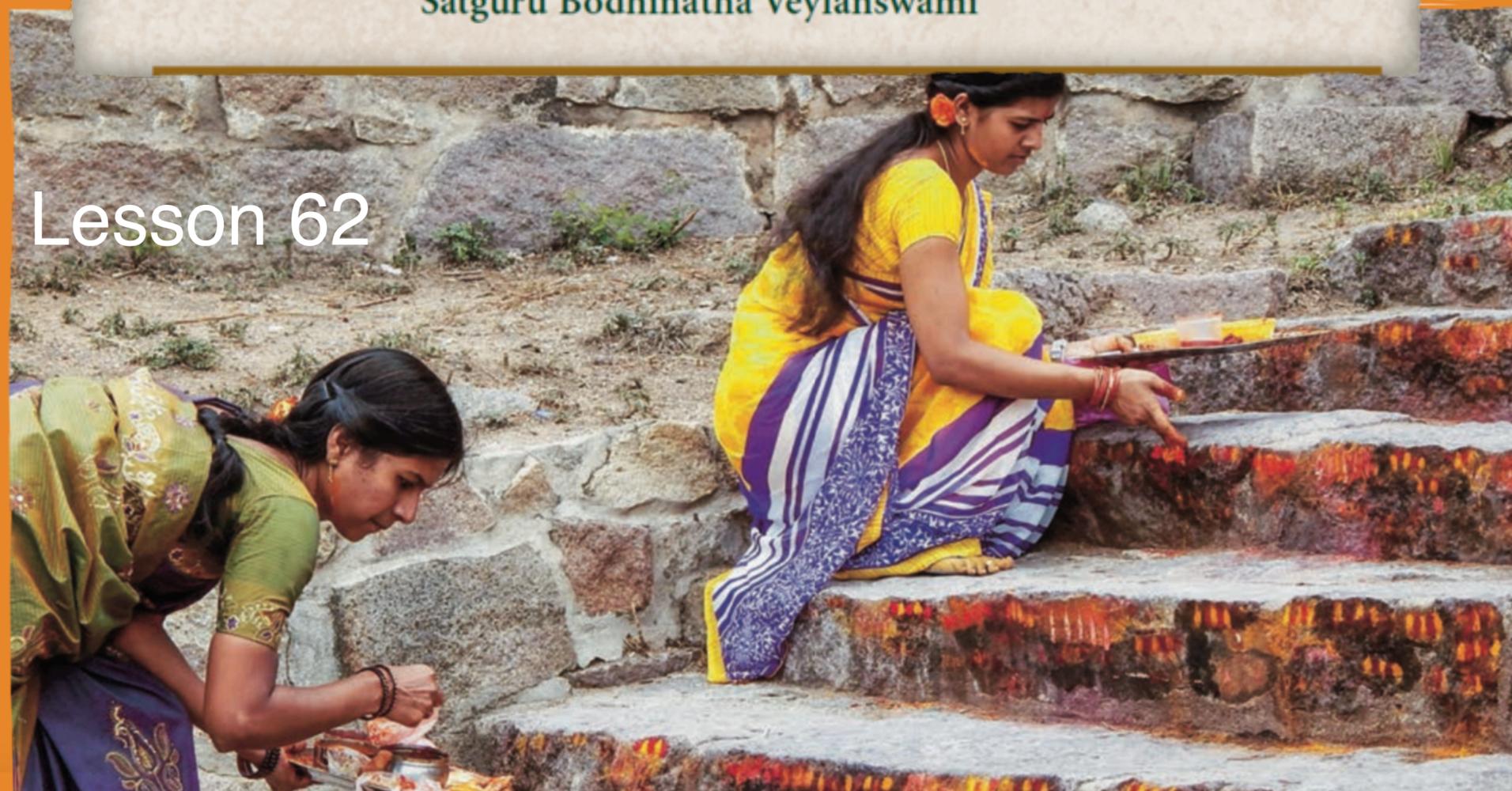


Path to Siva

A Catechism for Youth

Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami

Lesson 62



How Can We Strengthen Our Temple?

Home of God and the Gods



Blessed with the knowledge that the temple is the home of God and the Gods, we visit often, for they are our dear friends.

Visiting the Temple

This is the first way to strengthen and become a valued part of our temple and its community, by keeping your spiritual life strong.

The more we visit, the more sensitive we become to the spiritual energies.



What happens when our bhakti grow?

As our love, or bhakti, grows, the grace of the Gods makes us kinder, more cooperative and more generous with our time.



Participating and helping...

The second way to strengthen and serve the temple is by participating in activities and helping with duties to make it beautiful and inviting.

This uplifts our energies and keeps us close to other devotees.



How to serve in a temple?

Service takes many forms.

We can prepare decorations and assist the priest with puja items.

We may like to help cook and serve prasadam to devotees.



Other ways to help...

We can welcome temple visitors,
organize activities, make garlands,
clean lamps or direct parking.

We can sing or dance during satsanga
and festivals.

We can help with mailings or
contribute to the temple website.



During festivals...

Festival times each year offer even more ways to help.

By attending the temple on such auspicious days, when the shakti is strongest, we become attuned to the Deity's blessings.



Centre of Hindu spiritual life

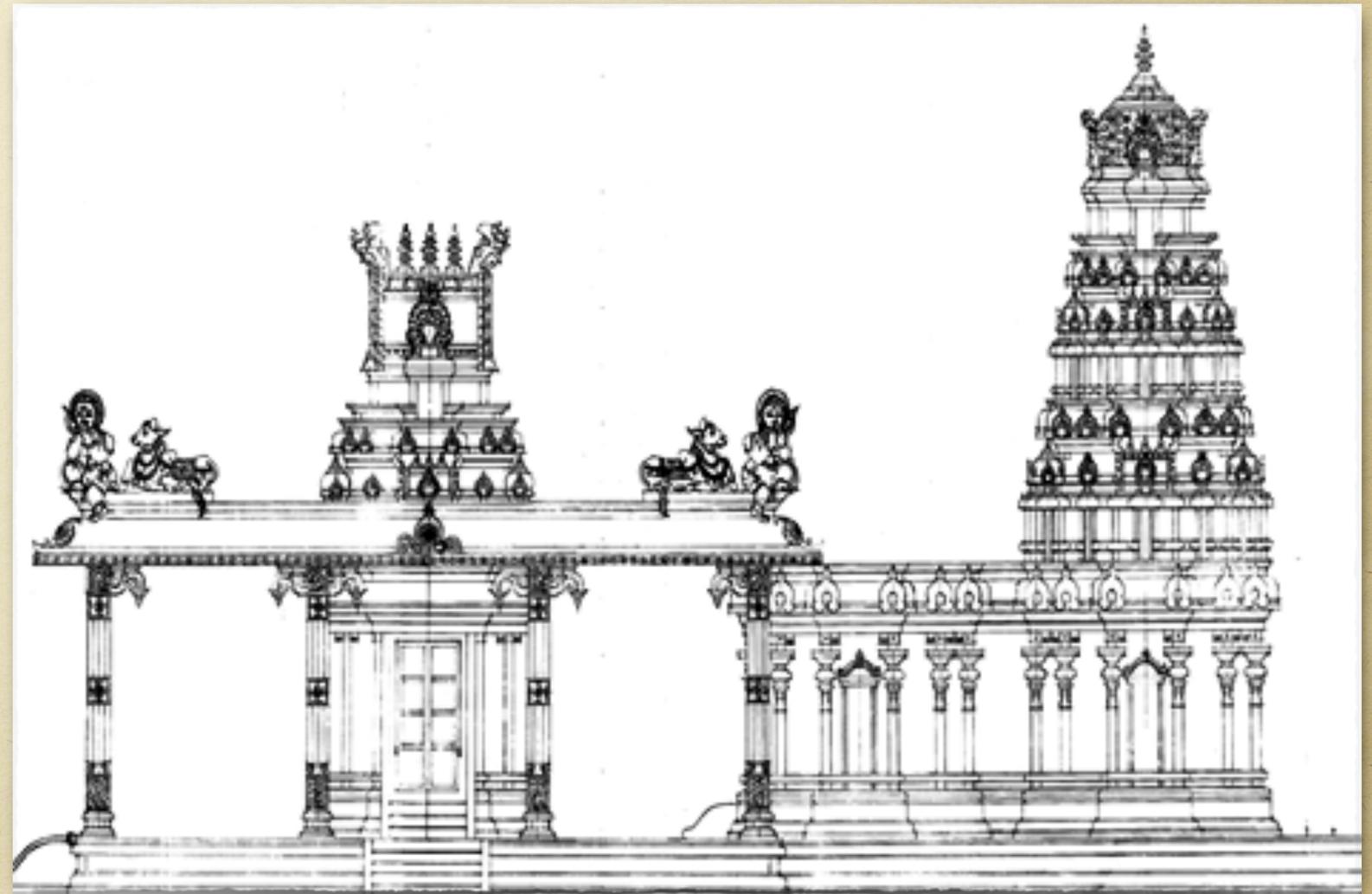
The temple is the center of Hindu spiritual life.

Saivites consider it most important to live no farther than a day's journey from a holy temple, and we build one wherever we find ourselves in the world.



Helping in temple building

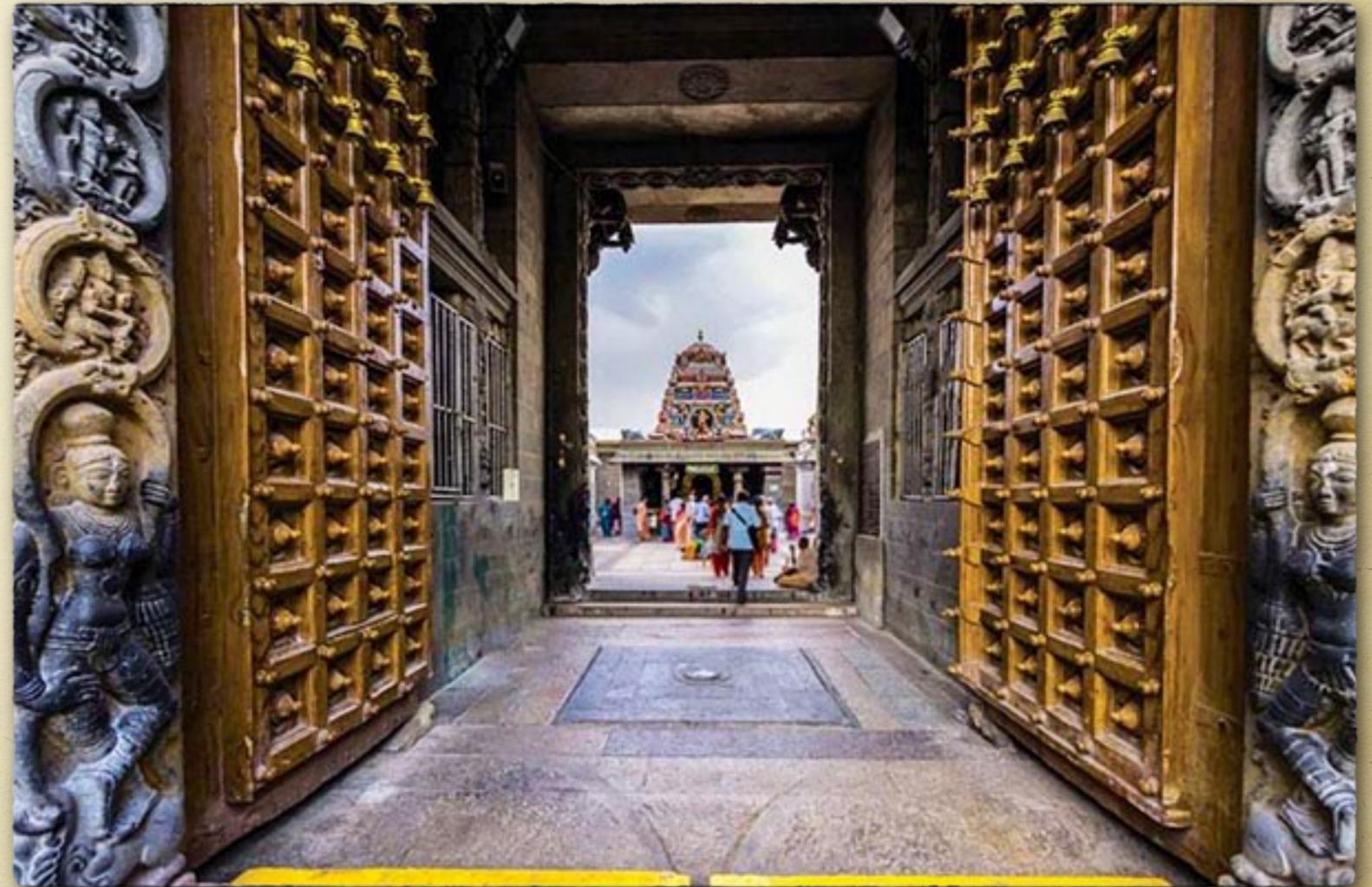
Helping to build a temple earns blessings in this life and the next; plus it is a gift to future generations.



Temple worship is for everyone...

Temple worship is for all men and women at every level of spiritual development.

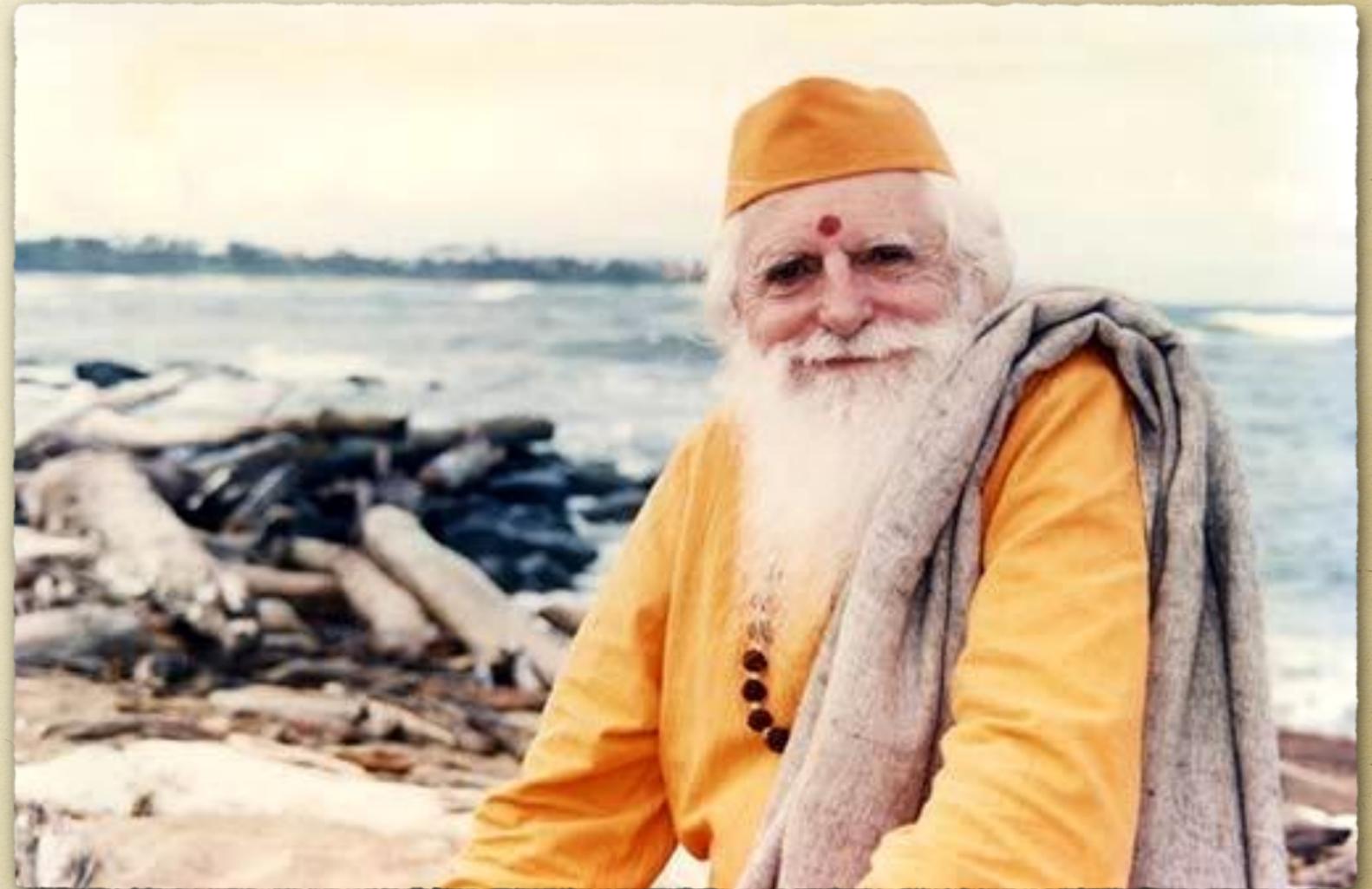
Its meaning and experience deepen as we unfold spiritually through the stages of service, devotion, yoga and enlightened wisdom. We never outgrow the practice of temple worship.



Gurudeva says...

In Hinduism it is believed that the Gods are living, thinking, dynamic beings who live in a different world, in an inner world in the microcosm within this world in which there exists a greater macrocosm than this visible macrocosm. ...

Through temple worship, the three worlds become open to one another, and the beings within them are able to communicate.



QUESTIONS for Lesson 62

62.1 Enter the letter from below of A - B for the phrase that correctly completes the idea.

- ___ The first way we can strengthen our temple
- ___ The second way we can strengthen our temple

- (A) Is to visit often
- (B) Is to participate in activities and helping with duties to make it beautiful and inviting

62.2 The Deity's shakti is strongest on
(Check the correct answer)

- A. Fridays
- B. New moon days
- C. Festival days

62.3 Saivites consider it most important to live no farther from a holy temple than
(Check the correct answer)

- A. Two day's journey
- B. A day's journey
- C. One mile

62.4 Helping to build a temple
(Check the incorrect answer)

- A. Earns no blessings
- B. Earns blessings in the next life
- C. Earns blessings in this life

62.5 When we reach the age seventy-two we no longer need to go to the temple as we have outgrown the practice of temple worship.

- True
- False