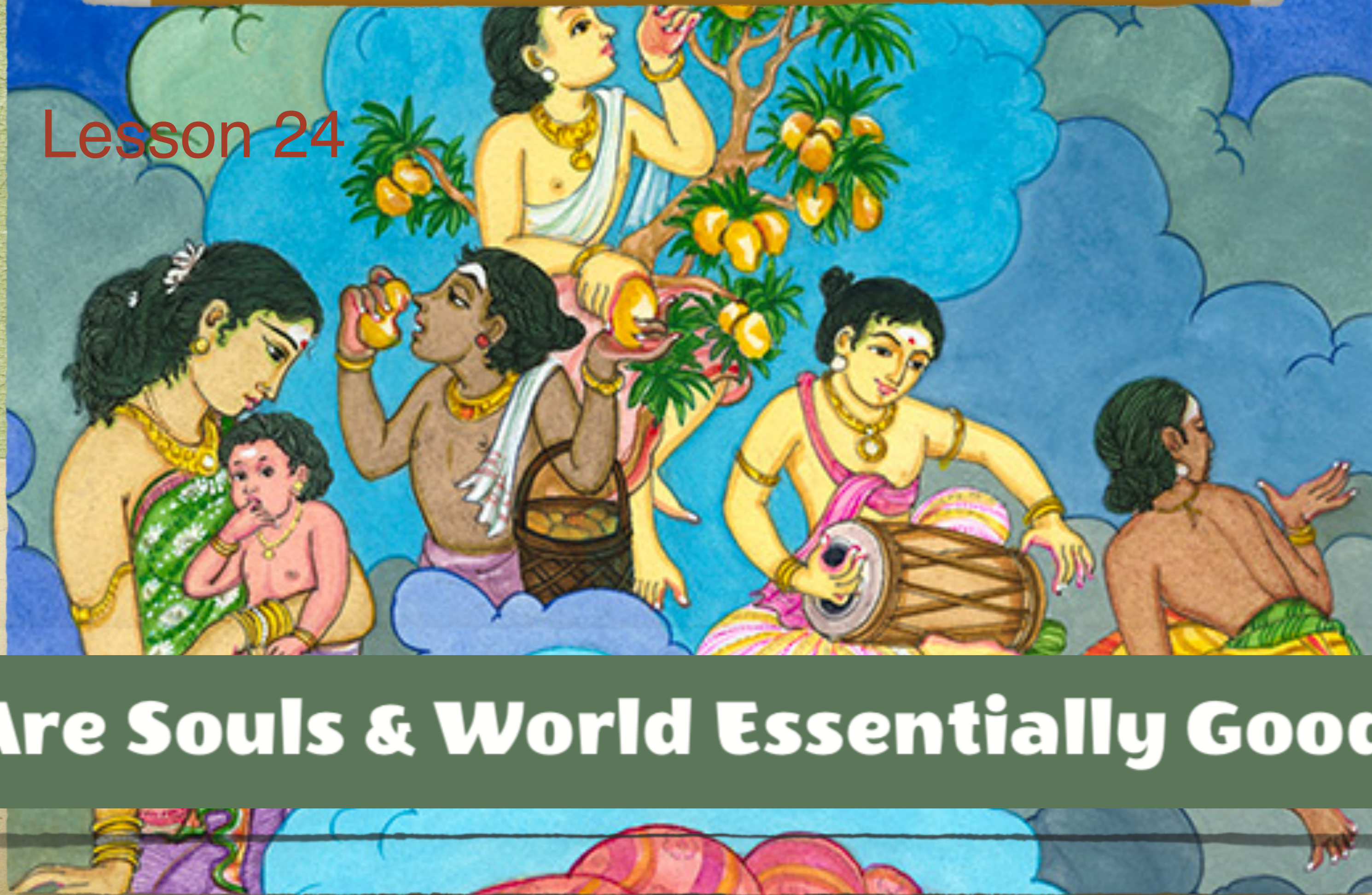


Path to Siva

A Catechism for Youth

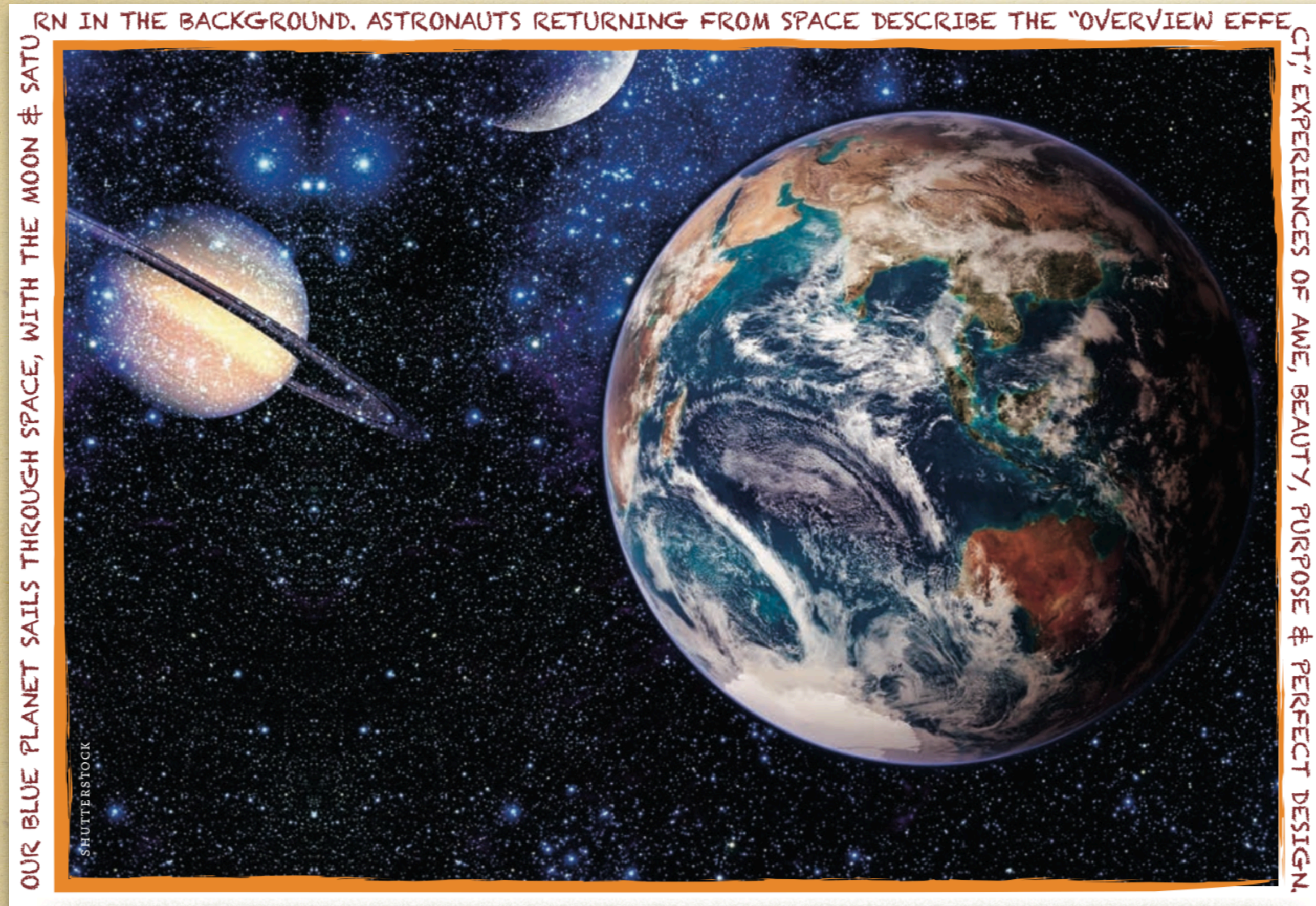
Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami

Lesson 24



Are Souls & World Essentially Good?

All souls are essentially good



All souls are essentially good, for their inner nature is divine.

Each soul is created by God Siva from Himself. Siva's nature is pure love.

Natural qualities of the soul

So, goodness, compassion,
understanding and joy are natural
qualities of the soul.

Wisdom and pure knowledge are the
intrinsic nature of the soul.



The world, too, is God's flawless creation.

All is in perfect order and balance.

Since God is everywhere and in all things, there can be no place for evil.



There can be no place for evil

Since God is everywhere and in all things, there can be no place for evil.

Evil is often looked upon as a force against God.

But we know that all forces are God's forces, even mean, hurtful actions

This is sometimes difficult to understand when we see the pains and problems caused by people against each other.



What is called evil has its own purpose in life.

Looking deeper, we see that what is called evil has its own purpose in life.

Yes, bad things do happen.

Still, the wise never blame God, for they know such things are the return of our self-created karmas, tough lessons that help us learn and mature.

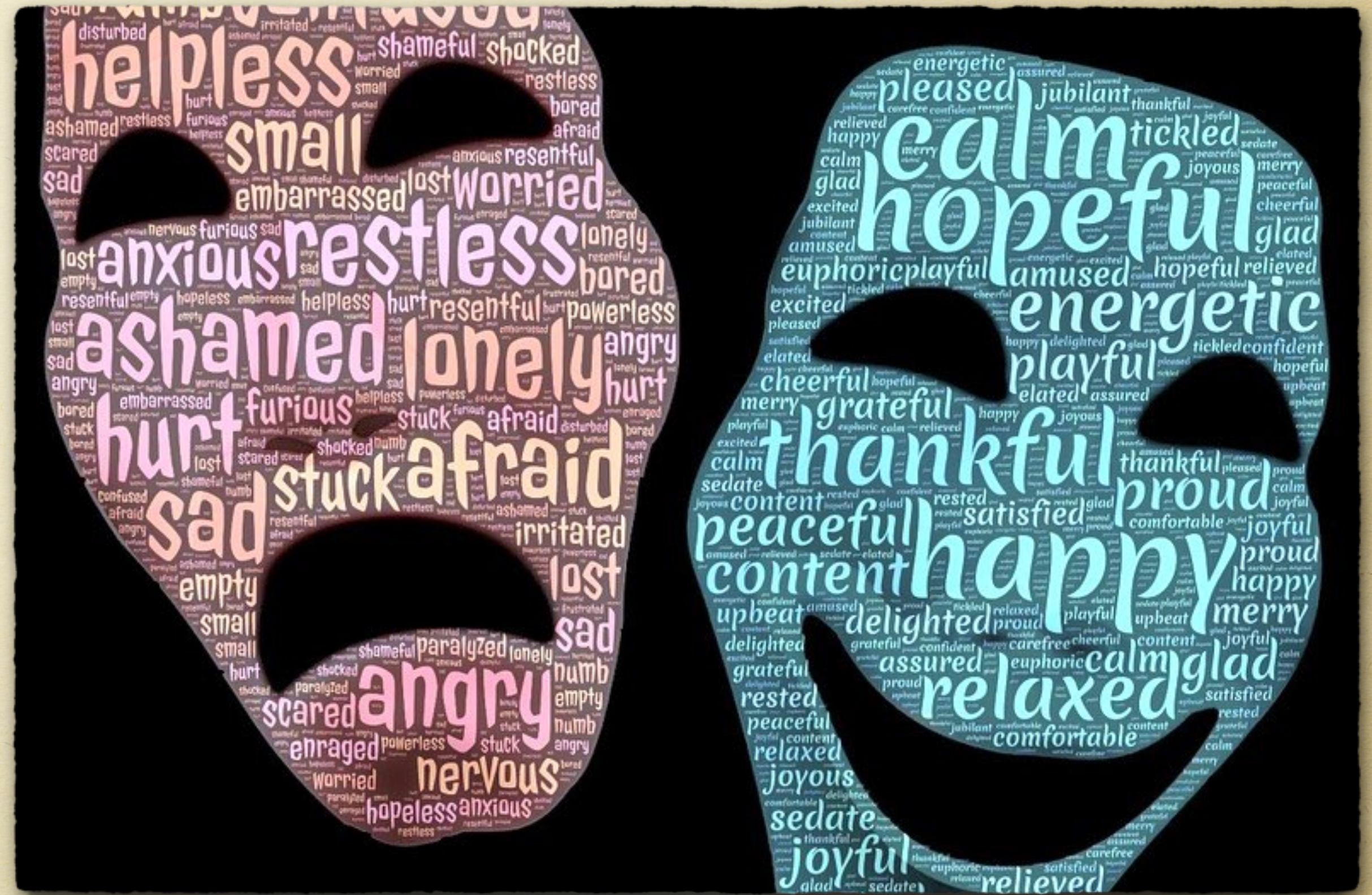


The nature of the world is duality.

It contains each thing and its opposite:
joy and sorrow, goodness and evil, love
and hate.

Suffering cannot be totally avoided.

It is a natural part of human life that
causes much spiritual growth for the
soul.



The wise accept suffering from any source

Knowing this, the wise accept suffering from any source, be it hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, famine, wars, disease or personal tragedies.

Suffering offers us the important realization that true happiness and freedom cannot be found in the world, for earthly joy is bound to sorrow.

Having learned this, devotees seek a satguru who teaches them to overcome suffering through understanding and acceptance.



The world is the bountiful creation of a benevolent God

The world is the bountiful creation of a benevolent God, who means for us to live positively in it, facing karma and fulfilling dharma.

We must not despise or fear the world.

Life is meant to be lived joyously.



Gurudeva says...

This is my advice: gain the perspective first that it is a wonderful world, that there is nothing wrong in the world at all.

All men and women on the Earth are doing exactly as they should and must do



QUESTIONS for Lesson 24



24.1 The qualities of the soul are
(Check the incorrect answer)

- A. Goodness, compassion, understanding and joy
- B. A tendency to act in evil ways
- C. Wisdom and pure knowledge

24.2 When bad things happen to us it is because of
(Check the correct answer)

- A. The hurtful nature of some people
- B. The return of our self-created karmas
- C. God

24.3 The nature of the world is duality. It contains
each thing and its opposite:
(Check the incorrect answer)

- A. Joy and sorrow
- B. Goodness and evil
- C. Love and kindness

24.4 Suffering is
(Check the incorrect answer)

- A. Unnecessary
- B. A natural part of human life
- C. Causes much spiritual growth

24.5 We are meant to live positively in the world,
facing dharma and fulfilling karma.

- True
- False