

# Path to Siva

A Catechism for Youth

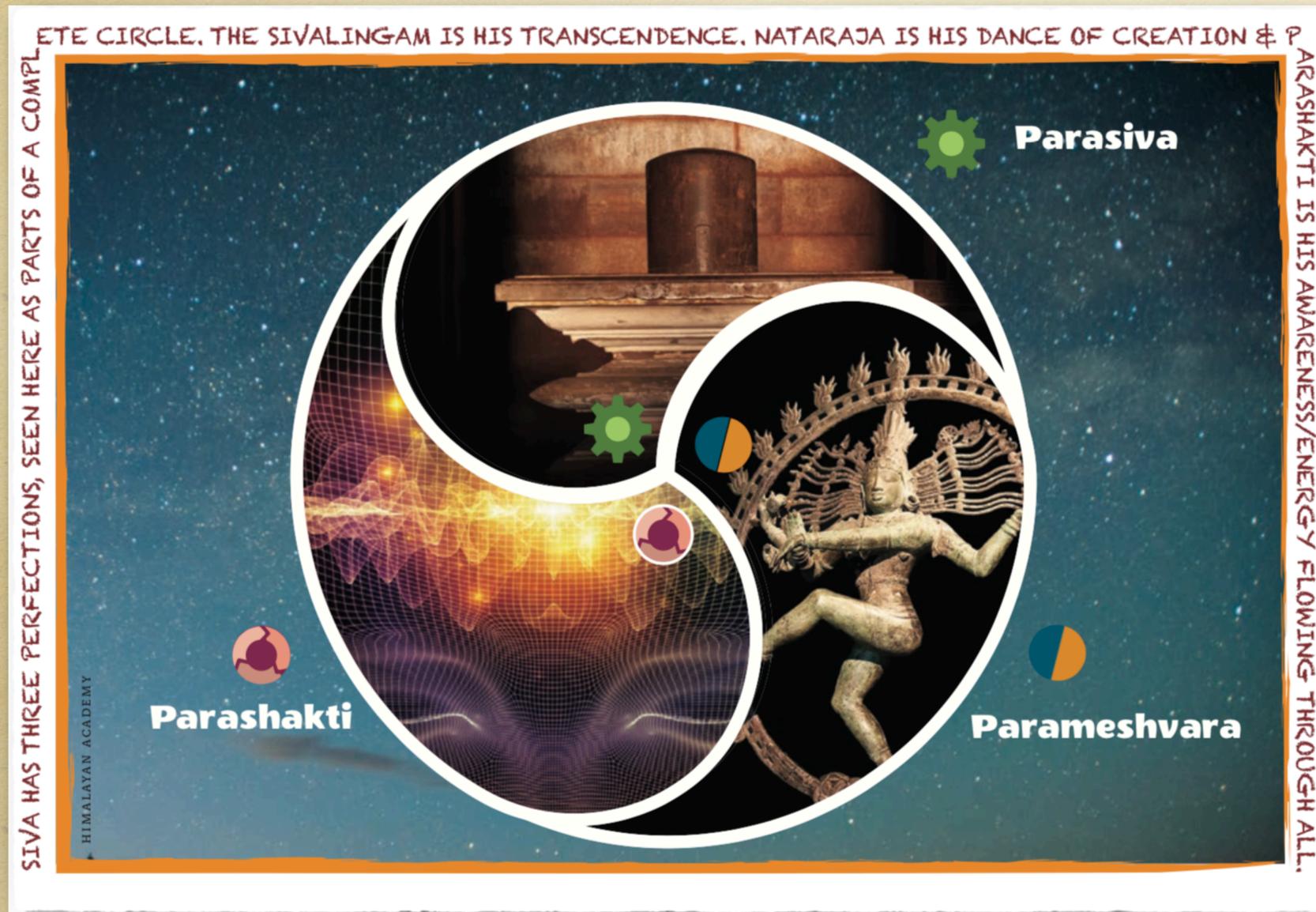
Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami

Lesson 12

**What Are Siva's Three Perfections?**



# Gurudeva's description of Siva



Perfection is the word Gurudeva used to describe God Siva's three flawless aspects: Absolute Reality, the Divine Mind and the Primal Soul.

# Understanding the totality of God Siva

Gurudeva described the One Being of Siva in this way to help devotees better understand the totality of His being and to tune into each perfection in worship and meditation.

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The three perfections also apply to each of us, as God Siva naturally creates souls in His image and likeness.



# The first perfection Absolute Reality - Parasiva

The first perfection, Absolute Reality, Parasiva, is our inmost essence, the Self God.

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What is the Self God?

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Gurudeva explained, "It is That which is beyond the mind, beyond thought, feeling and emotion, beyond time, form and space."



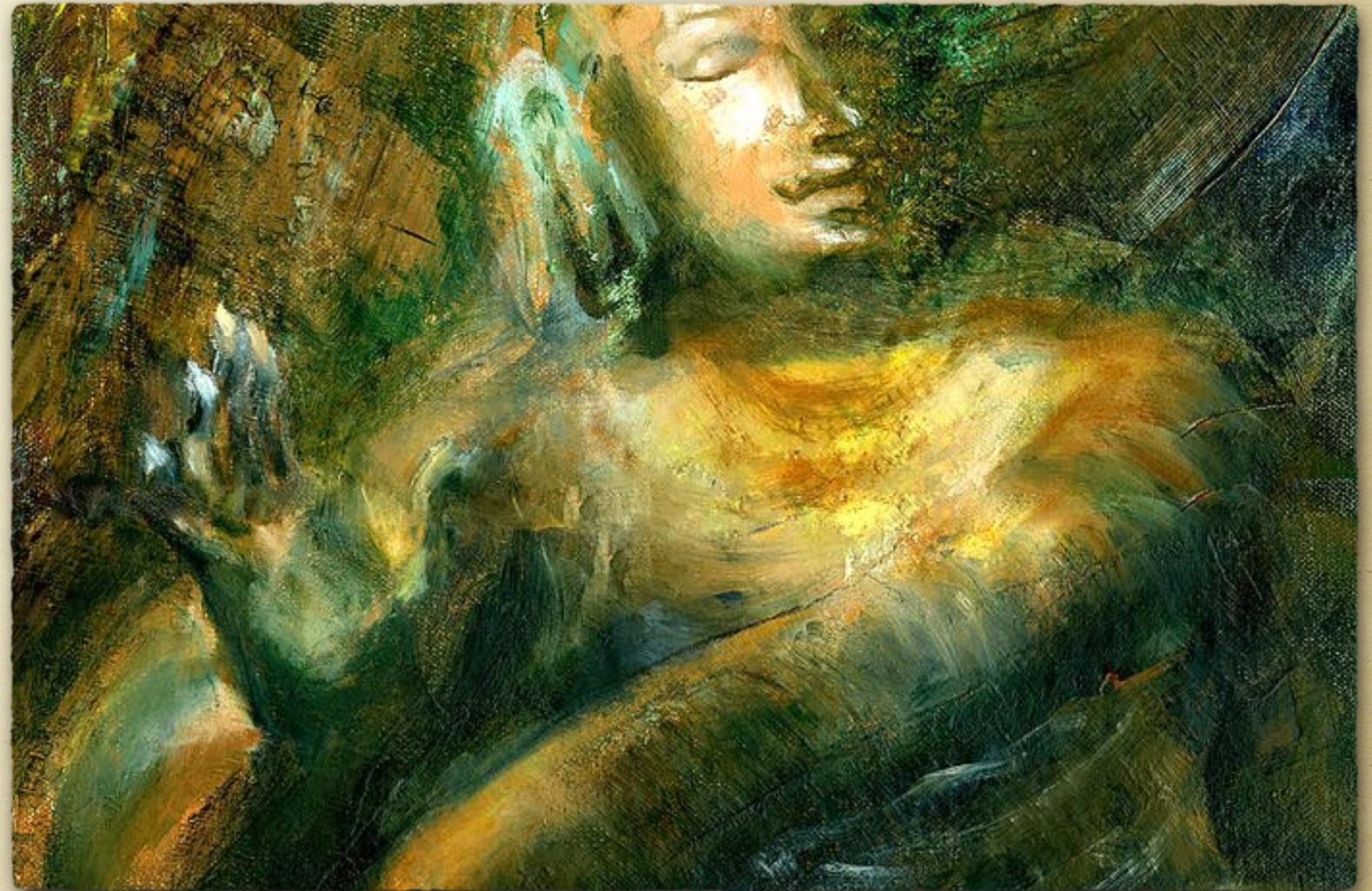
# The second perfection Sachidananda or Parashakti

The second perfection, Siva's vast, Divine Mind, known as Satchidananda or Parashakti, is our own superconscious mind.

It radiates as divine light, love, energy and knowing.

When we touch into that level of our being, we become aware of the pure consciousness owing through all things.

Our sense of I-ness dissolves and we experience unlimited love and bliss.



# Third perfection

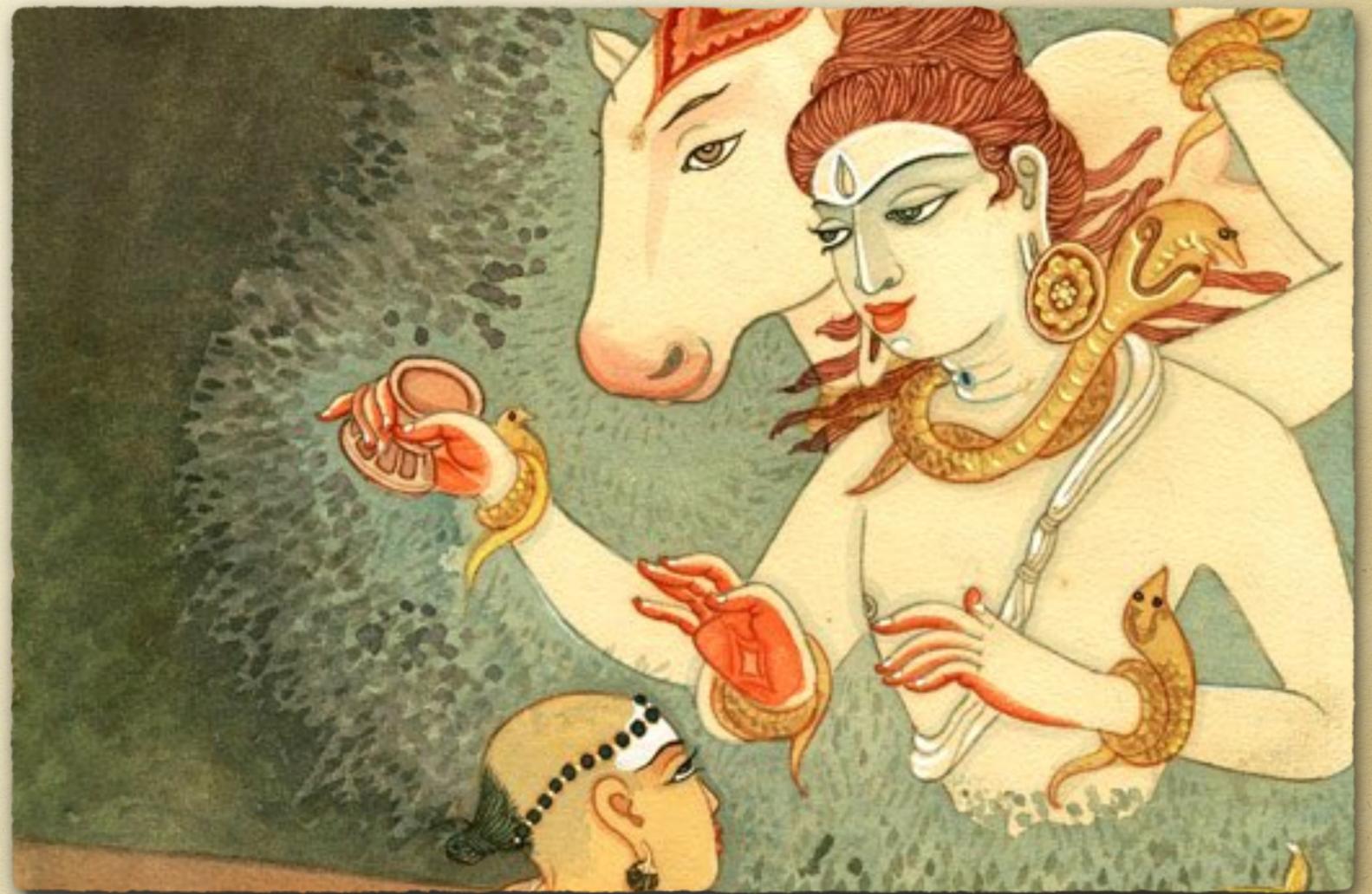
## Primal Soul - Parameshvara

Siva's third perfection, the uncreated Primal Soul, Parameshvara, is the fullness of God, ruler of the universe and creator of our soul and all that exists.

To love God is to know God.

To know God is to feel His love for you..

Parameshvara's resplendent body may be seen in mystic vision.



# God's personal aspect as Lord and Creator

It is the ultimate prototype of our own soul body, which is like the Primal Soul, but less brilliant, because it is not yet mature.

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The Primal Soul, God's personal aspect as Lord and Creator, is depicted in many forms: Nataraja by Saivites, Vishnu by Vaishnavites, Devi by Shaktas.



# A perfect mango

To understand Siva's three perfections,  
think of a perfect mango.

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It has a skin, sweet fruit and a seed.

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Yet it is a one fruit

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The skin is Siva's body, the fruit is His  
Divine Mind and the seed is His inmost  
essence and being.



# Gurudeva explains...

The great God Siva has form and is formless.

~~He is the immanent Pure~~  
Consciousness or pure form.

~~He is the Personal Lord manifesting~~  
Himself as innumerable forms

~~He is the impersonal, transcendent~~  
Absolute beyond all form.

~~We know Siva in His three perfections,~~  
two of form and one formless.



# QUESTIONS for Lesson 36



## 12.1 God Siva's three perfections are

(Check the correct answer)

- A. His three flawless aspects
- B. His powers of Creation, Preservation and Destruction
- C. The three worlds He created

## 12.2 Enter the letter from below of A - C for the corresponding Sanskrit name for each perfection.

Absolute Reality, Divine Mind, Primal Soul

- (A) Parameshvara
- (B) Parashakti
- (C) Parasiva

## 12.3 Compared to the Primal Soul, our soul body

(Check the correct answer)

- A. Is more brilliant
- B. Is less brilliant
- C. Is the same brilliance

## 12.4 Enter the letter from below of A - C for the correct depiction of the Primal Soul for

- \_\_\_ Saivites
- \_\_\_ Vaishnavites
- \_\_\_ Shaktas

- (A) Devi
- (B) Vishnu
- (C) Nataraja

## 12.5 Enter the letter from below of A - C for the correct perfection of Siva that corresponds to

- \_\_\_ The mango's skin
- \_\_\_ The mango's sweet fruit
- \_\_\_ The mango's seed

- (A) Siva's inmost essence and being
- (B) Siva's Divine Mind
- (C) Siva's body