

Path to Siva

A Catechism for Youth

Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami

Lesson 67



How Can We Be Strong Saivite Hindus?

Religion or Way of Life?



Gurudeva taught:

“Once we have chosen and accepted our faith, it is then our spiritual duty to learn it well and live by it as a wholehearted, contributing member of a faith ...

We live our religion and pass to...

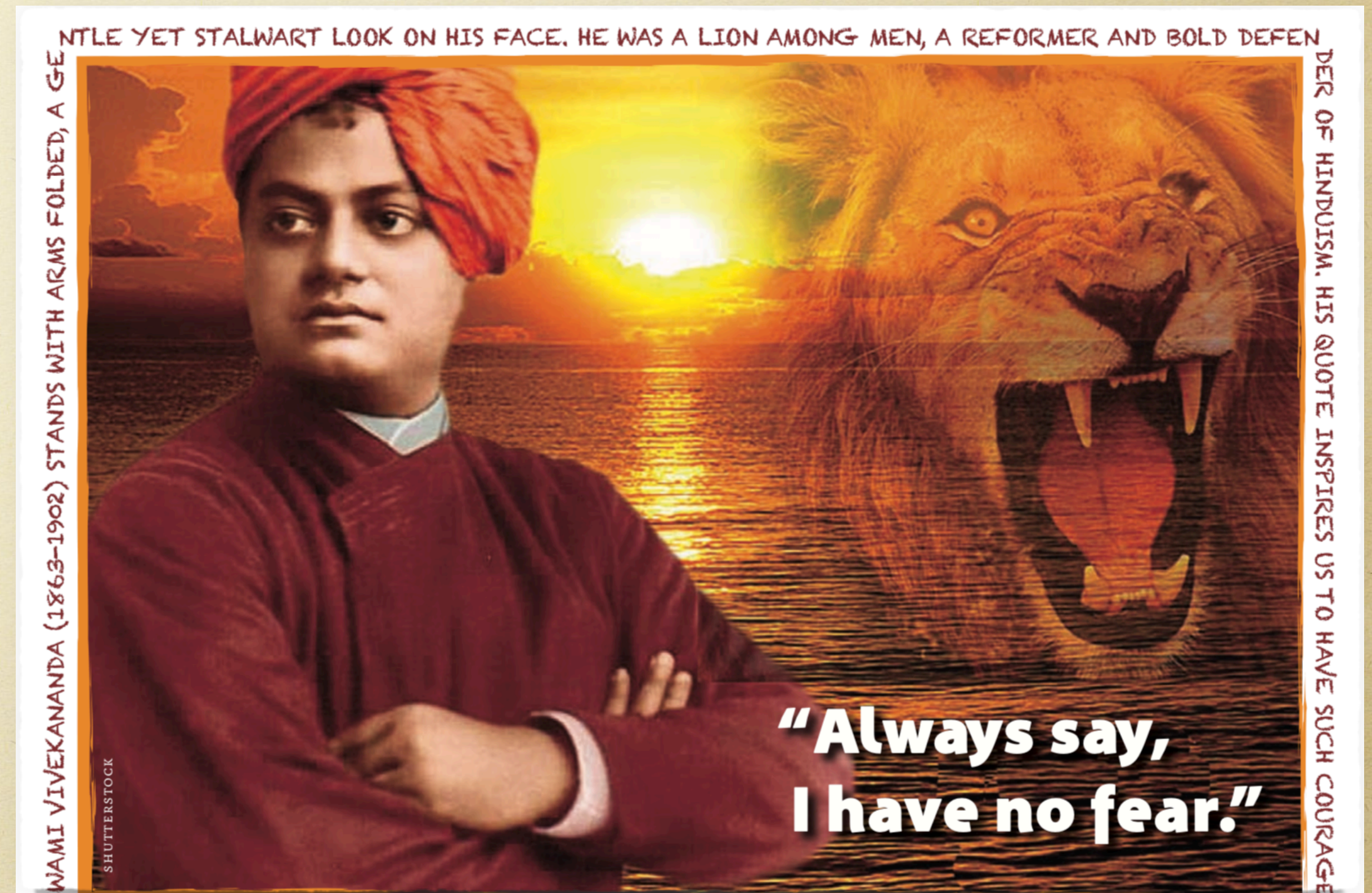
“Once we have chosen and accepted our faith, it is then our spiritual duty to learn it well and live by it as a wholehearted, contributing member of a faith community so that we pass it on in a vibrant way to those who come after us, the next generation.”



Learn and understand well...

To be strong Hindus, first we must learn our religion well.

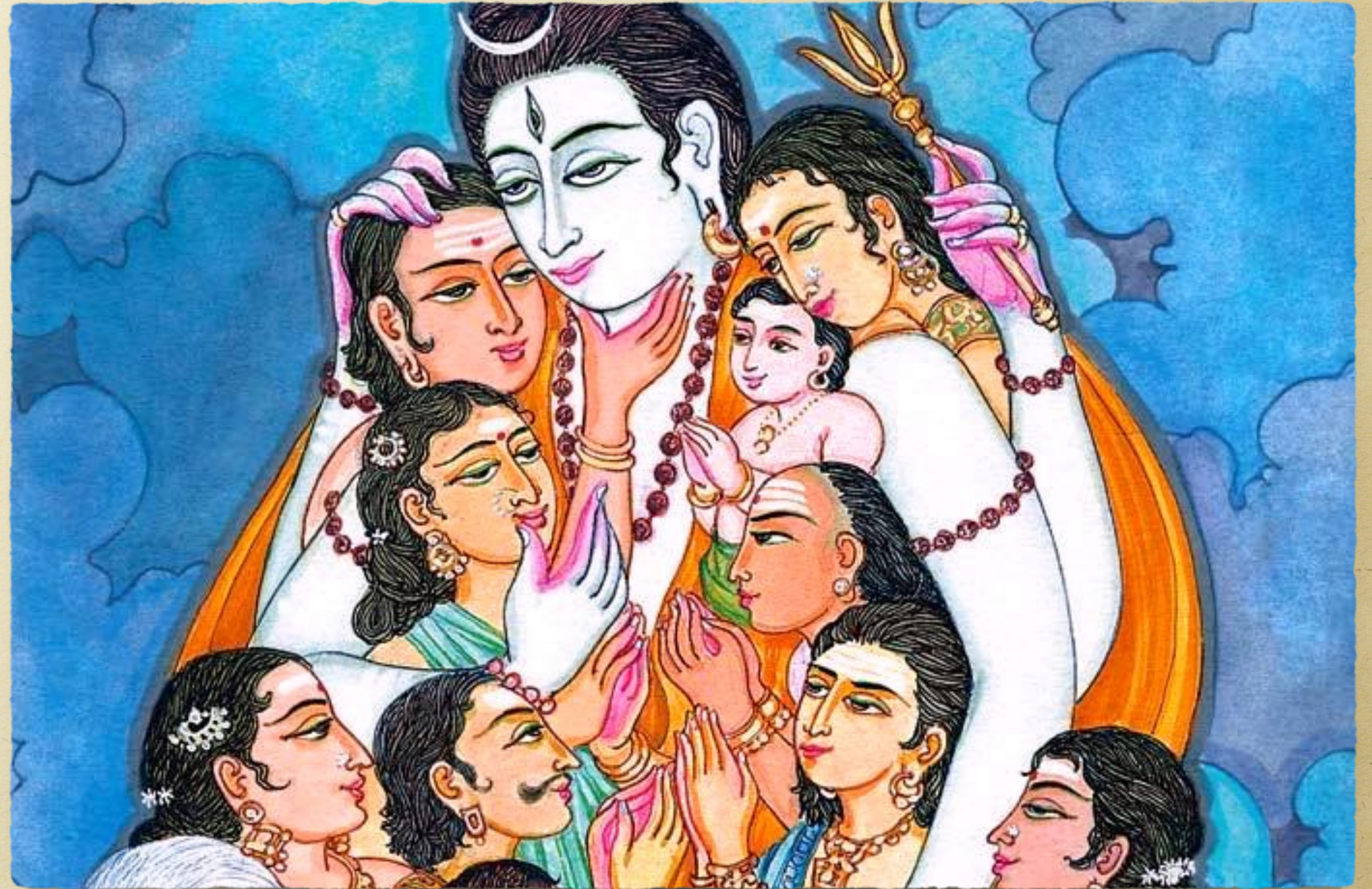
This means gaining a good understanding of the philosophy, the culture and the subtle mysticism.



Live our religion fully.

Second, we must live by it fully. This means having a solid commitment, a good character, and putting its principles into practice.

For us, this includes adopting the gestures, attitudes, customs, ways of worship, dress and refinements of Tamil Saiva culture.



Passing our faith to others

The third step is passing our faith along to others.

We all live in mixed societies, interrelating with people of varied backgrounds.



Questions about your religion...

You may find yourself being asked about your Hindu faith. Some questioners may have no religion.

Others may reject religion and believe science has all the answers.



Common questions...

You may be confronted by their questions:

“Do you worship cows?”

“Why are there so many Hindu Gods?”

Why do you wear the dot on your forehead?”



Give answers with confidence.

Prepare yourself by studying the answers to such questions.

Respond with confidence and kindness.

Assume that the person really wants to learn.



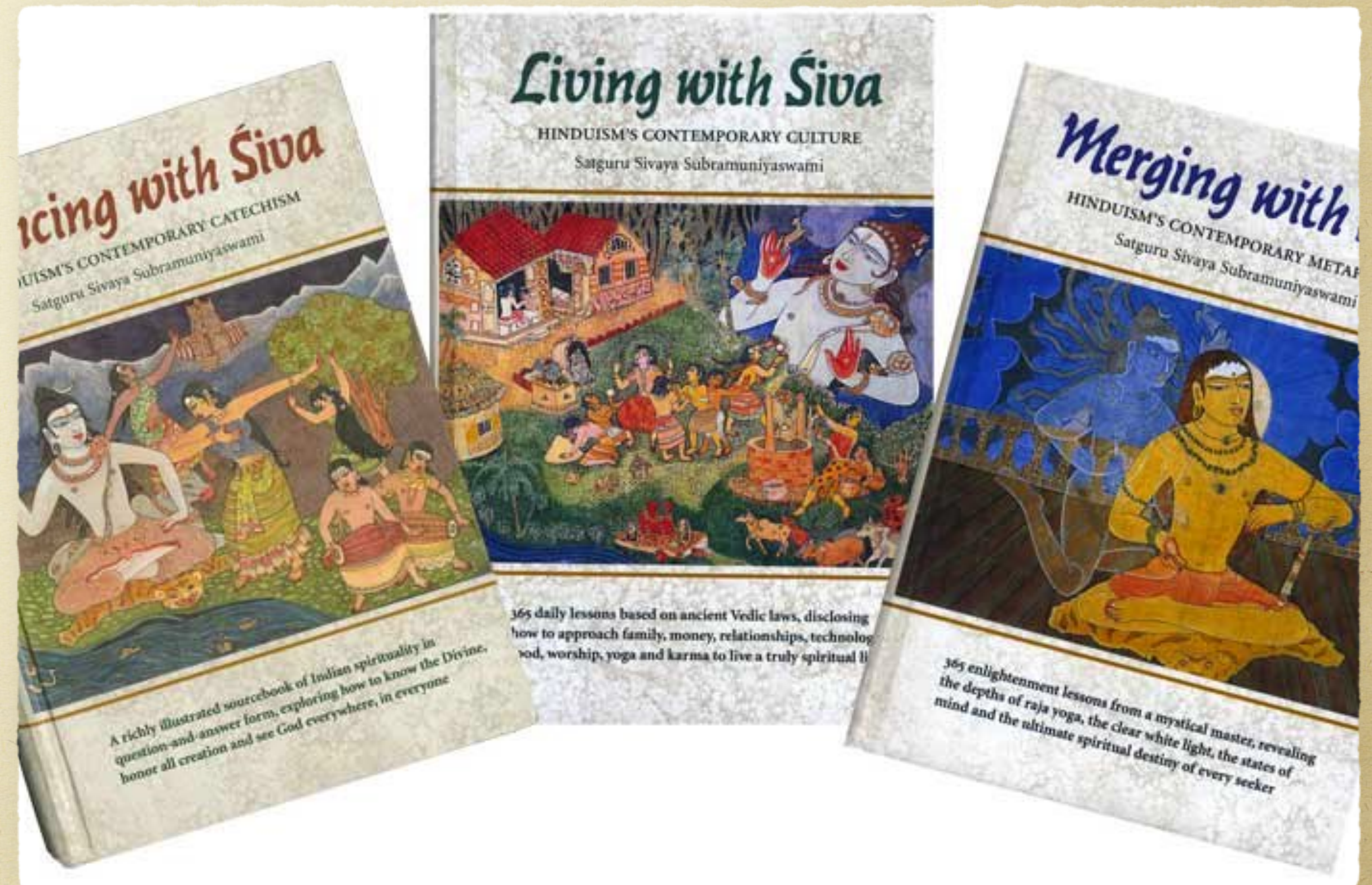
How to share your faith with others?

You can also share your faith by conducting classes or sharing at public gatherings.

In sum, we each stand strong for Hinduism by being good Hindus.

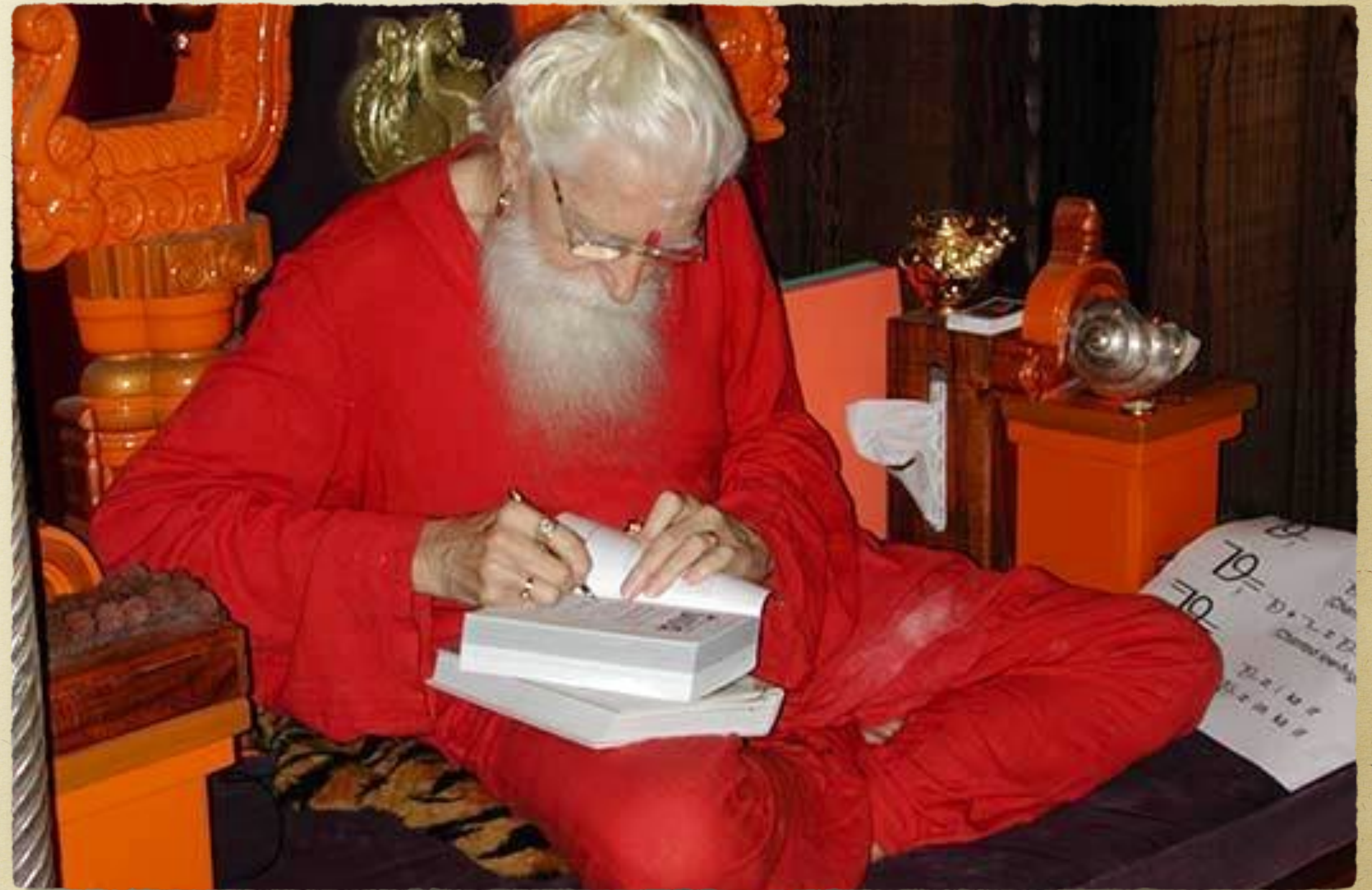
Gurudeva has given us the tools in his Master Course Trilogy, *Dancing, Living and Merging with Siva*.

Using these tools of philosophy, culture and yoga, we can defend, explain, protect, preserve and promote our Saiva faith.



Gurudeva says...

The time has come for Hindus of all races, all nations, of all cultures, of all sects to stand up and let the peoples of the world know of the great religion of which they are one of the staunch adherents.



QUESTIONS for Lesson 67

67.1 The three steps in being a strong Saivite Hindu are
(Number them 1 - 3 in the correct order)

- Learn our religion well
- Pass it along to others
- Live by it fully

67.2 Enter the letter from below of A - C for the phrase that correctly completes the idea.

- We must learn our religion well
- We must live by it fully
- We must pass our faith along to others

- (A) To those who come after us, the next generation
- (B) This means have a solid commitment, a good character and putting its principles into practice.
- (C) This means gaining a good understanding of the philosophy, the culture and the subtle mysticism

67.3 To successfully answer the questions you are asked about Hinduism
(Check the correct answer)

- A. Prepare yourself by studying the answers to such questions
- B. Respond with confidence and kindness
- C. Assume the person really wants to learn
- D. All of the above

67.4 If you determine that the person wants to harass you or turn you to their view, smile and dismiss yourself without engaging further.

- True
- False

67.5 In sum, we each stand strong for Hinduism by being good Hindus.

- True
- False