

Path to Siva

A Catechism for Youth

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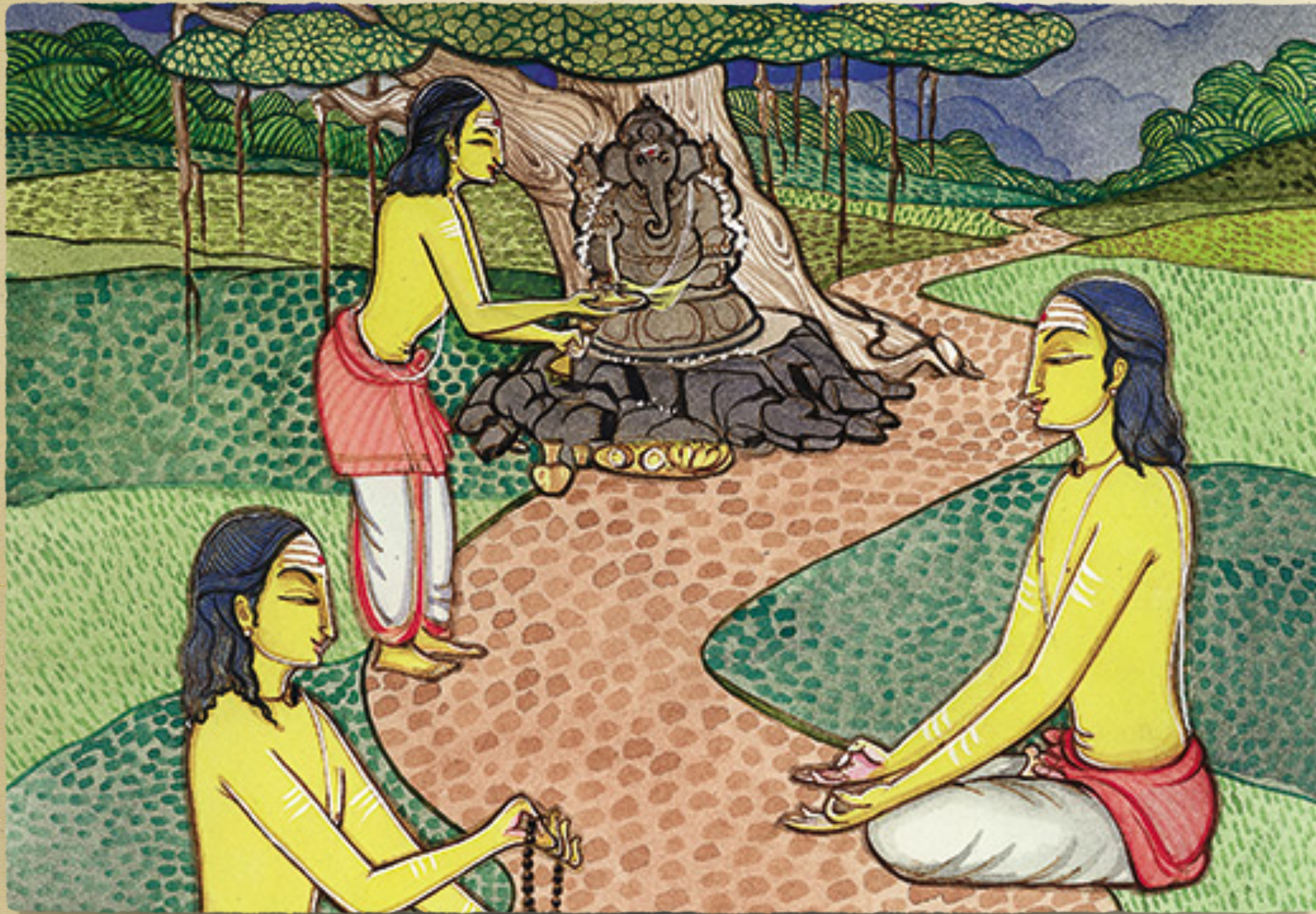
Lesson 37



What Are the Two Paths?

COURTESY CHINMAYA MISSION

Two ways to live our adult life



We call them the two paths.

Most people follow the family path.

A rare few follow the monastic path.

The Family Path

A married couple has great responsibilities.

They create and run a home together.

They raise their children as spiritual, well-educated citizens of their nation.

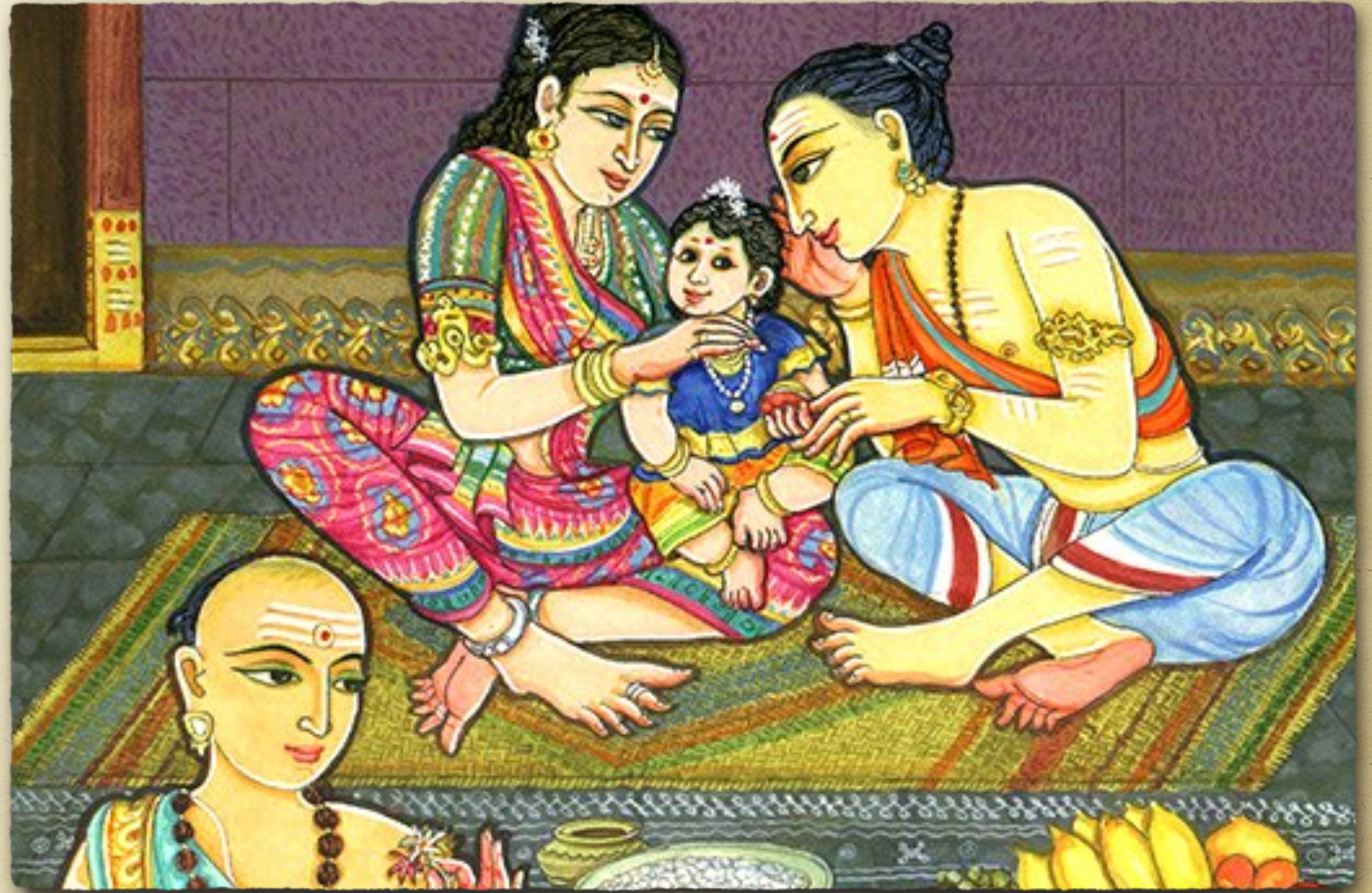
They provide support to the young, the aged and the monastic community.



The Tirukural states:

The *Tirukural* summarizes:

“The foremost duty of family life is to serve duly these five: God, guests, kindred, ancestors and oneself.”



Married Life

Married life begins with the wedding ceremony, where vows are taken to be faithful and follow dharma for life.



Monastic Life

Monastics follow a different path.

Instead of having a spouse and children, they embrace the whole world as their family.



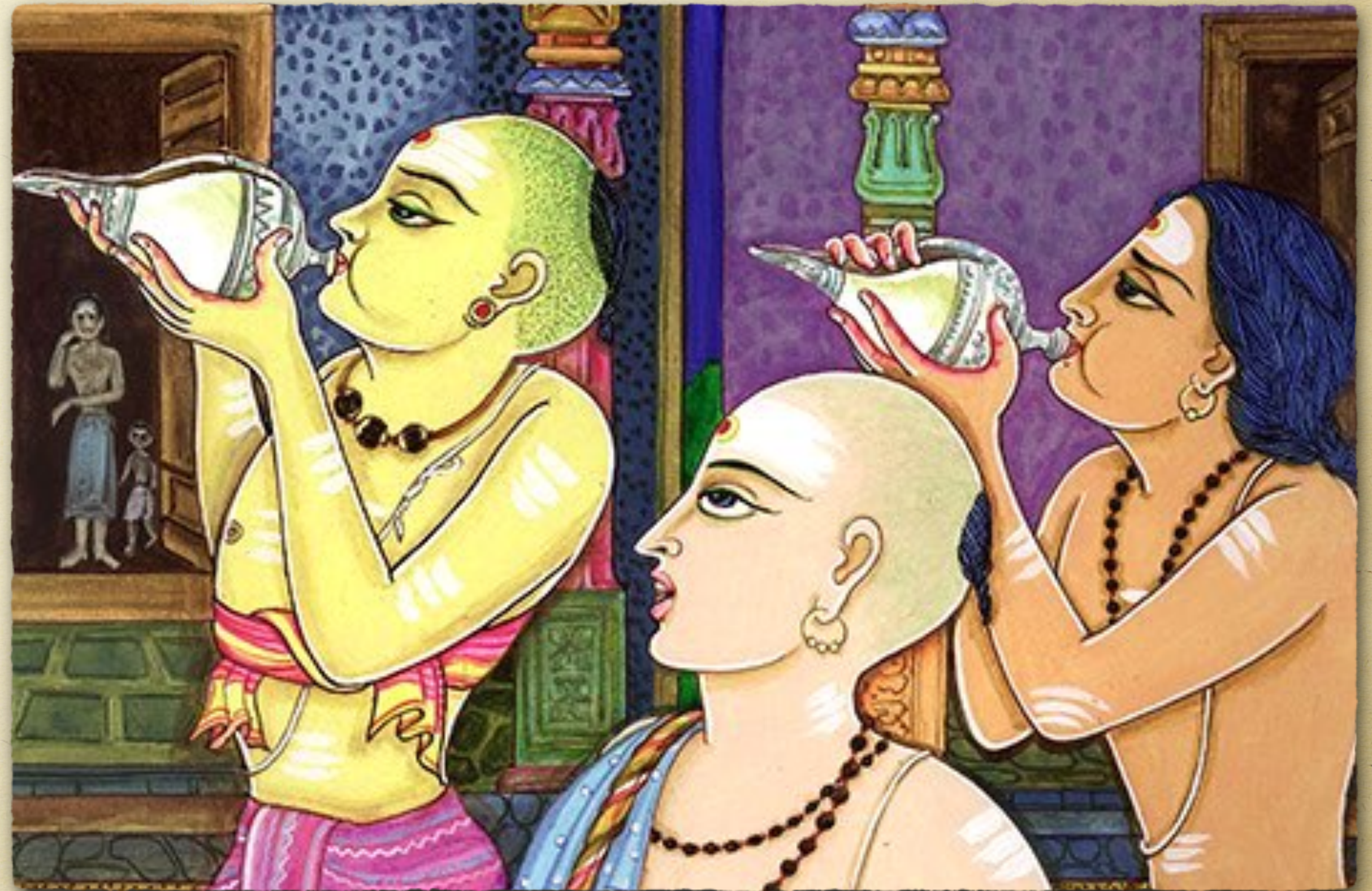
The two goals of Monastics

They have two goals: to serve humanity and realize God.

They renounce name and fame.

Their focus is worship, meditation and yoga, which makes them pure and wise.

They inspire and uplift those on the householder path.



Who are the Monastics?

Some wander or live alone, and others join monasteries.

Some are dynamic teachers, some are swamis with many followers and others are unheralded hermits.



Saivite Monastics

In Saivism, most monastics are men, but there are also orders for women.

Monastic life begins with vows to stay unmarried and celibate, devoted to God, Gods and guru.



How do we recognise a monastic?

Most Hindu monks wear orange robes.

Others wear white or yellow robes.

Some shave their heads, while others have long hair and beards.



The Tirukural praises the two paths

The *Tirukural* praises both paths:

“Behold those who have weighed the dual nature of things and followed the renunciate’s way. Their greatness illumines the world.”

“Domestic life is rightly called virtue. The monastic path, rightly lived beyond blame, is likewise good.”



Which path to choose?

The key is to choose your path carefully
and follow it faithfully.



Gurudeva says:

The two paths—householder and renunciate—every young man has to choose between them. ...

The choice is his and his alone as to how his soul is to live through the birth karmas of this incarnation.

Both paths take courage, great courage, to step forward and embrace the responsibilities of adult life.



QUESTIONS for Lesson 37

37.1 The two paths refers to
(Check the incorrect answer)

- A. Karma yoga and bhakti yoga
- B. Two ways to live our adult life
- C. The family path and the monastic path

37.2 For each concept below, enter “F” if it relates to the family path and “M” if it relates to the monastic path.

- The whole world is their family
- Provide support to the young and the aged
- Serve humanity and realize God
- Renounce name and fame
- Family is spouse and children

37.3 In Saivism, monastics are
(Check the correct answer)

- A. Always men
- B. Mostly men
- C. Always women

37.4 The Tirukural praises
(Check the correct answer)

- A. The family path
- B. The monastic path
- C. Both paths

37.5 The key is to choose your path carefully and follow it faithfully.

- True
- False