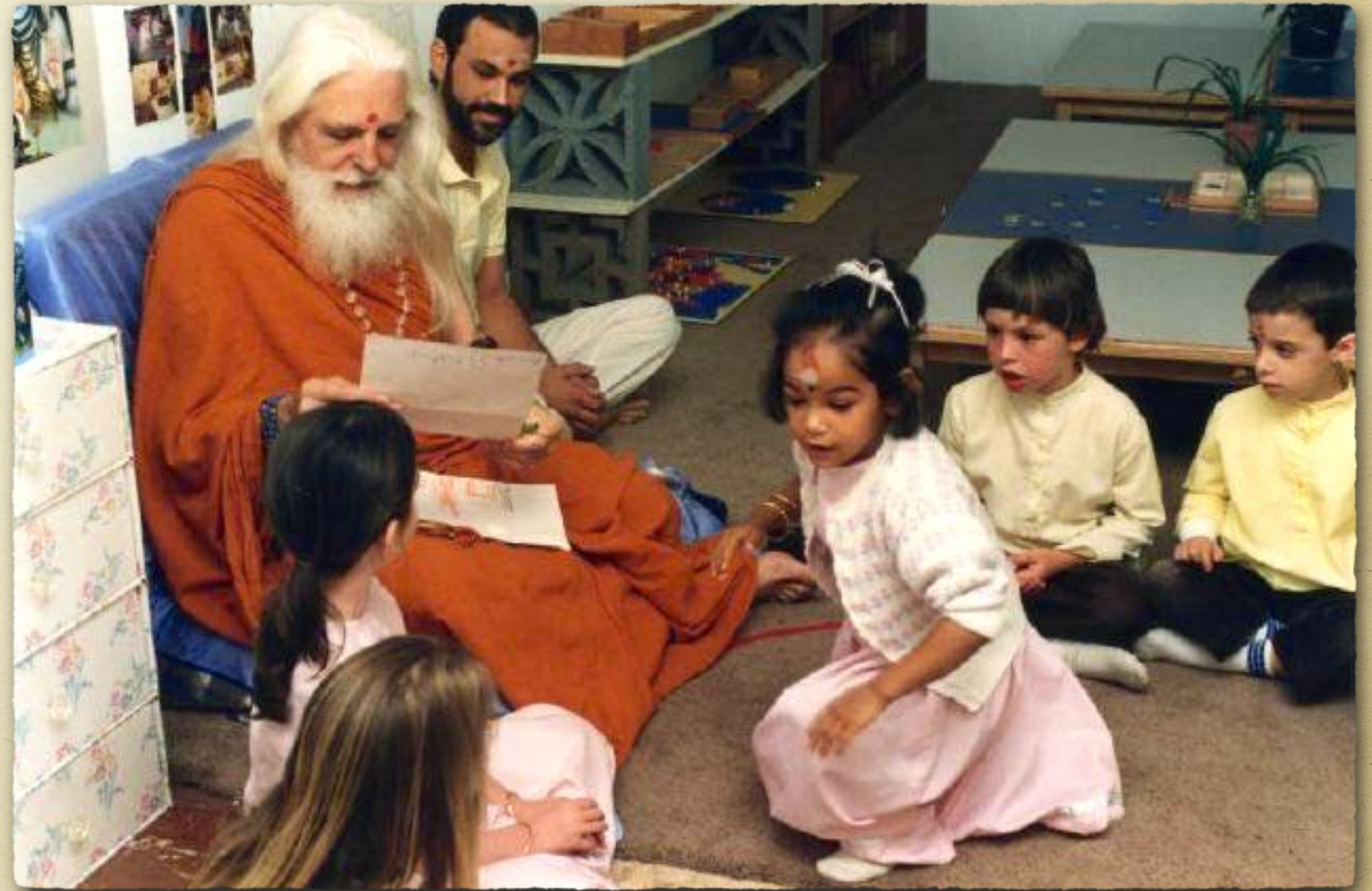
Gurudeva recommends a weekly “family home evening,” during which all members sit together for dinner, make plans, play games, share interests, express appreciation for one another and enjoy family togetherness without TV, digital entertainment or other distractions.

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# Gurudeva says...

The devas can live within a home that is clean and well regulated, where the routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner is upheld, where early morning devotionals are performed and respected, a home which the family lives together within, eats together within, talks together within, worships together within.



### 51.1 A true home

*(Check the incorrect answer)*

- A. Is one in which family members enjoy love, kindness, sharing and appreciation
- B. Is a place of selfishness where each person only has time for himself or herself
- C. Is a place so magnetic and harmonious that it's difficult to leave

# QUESTIONS for Lesson 51



### 51.2 Whose duty is it to turn a house into a home?

*(Check the correct answer)*

- A. The parents
- B. The children
- C. The grandparents

**51.4** Harmony is a fragile vibration which the family protects by seeking to see one another's point of view, finding points of agreement and avoiding argument and harsh words.

- True
- False

### 51.3 The Gods are worshipped

*(Check the correct answer)*

- A. Only at a temple
- B. At a temple and in the home shrine
- C. Only in the home shrine

**51.5** Gurudeva recommends a weekly "family home evening," during which all members sit together for dinner and then watch TV or other digital entertainment together for the rest of the time together.

- True
- False