

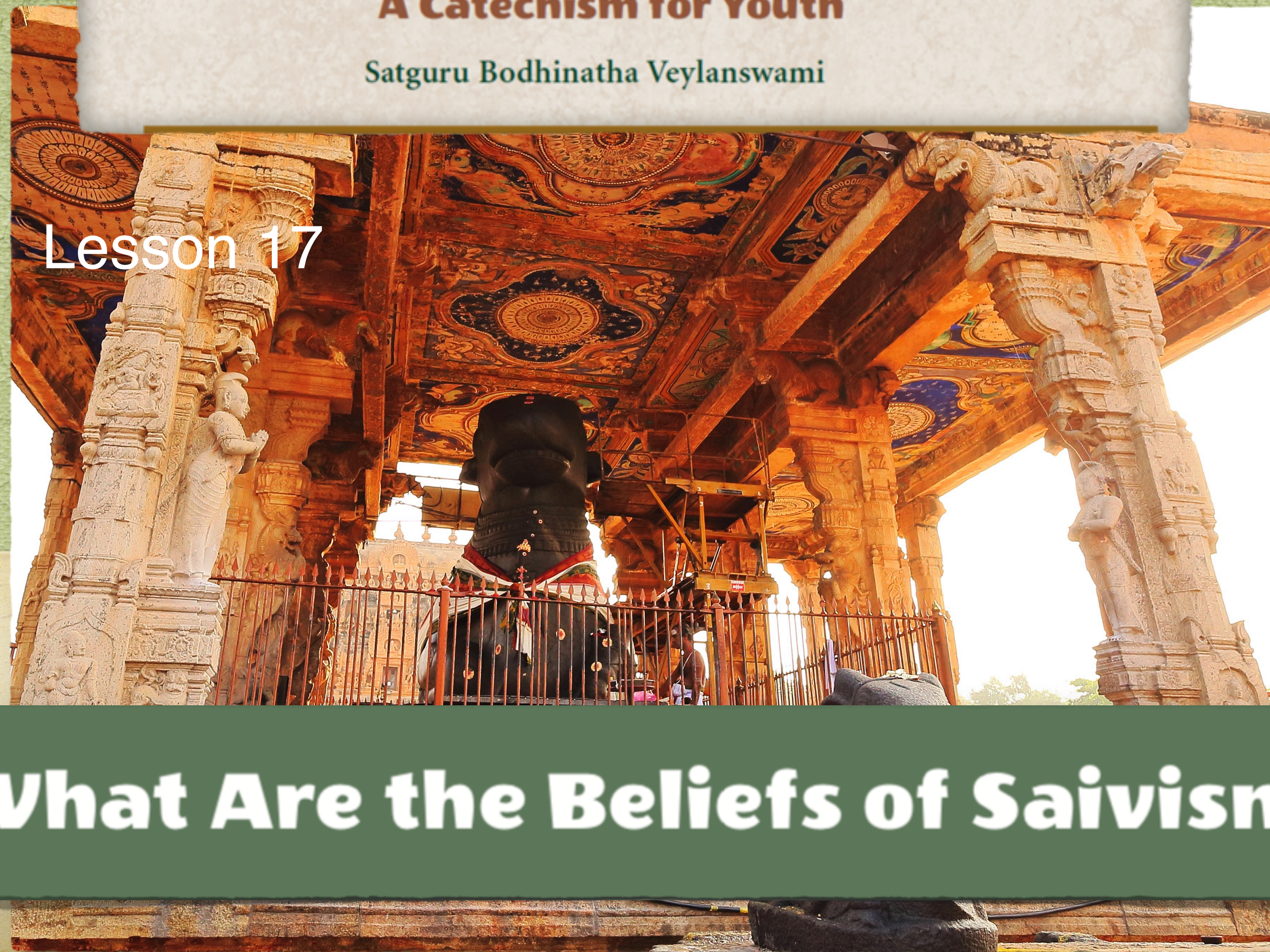
Path to Siva

A Catechism for Youth

Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami

Lesson 17

What Are the Beliefs of Saivism?



What is a creed?



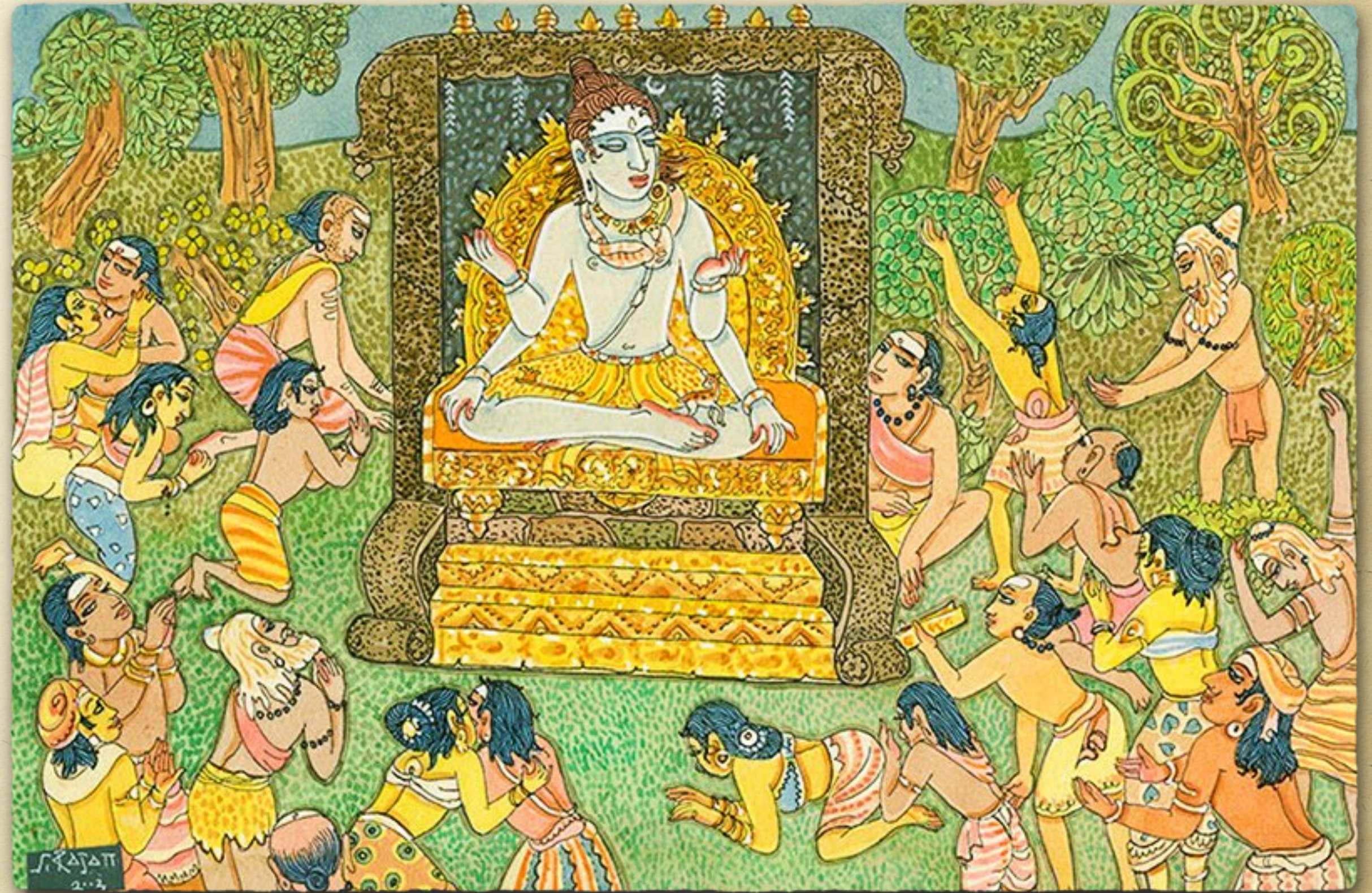
Every religion has a set of core beliefs, called a creed.

A creed summarizes its theology.

Twelve saivite beliefs

Children learn the creed of their faith at a young age.

By knowing and understanding our creed, we can express our tradition, in basic and consistent terms, to followers of other faiths.



Twelve Beliefs Saiva Siddhanta

The twelve beliefs capture the main ideas of Saiva Siddhanta, which is one of the six schools of Saivism.

They contain our view of God, soul and world, evil, love and more.

Beliefs vary greatly among the religions of the world.



Our attitudes influence our actions

Our beliefs create our attitudes, and our attitudes influence our actions.

Therefore, what we believe shapes our lives, defines our culture and molds our future.

Each person's actions can be traced back to what he believes about himself, other people and the world around him.

If those beliefs are correct, his actions will be helpful to others.



Belief in God as a loving power flowing through everything

This creates an attitude of respect,
kindness and compassion.

In contrast, the belief in an evil power,
in light forces and dark forces, creates
the attitude that it is acceptable to
cause pain and injury to those we
judge to be evil.



The power of belief

Gurudeva explained the power of belief: “The human mind is exactly like a computer

Programs that go in are the beliefs.

Their performance is the attitude, and the knowledge or the impetus that passes through both determines the output or the action.



Children learn from their parents

Children will learn the basic attitudes from their mothers and fathers by absorbing the beliefs that their mothers and fathers have placed into their subconscious mind, even prenatally.



Memorize the twelve beliefs

This is the first stage of writing the code, as a programmer would do in creating a new application.”

Memorize these twelve beliefs. In so doing, you will help to perpetuate Saivism’s culture of devotion, humility, nonviolence, compassion and service.



Gurudeva explains...

Historically, creeds have developed whenever religions migrate from their homelands.

Until then, the beliefs are fully contained in the culture and taught to children as a natural part of growing up. ...

A creed is the distillation of volumes of knowledge into a series of easy-to-remember beliefs, or shraddha..



Belief One

God Unmanifest Reality

Siva's followers all believe that Lord Siva is God, whose Absolute Being, Parasiva, transcends time, form and space.

The yogi silently exclaims, "It is not this. It is not that." Yea, such an inscrutable God is God Siva. Aum.



Belief Two

God's Manifest Nature of All Pervading Love

Siva's followers all believe that Lord Siva is God, whose immanent nature of love, Parashakti, is the substratum, primal substance or pure consciousness flowing through all form as energy, existence, knowledge and bliss. Aum.



Belief Three

God as Personal Lord and Creator of All

Siva's followers all believe that Lord Siva is God, whose immanent nature is the Primal Soul, Supreme Mahadeva, Parameshvara, author of Vedas and Agamas, the creator, preserver and destroyer of all that exists. Aum



Belief Four

Elephant-faced Deity

Siva's followers all believe in the Mahadeva Lord Ganesha, son of Siva-Shakti, to whom they must first supplicate before beginning any worship or task.

His rule is compassionate. His law is just. Justice is His mind. Aum.



Belief Five

The Deity Karttikeya

The Siva's followers all believe in the Mahadeva Karttikeya, son of Siva-Shakti, whose vel of grace dissolves the bondages of ignorance.

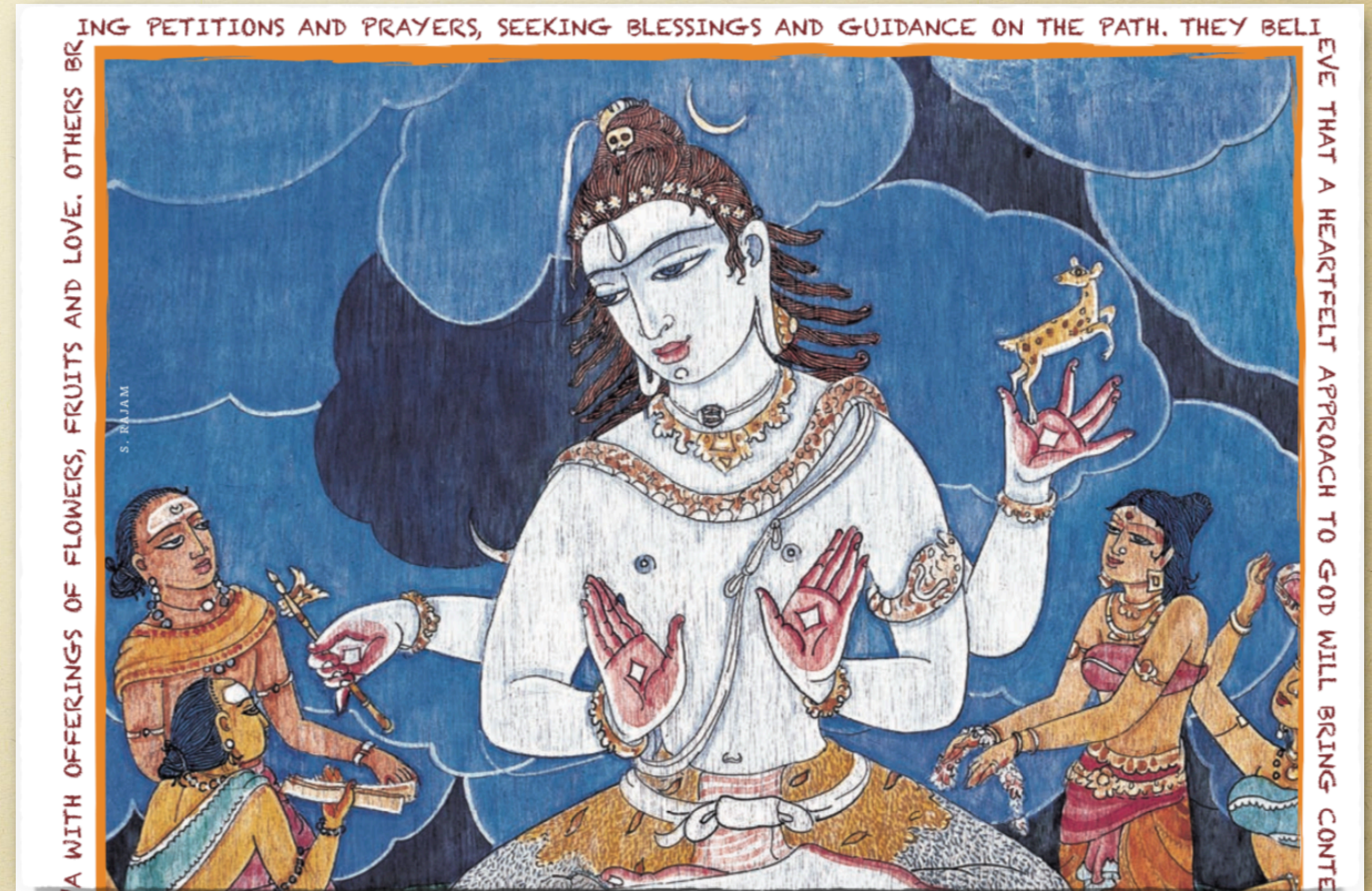
The yogi, locked in lotus, venerates Murugan. Thus restrained, his mind becomes calm. Aum



Belief Six

The Soul's Creation and Identity with God

Siva's followers all believe that each soul is created by Lord Siva and is identical to Him, and that this identity will be fully realized by all souls when the bondage of anava, karma and Maya is removed by His grace. Aum.



Belief Seven

The Gross, the Subtle and Causal Planes of Existence

Siva's followers all believe in three worlds: the gross plane, where souls take on physical bodies; the subtle plane, where souls take on astral bodies; and the causal plane, where souls exist in their self-effulgent form. Aum.



Belief Eight

Karma, Samsara, Liberation and Rebirth

Siva's followers all believe in the law of karma—that one must reap the effects of all actions he has caused—and that each soul continues to reincarnate until all karmas are resolved and moksha, liberation, is attained. Aum.



Belief Nine

The Four Margas, Stages of Inner Progress

Siva's followers all believe that the performance of charya, virtuous living, kriya, temple worship, and yoga, leading to Parasiva through the grace of the living satguru, is absolutely necessary to bring forth jnana, wisdom. Aum.



Belief Ten

The Goodness in All

Siva's followers all believe there is no intrinsic evil. Evil has no source, unless the source of evil's seeming be ignorance itself. They are truly compassionate, knowing that ultimately there is no good or bad. All is Siva's will. Aum.



Belief Eleven

The Esoteric Purpose of Temple Worship

The 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.
Aum.

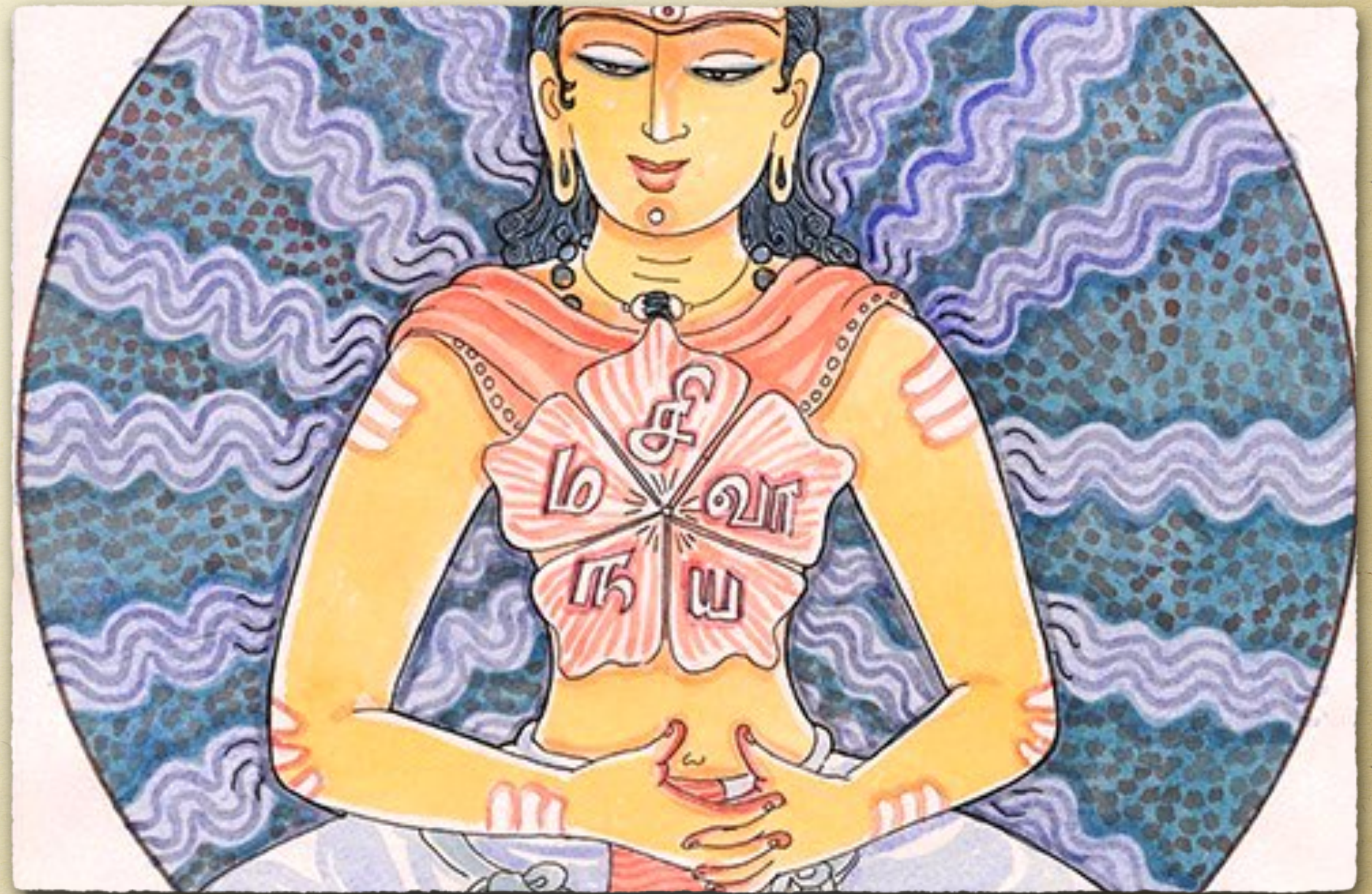


Belief Twelve

The Five Letters

Siva's followers all believe in the Panchakshara Mantra, the five sacred syllables "Nama' Sivâya," as Saivism's foremost and essential mantra.

The secret of Nama' Sivâya is to hear it from the right lips at the right time. Aum.



QUESTIONS for Lesson 17



17.1 Every religion has a set of core beliefs that summarizes its theology that is called a
(Check the correct answer)

- A. Scripture
- B. Prayer
- C. Creed

17.2 Our beliefs create our attitudes, and our attitudes influence our actions.

- True
- False

17.3 Enter the letter from below of A - C that describes that aspect of the human mind.

(Check the correct answer)

- ___ Programs that go in
- ___ Their performance
- ___ The knowledge or impetus that passes through both

- (A) Determines the output or the action
- (B) Is the attitude
- (C) Are the beliefs

17.4 Children will learn the basic attitudes from
(Check the correct answer)

- A. Other children
- B. Their parents
- C. Scripture

17.5 A Creed for Saivite Hinduism

(Number the beliefs from 1 - 12 in the order they occur in the Creed.)

- ___ The Elephant Faced Deity
- ___ The Soul's Creation and Identity with God
- ___ The Esoteric Purpose of Temple Worship
- ___ God's Manifest Nature of All-Pervading Love
- ___ The Goodness of All
- ___ The Five Letters
- ___ God's Unmanifest Reality
- ___ The Gross, Subtle and Causal Planes of Existence
- ___ Karma, Samsara and Liberation from Rebirth
- ___ God as Personal Lord and Creator of All
- ___ The Four Margas, Stages of Inner Progress
- ___ The Deity Kartikeya