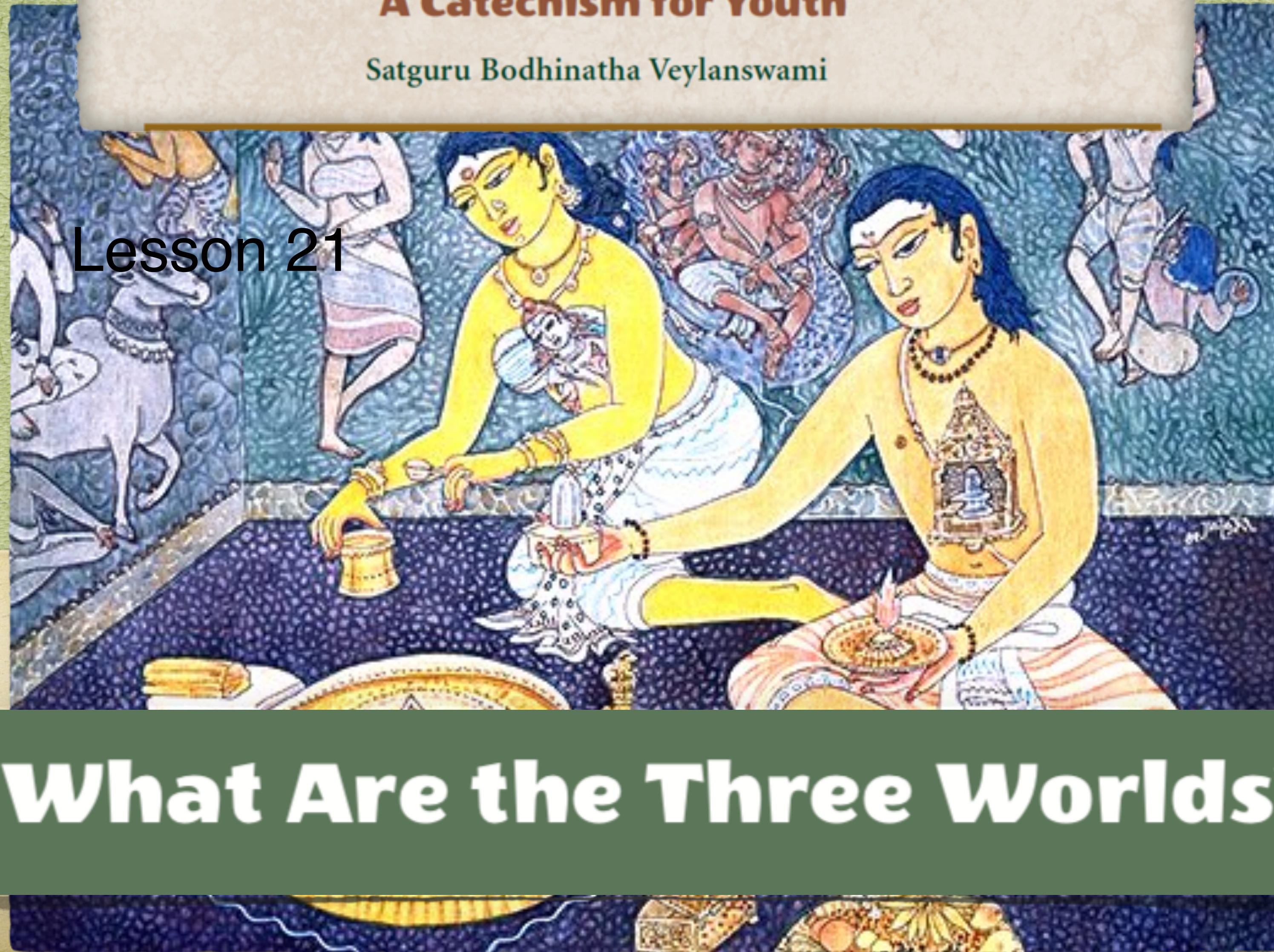


Path to Siva

A Catechism for Youth

Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami

Lesson 21



What Are the Three Worlds?

There are three worlds of existence.



The 'Bhuloka'

The 'Antarloka'

The 'Sivaloka'

First World - Bhuloka

The First World is the physical universe,
the gross plane called the Bhuloka.

This is the world we see with our eyes
and touch with our hands.

It is the material world, where we have
our experiences, create karma and fulfill
the desires and duties of life in a
physical body.



Second World - Devaloka

The Second World is the subtle or astral plane, the in-between realm called Antarloka.

This world exists within the physical plane.

As our thoughts and feelings are part of that inner world, we are functioning in the astral world even while we are awake.



Classes in Antarloka

During sleep, we leave our physical body and are aware in that inner world fully.

Besides dreaming, we may also attend innerplane classes held by our satguru.



The Antarloka has many levels

The Antarloka has many levels, spanning the spectrum of consciousness from the hellish Naraka regions, where the asuras, demonic beings, dwell, to the highest region of the Devaloka where the devas, or angels, live.

When our physical body dies, we live fully in the Antarloka in our subtle body.



The Third Word - Sivaloka

The Third World is the causal plane, the world of light and blessedness, called Sivaloka.

This highest plane is the home of God Siva and of the Gods who assist Him, such as Lord Ganesha and Lord Murugan.



The Third Word - Sivaloka

It is also the home of highly advanced souls who exist in their brilliant soul form.

We experience the Sivaloka when we see the inner light or have a flash of intuition.

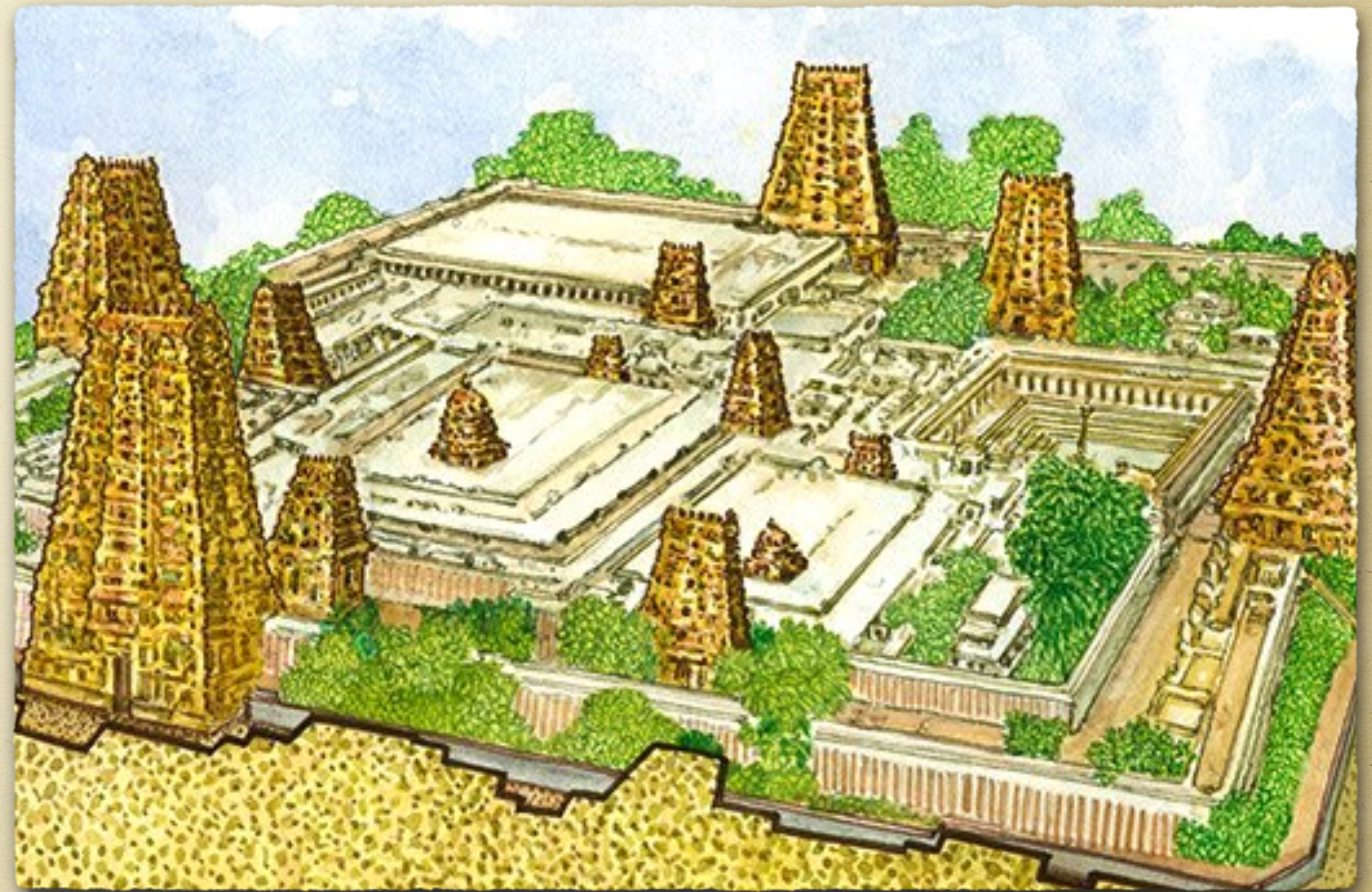


The Temple is where the Three Worlds meet

We can worship God and the Gods
anywhere.

But the temple is the best place,
because it is built as a special, sacred
space where the three worlds meet as
one.

When we are awake, we normally don't
see or sense the inner worlds.



Feeling the presence of God, Gods and devas.

The temple enables us to feel the presence of God, Gods and devas, just as night-vision goggles allow us to see in the dark

In our form of worship, called *puja*, we chant, burn incense, ring bells and offer lights and flowers.

This ritual brings us close to God and the great beings of our faith.



Gurudeva says ...

Siva's followers all believe that religion is the harmonious working together of the three worlds and that this harmony can be created through temple worship, wherein the beings of all three worlds can communicate.



QUESTIONS for Lesson 21



21.1 Enter the letter from below of A - C that gives the correct Sanskrit name for the world.

- ___ First World
- ___ Second World
- ___ Third World

- (A) Sivaloka
- (B) Bhuloka
- (C) Antarloka

21.2 Enter the letter from below of A - C that gives the correct English name for the world.

- ___ First World
- ___ Second World
- ___ Third World

- (A) Gross plane
- (B) Causal plane
- (C) Subtle or astral plane

21.3 Enter the letter from below of A - B that gives the correct loka within the Antarloka for the description given.

- ___ Hellish regions
- ___ Highest region
- ___ Where the asuras, demonic beings, dwell
- ___ Where the devas, angelic beings, dwell

- (A) Devaloka
- (B) Narakaloka

21.4 The Third World

(Check the incorrect answer)

- A. Is the home of God Siva
- B. Is the home of Lord Murugan but not Lord Ganesha
- C. Is the home of highly advanced souls

21.5 We experience the Antarloka when we see the inner light or have a flash of intuition.

- True
- False