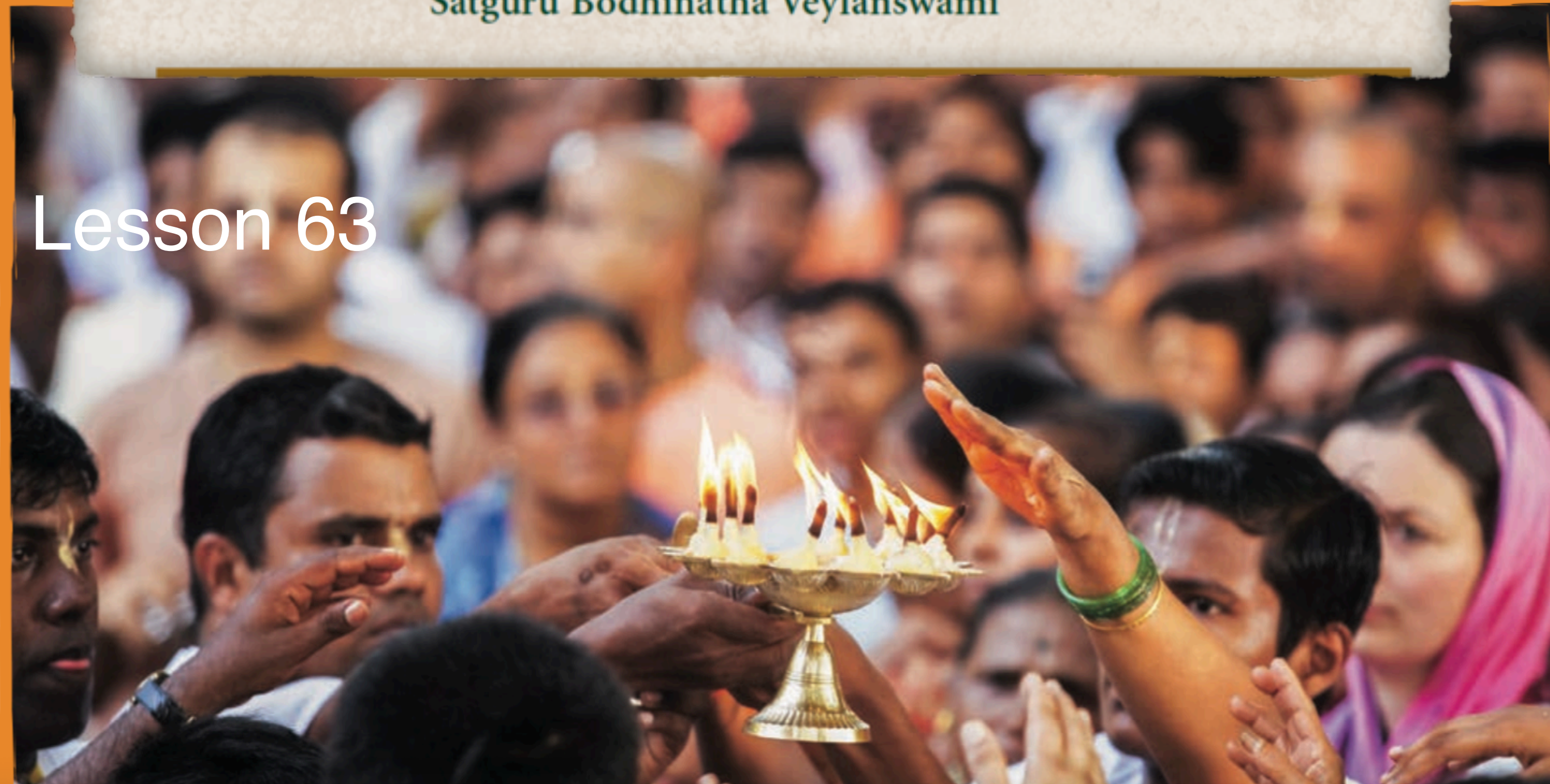


Path to Siva

A Catechism for Youth

Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami

Lesson 63



What Is Our Form of Prayer?

Closer than our breath...

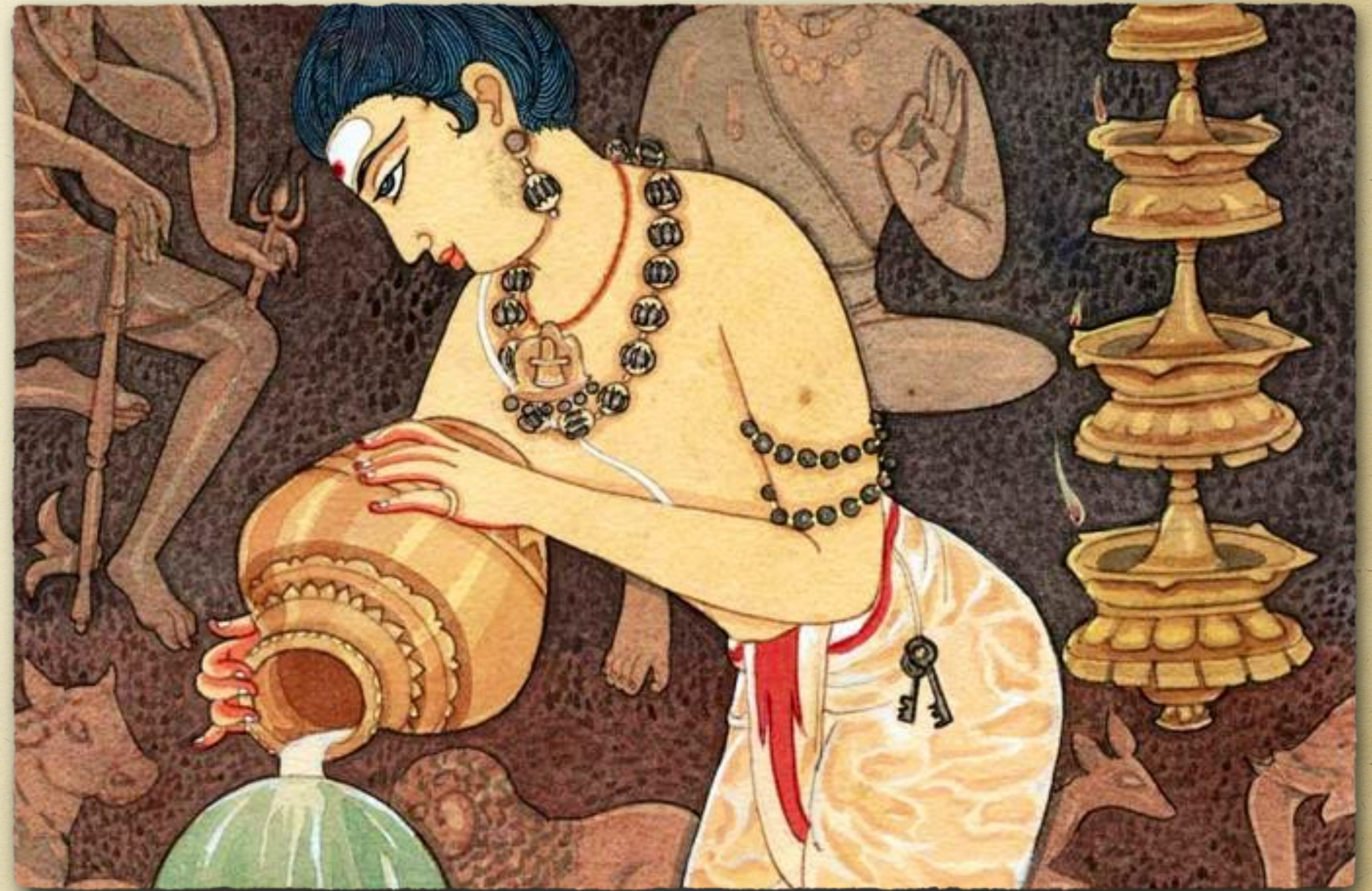


God Siva and the Gods are always with us, closer than breathing, nearer than hands and feet.

Praying is our way of communicating with them.

How to offer a prayer...

To offer a prayer, visualize the face of God Siva or a God, concentrate and say your prayer mentally, sending it up through the top of your head.



You can pray anywhere but...

You can pray anywhere, but the inner-world beings can best hear you in a sacred temple or your home shrine.



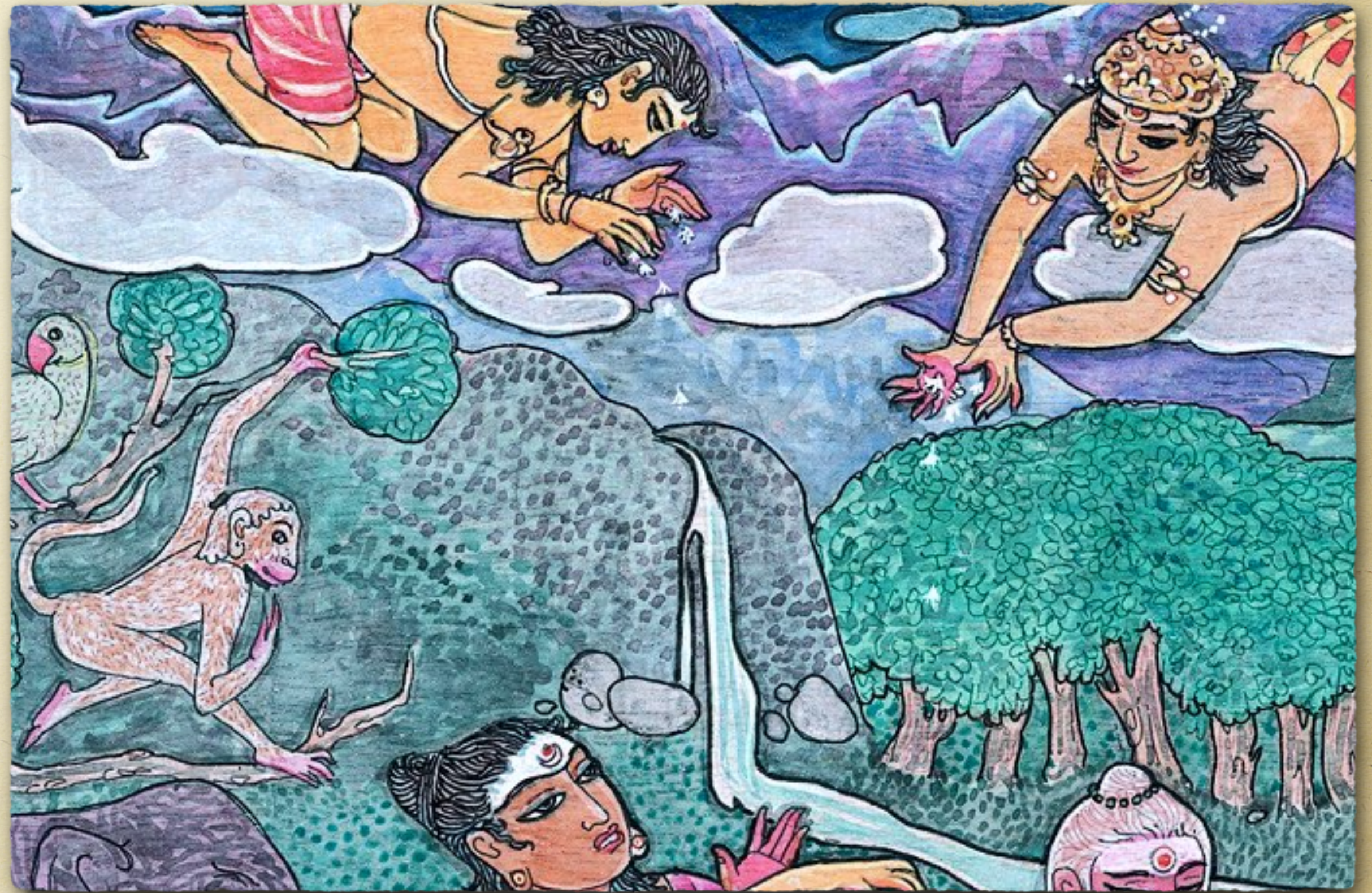
How do the Gods respond?

One of the greatest prayers of all is giving thanks for all the gifts Siva has provided in our life.

Most often, though, devotees pray for help.

The Gods will respond. Most simply, they send a blessing to quiet your mind and clear your aura.

Sometimes this is all that's needed.



Praying to Lord Ganesha...

Suppose you pray to Lord Ganesha for help with your studies.

After the blessing from the Mahadeva, the subject matter seems clear and interesting.

You absorb it easily and do better on your tests.



A deva may be assigned to help you.

Answering some prayers may require assigning a deva to determine the best way to assist you.

It is comforting to know that the Gods, their devas and your own guardian devas are ever ready to respond to your requests for help and guidance.



How do you get this boon?

You gain this boon by living a religious life and being consistent in your sadhana.



Burning written prayers...

Some temples, such as Kadavul Temple in Hawaii, accept written prayers from devotees.

When burned, these are released to their astral form in the Devaloka for the devas to read and act upon.



God and the Gods know better...

Before asking for help, we make every effort to use our own intelligence and strength.

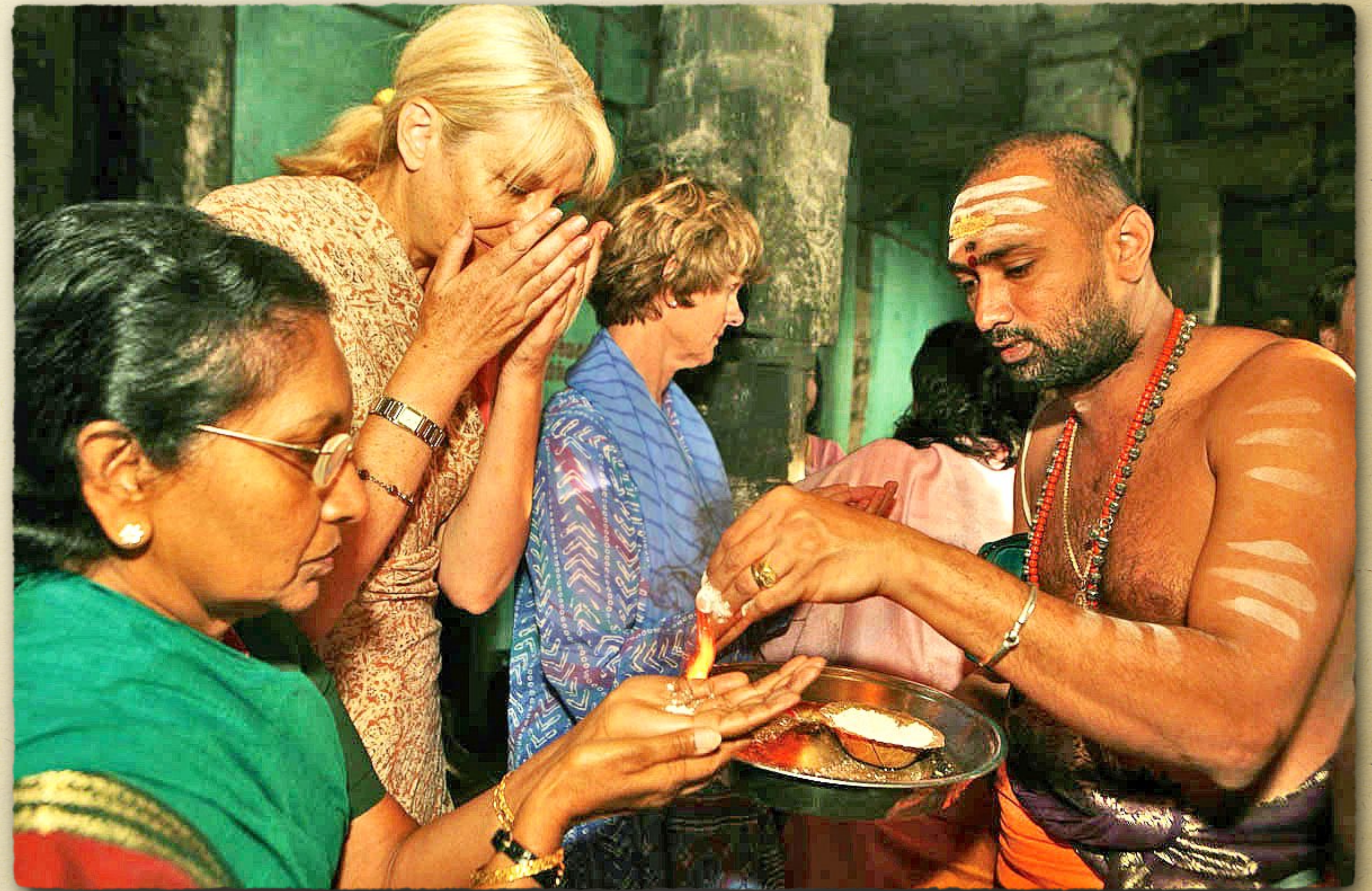
In our prayers we always remember that God and the Gods know the highest course for our life.

They know better than we do the lessons and experiences we need to improve.



Our prayers are always answered.

Our prayers will be answered, and in wisdom we accept the answer—even if it is not what we had hoped for.



Gurudeva says...

Those who worship in Siva temples slowly gain acceptance into the devonic realms of the Gods, and one or two of the uncountable numbers of devonic intelligences often return with the devotee to his home. ...

It is these guardian devas who are the first to receive the devotee's written prayers when they are transferred to the Devaloka through the sacred fire.



QUESTIONS for Lesson 63



63.1 To offer a prayer, we visualize the face of God Siva or a God, concentrate and say our prayer mentally, sending it up through the top of our head.

- True
- False

63.2 Inner-world beings can hear your prayer equally as well wherever you are.

- True
- False

63.3 When we pray for help, the Gods respond most simply by sending a blessing to quiet your mind and clear your aura.

- True
- False

63.4 Before asking for help, we
(Check the correct answer)

- A. Make no effort to use our own intelligence and strength
- B. Make every effort to use our own intelligence and strength

63.5 Our prayers will be answered exactly in the way we hoped for.

- True
- False