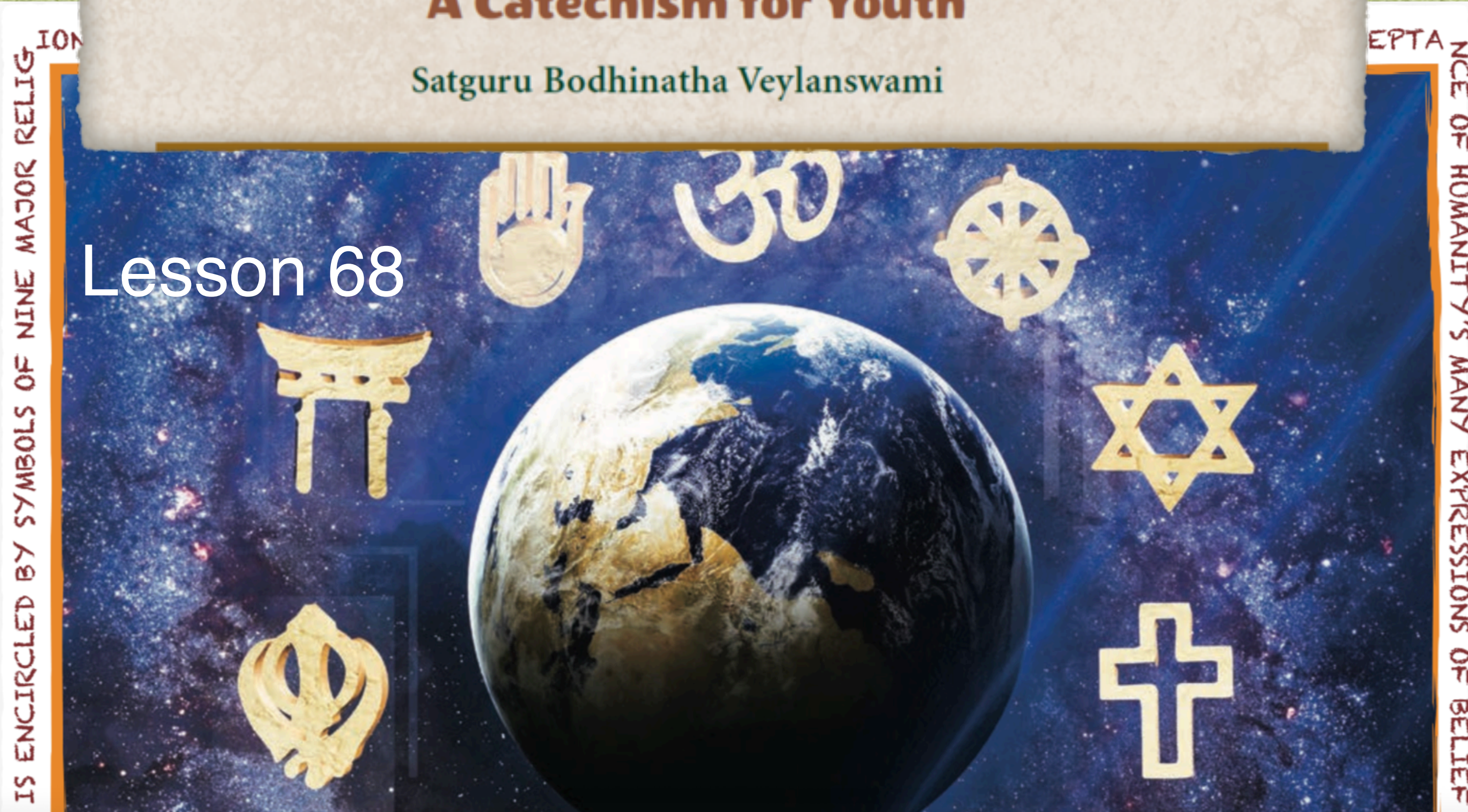


Path to Siva

A Catechism for Youth

Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami

Lesson 68



How Do We View Other Faiths?

The greatest religion



Devout Hindus, secure in their sadhana, hold their faith in highest esteem.

Gurudeva boldly called it the greatest religion in the world.

Deep philosophy and yoga practices.

Its refined culture, deep philosophy, grand temples and yoga practices offer more than we could explore and enjoy in a hundred lifetimes.



No sense of “only path”

Yet, there is no sense whatsoever in Hinduism of an “only path.”

Rather, the Eternal Path is seen reflected in all religions.

We hold a profound tolerance and affection for those of all other religions.



Tolerance towards other faiths

Rather, the Eternal Path is seen reflected in all religions.

We hold a profound tolerance and affection for those of all other religions.



All religions are not the same

At the same time, we know that all religions are not the same.

Each has its unique beliefs, practices and scriptures, and the doctrines of one often conflict with others.

Even such difference should never be cause for religious tension or intolerance.



Saivites are faithful to their religion

Saivites seek to be faithful to their own path, following it without getting sidetracked into practices of other faiths or movements.

We defend our faith and avoid the enchantment of other ways.

Being content in our path, we encourage others to follow and defend their religion.



We never seek to convert others...

There is a great strength in loyalty to a religion and undistracted focus on its beliefs, teachings and cultural gifts.

Hindus never seek to convert others to our faith, though we do accept sincere seekers into the fold.



We say 'no' to unethical practices.

We stand strong against unethical efforts by those of any faith who try to draw Hindus away from their religion in times of distress or weakness.



Gurudeva summarises...

Gurudeva summarized, "We respect all religious traditions and the people within them."

Good citizens and stable societies are created from groups of religious people.

Still, Saivites defend their faith, proceed contentedly with their practices and avoid the enchantment of other ways, be they ancient or modern



Gurudeva says...

The people who are Hinduism share a mind structure.

They can understand, acknowledge, accept and love the peoples of all religions, encompass them within their mind as being fine religious people.



QUESTIONS for Lesson 68



68.1 Gurudeva called Hinduism
(Check the correct answer)

- A. The second greatest religion in the world.
- B. The greatest religion in the world
- C. One of the great religions in the world

68.2 Check the correct answer

- A. All religions are the same as their beliefs and practices are identical
- B. All religions are not the same as each has its unique beliefs and practices

68.3 Saivites seek to be faithful to their own path, following it without getting sidetracked into practices of other faiths or movements.

- True
- False

68.4 Check the correct answer

- A. Hindus aggressively seek to convert others to our faith
- B. Hindus never seek to convert others to our faith, though we do accept sincere seekers into the fold.

68.5 Hindus don't object to the unethical efforts by those of any faith who try to draw Hindus away from their religion in times of distress or weakness.

- True
- False