

Path to Siva

A Catechism for Youth

Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami

OMMU

IDEAS

Lesson 55



What Is Good Conduct?

Cultivating good conduct



Good conduct is right thought, right speech and right action.

Being right means it agrees with dharma and our refined soul nature.

All people are divine souls

Our religion gives us the great knowledge that all people are divine souls on a wonderful journey, learning many lessons along the way.

While they may not be outwardly perfect, we learn to see the beautiful, radiant soul in everyone we meet.



We look for the best in others

We look for the best in others and overlook their faults.

We try to help others in any way we can, to always be uplifting and not critical or hurtful.



We are to be a good example

We work with ourself to be a good example and a joy to be around, not a person to be avoided.

It is our sadhana to express the beautiful qualities of love, patience and kindness.



We protect and guide

We protect, guide and encourage those who are younger.

We look up to those who are older and eagerly seek to learn from them.

We use terms of respect for those close to us, such as “auntie,” “uncle” or “elder brother.”



We never argue ...

We greet others with “Namaste,”
“Vanakkam” or “Aum Sivaya.”

Two important customs we follow are
to never argue and never interrupt
others, especially our elders.



The four keys

The four keys to good conduct are
purity, devotion, humility and charity.



Purity

We cultivate purity by thinking,
speaking and doing only that which is
conceived in compassion for all.



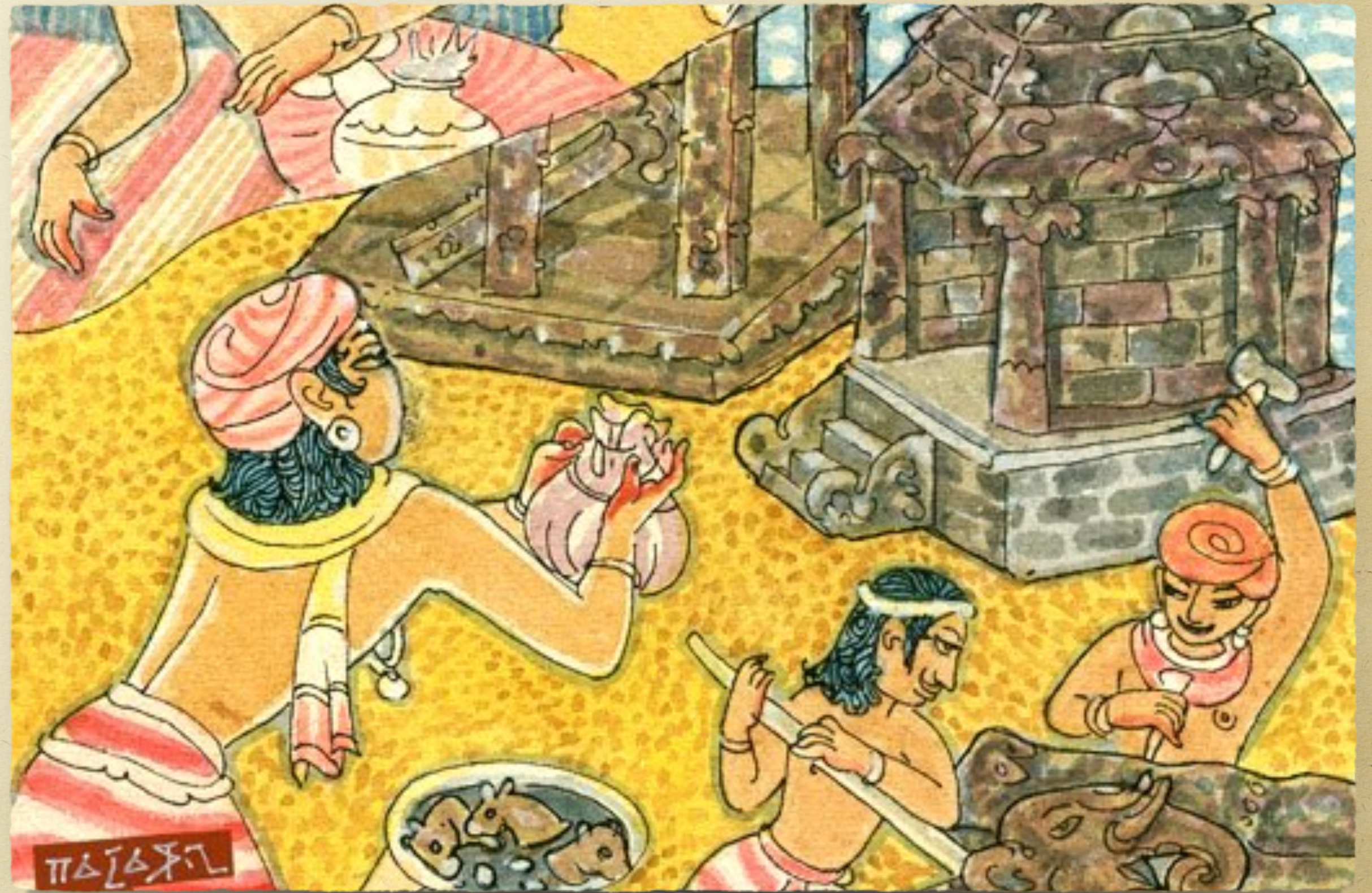
Devotion

We cultivate devotion through worship and selfless service, and by being loyal and trustworthy.



Humility

We cultivate humility through showing patience with circumstances and forbearance with people.



Charity

We cultivate charity through giving to the hungry, the sick, the homeless, the elderly and the unfortunate.



Our own conscience

The first teacher in matters of good conduct is our conscience.

It is the voice of our soul.

To know what is right and what is wrong we can also turn to God, to our satguru and swamis, to scripture and to our elders, family and trusted friends.



Gurudeva says...

The Hindu fosters humility and shuns arrogance, seeks to assist, never to hinder, finds good in others and forgets their faults.

There is no other way to be called a true devotee, but to conduct oneself properly within oneself and among our fellow men.



QUESTIONS

for Lesson 55



55.1 Good conduct is right speech and right action and does not include our thoughts.

- True
- False

55.2 Enter the letter from below of A - D for the phrase that correctly completes the idea

- ___ We protect, guide and encourage
- ___ We look up to
- ___ We use terms of respect for
- ___ We greet others

- (A) Those who are older
- (B) Those close to us
- (C) Those who are younger
- (D) With "Namaste," "Vanakkam" or "Aum Sivaya"

55.3 Two important customs we follow are to
(Check the correct answer)

- A. Never argue
- B. Never volunteer to help other family members
- C. Never interrupt others, especially our elders

55.4 Enter the letter from below of A - D for the phrase that correctly completes the idea

- ___ We cultivate purity
- ___ We cultivate devotion
- ___ We cultivate humility
- ___ We cultivate charity

- (A) Through worship and selfless service, and by being loyal and trustworthy
- (B) Through giving to the hungry, the sick, the homeless, the elderly and the unfortunate
- (C) By thinking, speaking and doing only that which is conceived in compassion for all
- (D) Through showing patience with circumstances and forbearance with people

55.5 The first teacher in matters of good conduct is
(Check the correct answer)

- A. Our satguru and swamis
- B. Our conscience
- C. Scripture