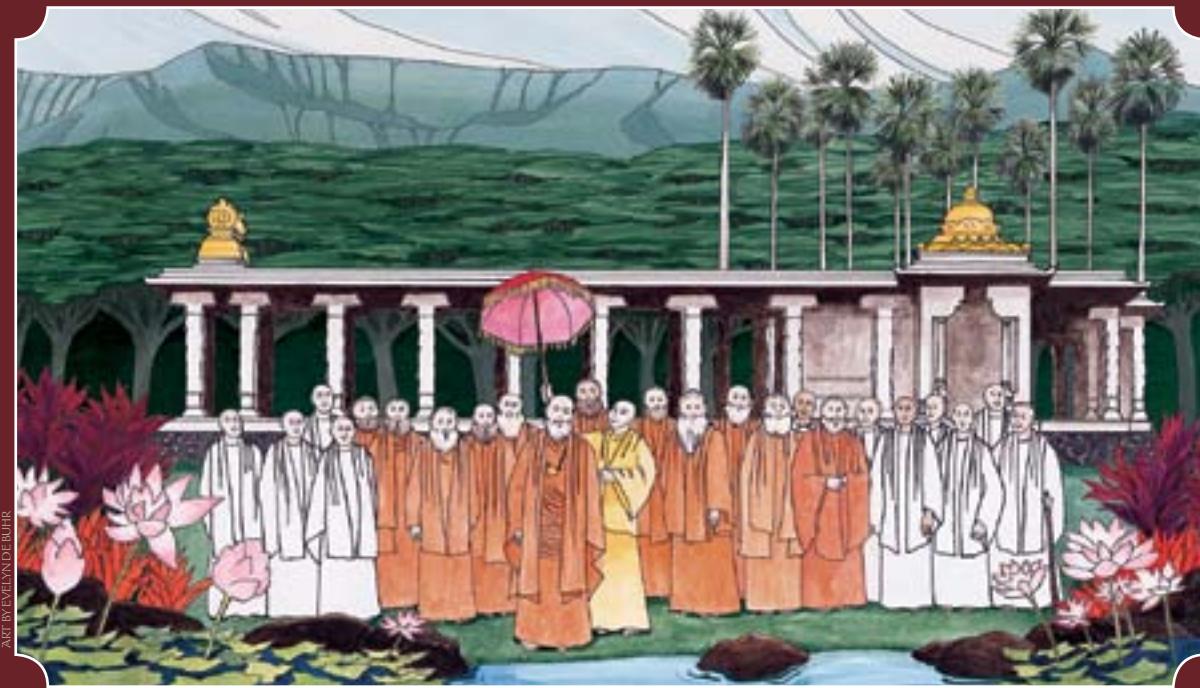


# Sadhana Guide

For Pilgrims to Kauai's Hindu Monastery



ART BY CECILIA LINDE BUHR

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## CHAPTER ONE

# The Concept of Sadhana

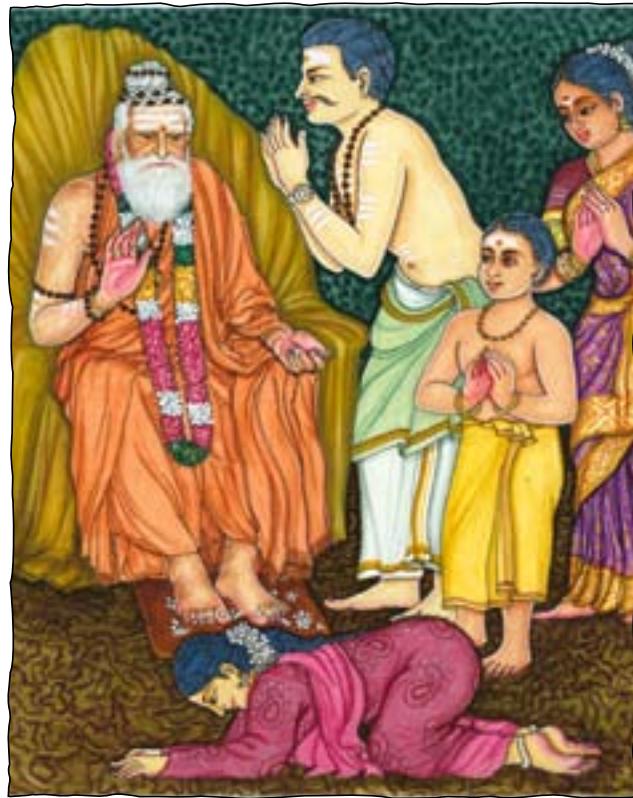
### Introductory Quote from Gurudeva

What makes the San Marga Iraivan Temple, the moksha sphatika Sivalinga, our small and large shrines and publication facilities so special is that they are part of a monastery or *aadheenam*: the home of a spiritual master, a *satguru*, and his tirelessly devoted *sadhakas*, yogis, swamis and acharyas. Moreover, the Aadheenam is a theological seminary for training monks from all over the world to take holy orders of sannyasa and join the great team of our Saiva Siddhanta Yoga Order.

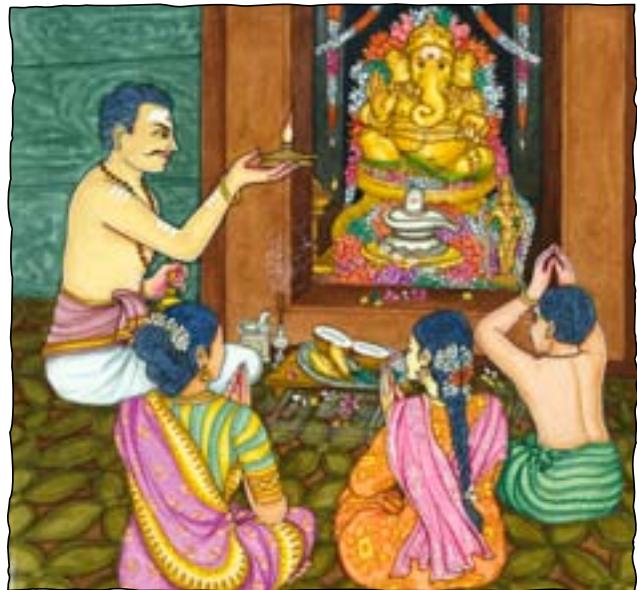
### Sadhana Practice

*Sadhana* refers to the regular performance of religious or spiritual disciplines, such as puja, yoga, meditation, *japa*, fasting and austerity. The effect of consistent *sadhana* is the building of willpower, faith and confidence in oneself and in God, Gods and guru. *Sadhana* harnesses and transmutes the instinctive-intellectual nature, allowing progressive spiritual unfoldment into the superconscious realizations and innate abilities of the soul. *Sadhana* produces personal change through self-effort. Ideally *sadhana* is performed daily, as in this way it builds a greater inner intensity.

*Sadhana* is a core concept in our guru lineage. Gurudeva's



guru, Siva Yogaswami, coined the phrase *sadhana marga* to describe the path he urged serious aspirants to follow—focusing on intense effort, spiritual discipline and consistent inner transformation, as opposed to theoretical and intellectual learning.



### Quote from Gurudeva

The Nandinatha Sampradaya is a mystical lineage that places great stress on direct and personal experience of God, on seeing God everywhere and in everyone, on knowing God within oneself. This is achieved through nonintellectual spiritual disciplines called *sadhana*—a term which in its fullest sense embodies kundalini yoga, profound esoteric practices, intense introspective meditation, and worship—through purificatory effort, mind-transforming austerities, egoless service and, most importantly, through the bountiful grace of the living *satguru*. Following such a path, called *sadhana marga*, Nathas have come to know God, in ancient days and modern.

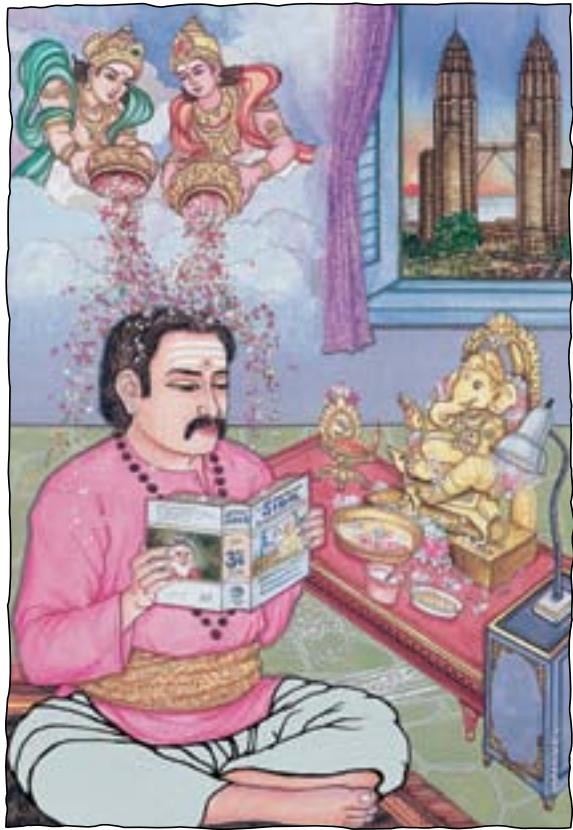
*Sadhana* is performing the same discipline over and over and over again. Just as we methodically exercise the physical body to build up its muscles, we perform spiritual disciplines over and over again to strengthen our spiritual, inner bodies.

### Supplementary Reading

*Dancing with Siva*, Shloka 4: How Can We Learn to Dance with Siva?

**Shloka:** Dance is movement, and the most exquisite dance is the most disciplined dance. Hindu spiritual disciplines lead to oneness with God through self-reflection, surrender, per-





sonal transformation and the many yogas. Aum.

**Bhashya:** To progress on the path, we study the *Vedas*, other scriptures and our guru's teachings and make every effort to apply these philosophical truths to daily experience. We strive to understand the mind in its fourfold nature: *chitta*, consciousness; *manas*, instinctive mind; *buddhi*, intellectual mind; and *ahamkara*, ego or I-maker. We perform *japa*, meditation and yoga each day. Such spiritual discipline is known as *sadhana*. It is the mystical, mental, physical and devotional exercise that enables us to dance with Siva by bringing inner advancement, changes in perception and improvements in character. *Sadhana* allows us to live in the refined and cultured soul nature, rather than in the outer, instinctive or intellectual spheres. For consistent progress, *sadhana* should be performed regularly, without fail, at the same time each day, preferably in the early hours before dawn. The most important *sadhanas* are the challenges and practices given by one's guru. The *Vedas* caution, "The Self cannot be attained by the weak, nor by the careless, nor through aimless disciplines. But if one who knows strives by right means, his soul enters the abode of God." Aum Namah Sivaya.

#### Additional Resources

*Living with Siva*, Chapter 13: Discipline for Self-Transformation

## CHAPTER TWO

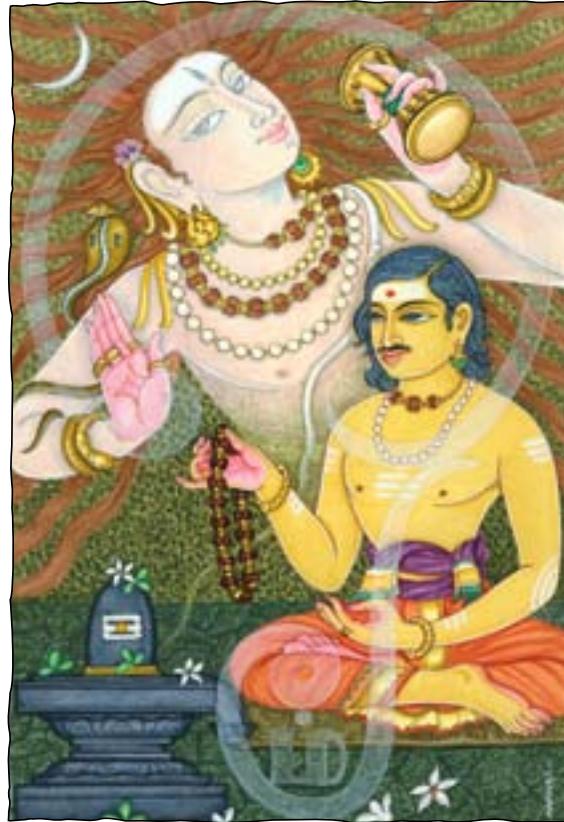
# Pre-Trip Sadhanas

### Introductory Quote from Gurudeva

Iraivan Temple is a grand hand-carved white granite temple seated upon a black lava rock plinth, golden tower shining in a rainbowed sky, God Siva's most traditional sanctuary in the West, with its stone bell and "God is All and in all" motto etched in a multitude of languages. It is a magnificent shrine for fellowship members and devout pilgrims intent on worshiping the immanent and transcendent Lord. Being a moksha temple in the center of a cloistered monastery, Iraivan is by no means a tourist attraction. It is a *punya tirtha*, a sacred destination for devout pilgrims who come with this one goal in mind, having received permission early on and begun preparing themselves far in advance through fasting, meditation and prayer in anticipation of receiving the darshana of Iraivan and performing daily *sadhana* on San Marga. They are granted temporary access cards by the Pitham for the duration of their stay.

### Sadhana Practice

As is common in any traditional pilgrimage, the preparation is as important as the pilgrimage itself. Devotees pilgrimaging to Kerala's Sabarimala Lord Ayappan Temple, for example, prepare for 41 days in advance through fasting, celibacy and self-denial.



In the days or weeks before your journey to Kauai, perform additional daily study and spiritual disciplines to prepare yourself. Join with your family to intensify and renew your spiritual life. On the appointed day, fly straight to Kauai with only God on your mind, and God will be waiting to see you!

Some specific suggestions for preparation are: decrease heavier foods, increase lighter foods; fast one day a week; read scripture each night immediately before bedtime; on weekends, double the amount of time you usually spend in religious practices.

You can also choose from the many *sadhanas* in this book. Select the ones you plan to perform on your pilgrimage.



Then learn more about them by reading their descriptions and the additional resource material as well.

There are copies of the Master Course Trilogy available to use during your pilgrimage to the monastery, so there is no need to bring your own copies unless you prefer to do so.

### Quote from Gurudeva

The Nandinatha Sampradaya is a mystical lineage that places great stress on direct and personal experience of God, on seeing God everywhere and in everyone, on knowing God within oneself. This is achieved through nonintellectual spiritual disciplines called *sadhana*—a term which in its fullest sense embodies kundalini yoga, profound esoteric practices, intense introspective meditation, and worship—through purificatory effort, mind-transforming austerities, egoless service and, most importantly, through the bountiful grace of the living *satguru*. Following such a path, called *sadhana marga*, Nathas have come to know God, in ancient days and modern.

### Supplementary Reading

*Living with Siva*, Lesson 249: The Joy of Pilgrimage

In our religious life, one of the most fulfilling aspects is pilgrimage. We have a joy in looking forward to a spiritual journey, and we experience a contentment while on our

pilgrimage and later bask in the glowing aftermath of the pujas. It is like going to see a great friend, a devotee's most loved friend—the Ishta Devata. We travel to the far-off temple where this great friend is eminently present. At that particular temple, this personal God performs a certain function, offers a specific type of blessing to pilgrims who make the pilgrimage to that home. In this way, different temples become famous for answering certain types of prayers, such as requests for financial help, or prayers for the right mate in marriage, prayers to be entrusted with the raising of high-souled children, or help in matters of yoga, or help in inspiring bhakti and love.

The Hindu does not have the feeling of having to take a vacation to “get away from it all.” We don’t lead a life of mental confusions, religious contradictions and the frustrations that result from modern hurried living. We lead a moderate life, a religious life. In living a moderate life, we then look at our pilgrimage as a special moment, a cherished time of setting ordinary concerns aside and giving full stage to our religious longings. It is a time to take problems and prayers to our personal God.

Unlike the proud “free thinkers” who deem themselves emancipated, above the religious life, we Hindus feel that receiving the darshana from the Gods and the help that



comes therein invigorates our being and inspires us to be even more diligent in our spiritual life. Unlike the rationalists who feel confident that within themselves lie all the resources to meet all needs, and that praying to Gods for help is a pathetic exercise in futility, the Hindu wisely submits to the Divine and thus avoids the abyss of disbelief.

All in life that one would want to “get away from” the Hindu takes with him on a pilgrimage to the temple, to the feet of his personal God, to the inner-plane being or



Mahadeva, who needs no physical body with which to communicate with people—to the God who has a nerve system so sensitive and well developed that as it hovers over the stone image, which looks similar to how the Deity would look on the inner planes, this being of light can communicate with the pilgrims who visit the temple. This being of light, this Mahadeva, can and does absorb all of the dross the devotees have to offer, and gives back blessings which bring happiness and release to them. Thus, the pilgrimage is not travel in the ordinary sense of travel, but rather going to see a personal friend, one who is nearest and dearest, but

does not live in a physical body.

The Hindu has another great joy—the certainty of liberation. Even in difficult times, we are solaced in the knowledge of our religion which tells us that no soul that ever existed or ever will exist in future extrapolations of time and space will ever fail to attain liberation. The Hindu knows that all souls will one day merge into God; and he knows that God, who created all souls, slowly guides our maturing into His likeness, brings us back to Himself, which is not separate from ourselves. The Hindu, through striving and personal development in this life on this planet, knows that liberation into God is the final goal. This knowing and this belief release us from any ego, from any superiority by which one person considers himself or herself as especially meriting God's grace while others are lost. For the Hindu, there is an assurance that all souls will eventually enjoy liberation, and that includes ourselves and all of our friends and family. We need never fear otherwise.

#### **Additional Resources**

*Dancing with Siva*, Shloka 32: Is There Good Karma and Bad Karma (specifically the reference to pilgrimage)



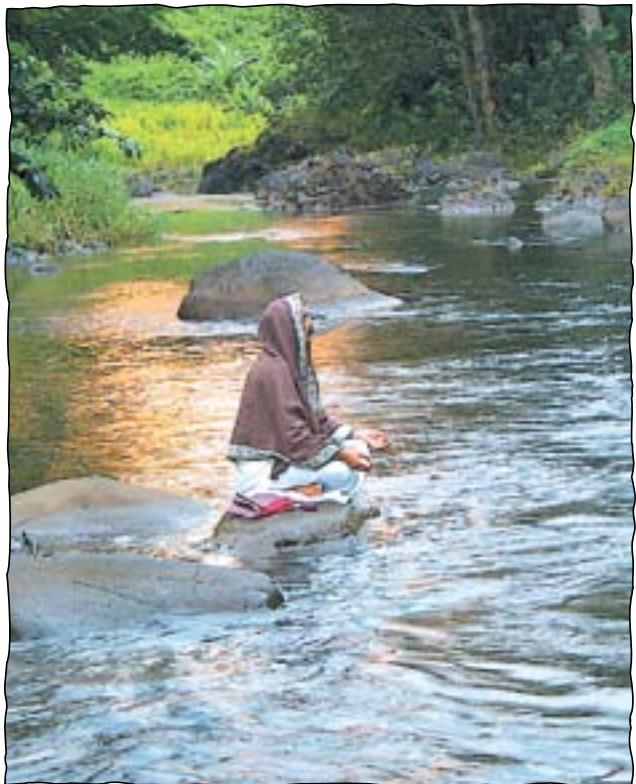
## General Sadhanas

### 1. Ganga Sadhana

#### Sadhana Practice

Sit by the Wailua River and listen to the river saying “Aum Namah Sivaya, Sivaya Namah Aum,” as its water runs over the rocks. Listen closely to the water connecting to the rocks, and you will hear the sacred mantra of life, “Aum Namah Sivaya.” Relax into the sounds the river is chanting and try to be in tune with the perfect universe. The cosmos is perfect, you know. Its laws are divine, its timing flawless, its design unique.

While you are sitting alone by the side of the river being one with the perfect universe—the earth, the air, the fire, the water and the akasha, the mind—when a thought arises from your subconscious, something about your daily life, a problem or difficulty, pluck a leaf from a tree or bush, mentally put the problem into the leaf and place it into the river. The river will carry the leaf away along with the thought you placed into it. Then pluck a flower and humbly offer it into the river with both hands in loving appreciation for doing this great service for you. Perform this Ganga Sadhana each month, and you will advance on the spiritual path.



### **Quote from Gurudeva**

Remember, the outer river is symbolically representing the inner river of your own nerve system, life force and consciousness that flows through you night and day. So, even as you sit on this rock and look upon the water, in a mystical way, see it as your own superconscious energies, taking away these problems, worries, doubts, ill-conceived and unresolved experiences of the past. Flow with the river of life and merge in Siva's ocean of oneness.

### **Supplementary Reading**

*Merging with Siva*, Lesson 27, Performing Ganga Sadhana; & Lesson 28, Siva's Perfect Universe

Close your eyes and visualize a river flowing into the sea, and see yourself holding on to the bank of the river, and the river flowing on past you. Now let go of the bank of the river and flow down with the river and merge into the sea of life. Feel yourself, right at this instant, living in the here and now. Holding on to the river bank, we hold the consciousness of time and space. Holding on to the banks of the river of life is to recreate within you fear, worry, doubt, anxiety and nervousness. Detach yourself from the banks of the river and again be free. Love the banks as you pass, with a love born of understanding, and if you have no understanding of the bank, study your attachments until you do.

Learn to concentrate the mind so that you can study not from books, but from observation, which is the first awakening of the soul. Learn to study by practice. Learn to study by application. Become a student of life and live life fully, and as you merge into the sea of actinic life, you will realize that you are not your mind, your body or your emotions. You will realize that you are the complete master of your mind, your body and your emotions.

Slowly, slowly, by performing Ganga Sadhana you will blend your external consciousness with our most perfect universal consciousness. While sitting by the river, close enough to touch the water, on a rock or tree limb, you are truly uninvolved with everything but yourself. You are now in tune with nature itself. Earth is there. Water is there. Fire is there. Air is there. Akasha is there. All the five elements are there. They are outside of you to see and feel, as well as inside of you to see and feel. The goal is to release that part of your subconscious mind that doesn't blend the within of you with that which is outside of you. You perform this blending by listening to the river murmur, "Aum Namah Sivaya, Sivaya Namah Aum," the sounds of Siva's perfect universe.

Now the challenge. This will not be an easy task. The quiet of the noise of nature will release thought after thought from your subconscious mind. So, when each new



thought arises—a mental argument or something which has not been settled in your past, an appointment missed or an image of a loved one—gather up the pranic energy of the thought and put its vibrations into a leaf. To do this, hold the leaf in your right hand and project your prana into it along with the thought form that distracted you. Then release the leaf and with it the thought patterns into the river. Let the river take them away, while you listen to “Aum Namah Sivaya, Sivaya Namah Aum” of the river as it does. Each time this happens, thank the river by humbly offering a flower with the right hand into the river in appreciation of its having absorbed the worldly thought. To show appreciation is a quality of the soul, something not to be ignored, and, therefore, a vital part of this *sadhana*.

There is a sacred practice you should perform to keep flowing beautifully with the river of life. It will be a challenge to discipline yourself to set aside the time, but it will benefit you.

*Sadhana* is performing the same discipline over and over and over again. Just as we methodically exercise the physical body to build up its muscles, we perform spiritual disciplines over and over again to strengthen our spiritual, inner bodies. Perform Ganga Sadhana time and time again. You will rapidly advance. Remember, the outer river is symbolically representing the inner river of your own nerve system,

life force and consciousness that flows through you night and day. So, even as you sit on this rock and look upon the water, in a mystical way, see it as your own superconscious energies, taking away these problems, worries, doubts, ill-conceived and unresolved experiences of the past. Flow with the river of life and merge in Siva’s ocean of oneness.

#### **Additional Resources**

*Merging with Siva*, Chapter 4: The River of Life





## 2. Vasana Daha Tantra Sadhana

### Sadhana Practice

*Daha* means to burn, a *tantra* is a method, and *vasanas* are deep-seated subconscious tendencies that shape one's attitudes and motivations. *Vasanas* can be either positive or negative.

One of the best methods for resolving difficulties in life, of dissolving troublesome *vasanas*, the *vasana daha tantra* is the practice of burning confessions, or even long letters to loved ones or acquaintances, describing pains, expressing confusions and registering complaints and long-held hurts.

Writing down problems and burning them in any ordinary fire brings them from the subconscious into the external mind, releasing the suppressed emotion as the fire consumes the paper. This is a magical healing process. Write in detail, in one or more pages, your experiences and difficulties. When finished, burn it up. Watch Agni, the God of Fire, destroy the dross of your deep subconscious mind. Experience freedom from emotional burdens you have been carrying. Release the past. Enter a glorious new future.

At the entrance to the monastery, there is an urn in the six-sided pavilion where you can write and burn your pages. Please ask to determine what additional places can be used for burning these pages.



### **Quote from Gurudeva**

My devotees succeed by remolding subconscious magnetic forces. They purge the dross through *vasana daha tantra*—writing and burning past transgressions and current problems—then use positive affirmations.

### **Supplementary Reading**

*Living with Siva*, Lesson 122: The Esoterics of Penance

The inner process of relieving unwanted karmic burdens occurs in this order: remorse and shame; confession (of which apology is one form); repentance; and finally reconciliation, which is making the situation right, so that good feelings abide all around. Therefore, each individual admission of a subconscious burden too heavy to carry must have its own reconciliation to clear the inner aura of negative *samskaras* and *vasanas* and replenish the inner bodies for the struggle the devotee will have to endure in unwinding from the coils of the lower, instinctive mind which block the intellect and obscure spiritual values. When no longer protected by its ignorance, the soul longs for release and cries out for solace. *Prayashchitta*, penance, is then the solution to dissolve the agony and bring shanti.

The guru has to know the devotee and his family karma over a long period of time before *prayashchitta* is given. Otherwise, it may have the wrong effect. Penance is for religious

people, people who practice daily, know the philosophy and have a spiritual head of their family, people who genuinely want to reach a state of purity and grace. It is not for non-religious people. Just as in the Catholic Church, penance, to be most effective, is given to you by the spiritual preceptor. It is not a “do-it-yourself,” New-Age kind of thing. Those who try to do it alone may overdo it. It takes a certain amount of talking and counseling to gain an understanding of what is involved. Before undertaking any of the physical *prayashchittas*, I have devotees do the *maha vasana daha tantra*—“great purification of the subconscious by fire”—writing down and then burning ten pages of memories, called *samskaras*, good and bad, for each year of their life to the present day.

Anything can be written down that concerns you: friends, home, family, relatives, sports, TV shows, vacations, work, pastimes, indulgences, anything that is in your mind. This may automatically clear up events of the past. The idea is to remove the emotions from the experience and bring yourself to the eternal now. Forgetting the past, concern yourself with the now, move with life day to day and create a glorious future for yourself and others. Also, I’ve experienced that sometimes just making the confession to the *satguru* is a sufficient *prayashchitta* and nothing else is necessary. What the troubled conscience thought was bad may not have been bad at all, just normal happenings, but the conscience suffers

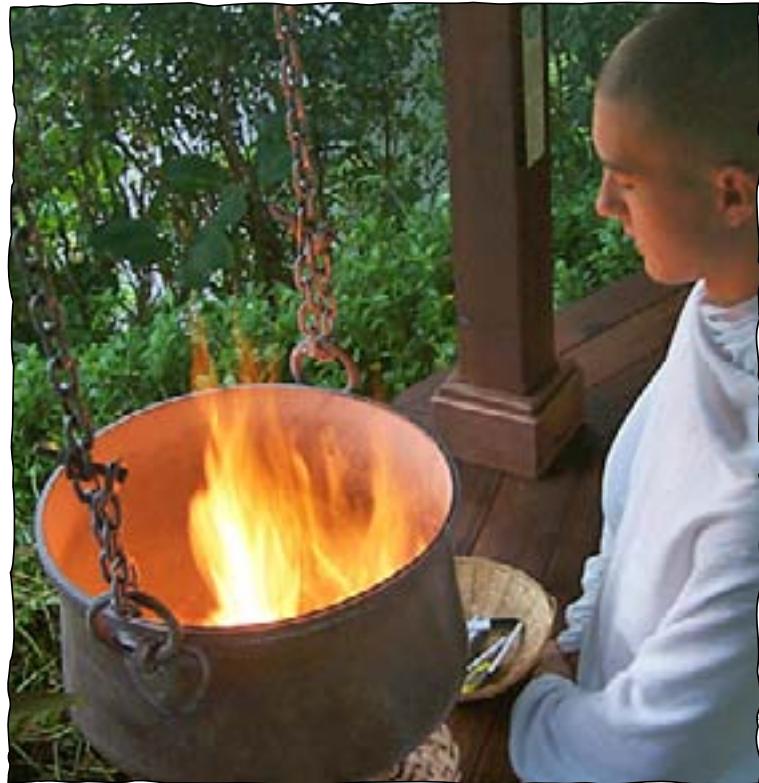


until that fact is known.

It is important to note that the *vasana daha tantra* must be done by hand, with pen and paper. Various devotees have tried it on the computer and found it not effective. Writing is uniquely effective because in the process the prana from the memory flows from your subconscious through your hand, through the pen and is embedded in the paper, bringing the memory out in the open to be understood, defused and released when the paper is burned. Some devotees have also tried sitting and pondering the past, meditating on it and even visualizing themselves writing down their recollections and burning them. This often does more harm than good, as it only stirs up the past.

#### **Additional Resources**

*Living with Siva*, Chapter 18: The Power of Penance



### 3. Rudraksha Forest Sadhana

#### Sadhana Practice

Hug a tree and absorb its healing force. The tree takes away pain such as from losing a loved one. The tree takes all sadness into its sap, carrying it up to the tops and dropping the astral tears of God Siva.

This practice has the power to balance your chakras, purify your aura, close the doors to the darker areas of your mind, open the doors to light, happiness, mirth and the ability to make others laugh.

Hugging the *rudraksha* tree will imprint the realization that all the past is and was necessary for the present moment to exist. The blessings of Siva through the *rudraksha* seeds, leaves, bark and energies, open the doors of protection of the future.

#### Quote from Gurudeva

*Rudraksha* seeds, *Eleocarpus ganitrus*, are prized as the compassionate tears Lord Siva shed for mankind's suffering.

#### Supplementary Reading

Pilgrims begin their spiritual excursion in a small healing forest of Himalayan *rudraksha* trees. Many do not know the obscure fact that this sacred tree, known in English as



the Blue Marble tree, is also famous for its special wood. During the First World War, when airplanes became so essential to military strategy, it was the white wood of



this tree that was chosen for making propellers, due to its qualities of torque strength. Yes, being under the *rudraksha* trees in this magical forest has hidden, sought-after healing powers, the key to helping aching hearts, the salve to soothe broken hearts, yearning hearts, sad hearts and ailing hearts. Ayurvedic doctors and medical doctors alike agree that the seed, when placed upon the heart, regulates its beat. They know that the fruit is good to strengthen the heart and the seed when ground and mixed with certain herbs is a remedy for heart attacks and healing in their aftermath.

#### **Additional Resources**

*Saiva Dharma Shastras*, Section 91:  
The Healing Power of Rudraksha



## 4. San Marga Walking Sadhana

### Sadhana Practice

The path begins at the *rudraksha* forest gate. At the Ganesha shrine, offer flowers and chant a simple Ganesha chant three or more times. At Muruga Hill, offer flowers and chant three or more times. At the start of the Third World section, ring the bell and fill a pot of water from the stream to the right of the path. At the Swayambhu Lingam, pour the water, offer a flower and chant to Siva three or more times.

Below are three simple chants that can be used. If you prefer another chant, it may also be used.

Om Sri Ganeshaya Namah

Om Sri Skandaya Namah

Om Sri Sivaya Namah

### Quote from Gurudeva

San Marga is the straight, spiritual path leading to the ultimate goal, Self Realization, without detouring into unnecessary psychic exploration or pointless development of siddhis.

### Supplementary Reading

Kauai Aadheenam's most prominent place of worship for members, students and *sadhana yatrikas* is the San Marga Sanctuary, an extraordinary meditation *tirtha* at the

foot of the extinct volcano, Mount Waialeale. San Marga is the straight path to God, through *rudraksha*, neem and *konrai* forests, marshes, bogs and wild bird sanctuaries, where pheasants are protected from local hunters. This realm includes the Swayambhu Sivalinga. San Marga is entered through the Rudraksha Meditation Forest at the opposite side of the 458-acre monastery land. San Marga, the straight path to God, and the Swayambhu Linga area is "the place where the world comes to pray," as predicted in our Saivite Shastras.



## 5. Narmada Lingam Abhishekam Sadhana

### Sadhana Practice

Located on the Path of the Saiva Saints is a Narmada Lingam shrine. It is the type of shrine where the devotees themselves perform the *abhishekam*. Simply use one of the pots to collect water from the nearby stream and then lovingly pour it over the Lingam.

At the same time, you are encouraged to chant out loud a traditional Siva chant.

One suggestion is the following verse from Sri Rudram:

namāste astu bhagavanviśveśvarāya' mahādevāya'  
tryambakāyā' tripurāntakāyā'  
trikāgnikālāyā' kalāgnirūdrāyā' nilakanṭhāyā'  
mr̥tyuñjayāyā' sarveśvarāyā' sadāśivāyā,  
śrīman mahādevāyā namah̄

### Quote from Gurudeva

I urge all Saivites, devotees of God Siva, to worship Him as the God of Love and, in doing so, to become beings of love.



## 6. Sri Dakshinamurti Sadhana

### Sadhana Practice

Standing in front of the Dakshinamurti north of Iraivan Temple, offer flowers and chant a simple Dakshinamurti chant three or more times.

Below is a simple chant that can be used. If you prefer another chant, it may also be used. Afterwards, sit and reflect upon the meaning of teaching the nondual union of *jiva* with Siva through silence.

gururbrahmā gururvishṇuh gururdevo maheśvaraḥ,  
gurussākshāt para brahmā tasmai śī gurave namah,  
gurave sarva lokānām bhishaje bhava rohinām,  
nidhaye sarva vidyānām, dakshiṇā mūrtaye namah

### Quote From Gurudeva

Once freed by God's grace from these bonds—which do not cease to exist, but no longer have the power to bind—the soul experiences *nirvikalpa* samadhi. This is the realization of the Self, Atattva Parabrahman—timeless, formless, spaceless—a oneness beyond all change or diversity.





### Supplementary Reading

Dakshinamurti literally means “south-facing form.” Dakshinamurti is Lord Siva depicted sitting under a banyan tree, teaching four rishis at His feet by keeping *mouna*, silence, and showing the *chinmudra* with His right front hand. In *chinmudra*, the tips of the thumb and forefinger are joined to form a circle while the other fingers are kept open and stretched. The whole palm faces outwards. It is the pose of imparting knowledge and thus is also known as *jnana* mudra. The joining of the two fingers symbolizes realizing that *jiva* and Siva are in nondual union. The index finger represents individual consciousness, the *jivatma*, while the thumb symbolizes supreme consciousness.

### Additional Resources

*Living with Siva*, Chapter 16: Harnessing Willpower



## 7. Writing Prayers Sadhana

### Sadhana Practice

The writing of prayers can be done in several ways. Each devotee can write his or her own prayer about personal questions, needs or problems. One can pray for another person, for a group of people, or for a situation to clear up within a group or community, even for solutions to national or world problems. Every prayer received is answered in some way, however mysterious. Not one is neglected, ever.

The Gods and devas look very carefully into the karma of the devotee before taking any action. Because of this, it is always best to describe two or more alternatives that you would be satisfied with in each prayer, rather than insisting on only one solution. This is because your first preference may not be possible in your karmic pattern or, without your knowing, it may actually be the worst possible thing that could happen to you. In this case, your prayer would be answered with a non-answer. Therefore, it is wise to suggest two or more alternatives when making a request. For example, in seeking help in finding employment, you might suggest three places you would be content at, indicating first choice, second and third.

We are reminded not to ask for services that the devas would normally provide, such as "Please help me," or "Please



bless me, devas." These services are automatically performed by the guardian devas of each devout individual without asking.

There is a time delay of seventy-two hours from when the devas in the Antarloka respond to your prayer and when that response manifests in the Bhuloka. Therefore, when your prayer relates to a specific event, be sure to pray at least three days before the event will happen.

It is important the prayer be legible in the inner worlds. Typewritten prayers (on one side of the page) in English or any language are acceptable to the devas, as are hand-printed prayers that are written with well-rounded, clearly formed letters. If you prefer, prayers can be hand written or typed in



/ . // . ▲ . ▲ . ▲ . — . T . T . T . T .  
T . = . F . F . F . F . F . F . = . E .  
E . E . E . E . E . E . E . E .

the Tyaeaf script. Typed documents—again on one side of the page only—are acceptable and easily read in the inner world, as long as the size of the type is not too small. Be sure to sign the prayer and also include the date.

#### **Quote from Gurudeva**

The Gods, their devas and your own guardian devas are ever ready to respond to requests for help and guidance.

#### **Supplementary Reading**

*Living with Siva*, Lesson 316: The Boon of Prayer Writing

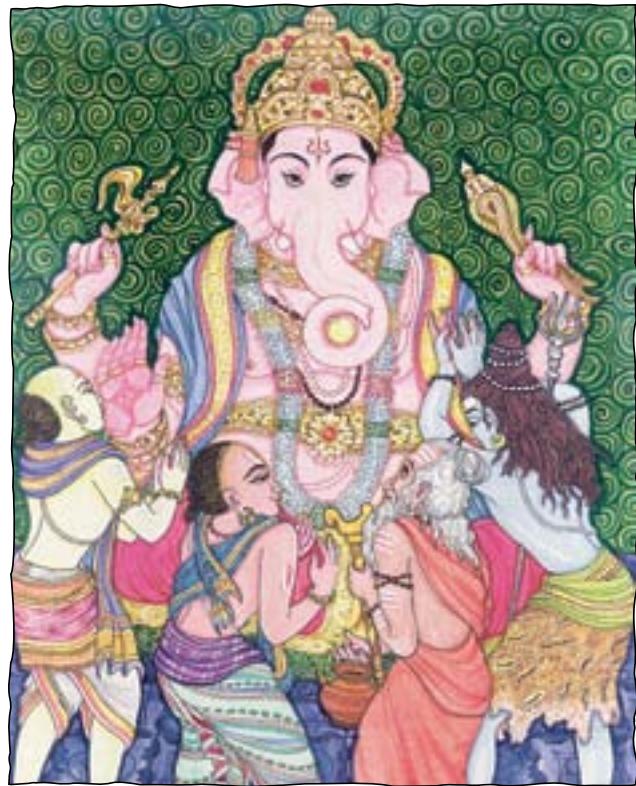
Shortly after the Kadavul Nataraja Deity arrived from India at Kauai Aadheenam, our monastery-temple complex on the Garden Island of Kauai, we received the wonderful boon of communicating with the inner worlds through written prayers. With this six-foot-tall bronze image of the Lord of Dance came tens of thousands of devas. It was revealed to us that these devonic helpers, though unseen to



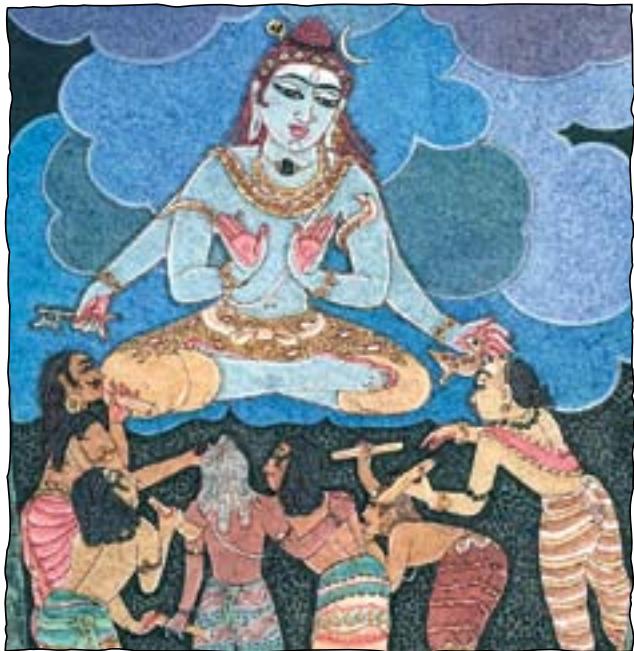
the physical eyes, are skilled in the art of fulfilling prayers. We were delighted to know that written prayers could be offered into their hands through the sacred fire that burns perpetually at Lord Nataraja's holy feet. In those early days of the beginning of the first Siva temple in the United States, we felt blessed that this magical boon had come to us. Written prayers were offered up through the sacred temple fire and soon answered. The faith began to build among the devotees. The temple yantra was now fully activated.

But there was a problem. Sometimes, in devotees' emotional fervor, prayers were hastily scribbled out and could not be easily read. Seekers assumed that their requests and pleas for help or solace would be known by the Gods and devas who know them personally, and therefore they were not careful enough in composing their prayers, some even forgetting to sign their name or note the date. We soon learned that if prayers were not answered, it might be simply due to incompleteness or illegibility. We also became aware that sufficient explanation must be given for the inner-plane helpers to provide adequate assistance.

Here is why absolute clarity is necessary in each written prayer. The astral image of each prayer that arrives in the Second World, or astral plane, is an exact duplicate of its physical-plane counterpart, but not quite as clear—more like a carbon copy. So if the physical-plane original is not



clear, its astral counterpart will be even less clear. It will be blurred, like trying to read a letter without one's eyeglasses. Even the astral counterparts of typewritten documents prepared in small type are difficult to read in the inner worlds,



we were told.

To solve the problem of illegibility, the devas themselves gave a new script, which came through from the inner sky in Paris in the early '70s. The devas called this script Tyeif. It is designed to look like bamboo leaves, arranged in an intricate pattern to form 135 characters or "images," the first twenty-six of which correspond to the English alphabet. Here is the word Tyeif written in the devas' script: ତୀୟିଫ

Writing and delivering prayers to the Devaloka through the sacred fire is an ancient Natha Sampradaya practice. Today this method of communication is still employed in Shinto and Taoist temples in Japan, China, Singapore, Malaysia and other areas of Southeast Asia. The prayers are written down and placed in the temple fire. As the paper burns, the astral double of the prayer appears in the Devaloka. The prayer is then read by the devas, who proceed to carry out the devotee's requests. These temple devas are fully dedicated to assist all who come through the temple doors with their emotional, mental and physical problems.

It was made very clear to me, however, that prayers may only be sent to the Devaloka in a sanctified *havana kunda* where special arrangements have been made with the devas.

#### **Additional Resources**

*Living with Siva*, Chapter 46: Sending Prayers to the Gods



## 8. Aum Japa Sadhana

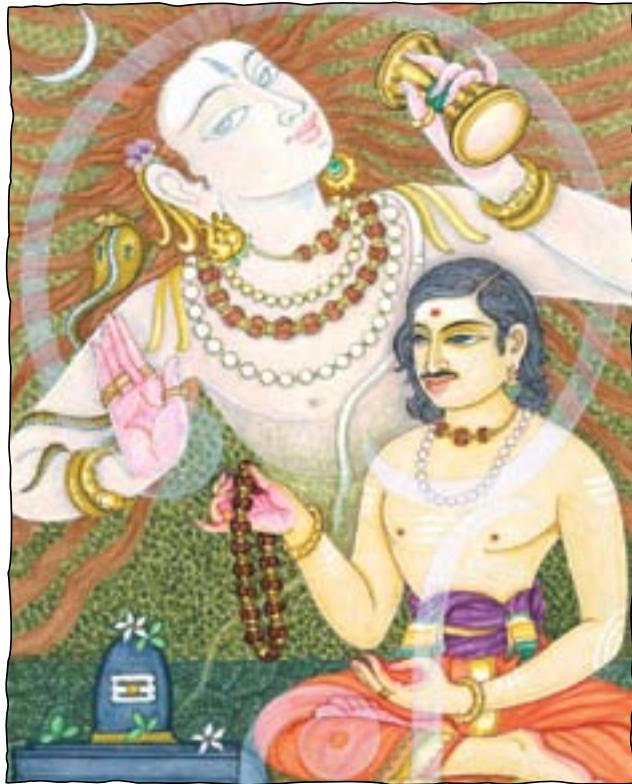
### Sadhana Practice

Aum is the universal mantra which can be performed safely by the initiated and the uninitiated alike, can be chanted by those of all religions, without restriction, under any condition, in any circumstance, whether the body is clean or dirty. It will heighten consciousness by harmonizing the physical with the mental and spiritual when chanted correctly.

For Aum *japa* to be effective, the mantra must be pronounced correctly. The first syllable is A, pronounced as the English word “awe,” but prolonged: “aaa.” The second syllable is U, as in “roof,” pronounced “oo” but prolonged: “ooo.” The third syllable is M, pronounced “mm” with the front teeth gently touching and the sound prolonged: “mmmm.”

Each repetition is sounded for about seven seconds, with two seconds on A, two seconds on U and three seconds on M, with a silence of about two seconds before the next repetition. The three syllables are run together: AAUUMMM (silence), AAUUMMM (silence), AAUUMMM (silence).

On the first syllable, A, we feel the solar plexus vibrating. On the second syllable, U, the throat vibrates. The third syllable, M, vibrates the top of the head. Thus, proper chanting of Aum also is a high



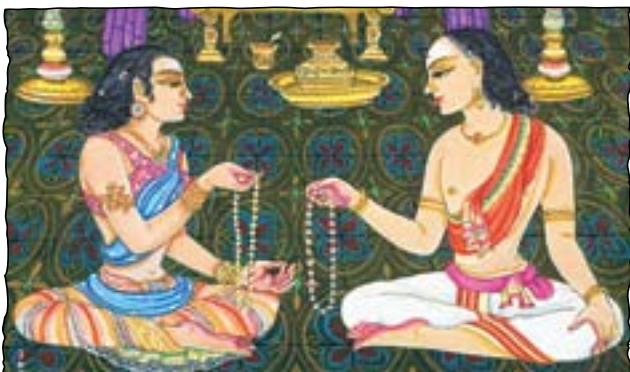
form of yoga, moving energy from the lower chakras of the body up to the highest chakra, or energy center—the *sahasrara* chakra at the crown of the head.

### Quote from Gurudeva

All tones together make the Aum. Listen to the ocean and you hear the Aum. Listen to all the noises of a city blended together and you hear the Aum. Listen to all the tones of the physical body and you hear the Aum.

### Supplementary Reading

*Merging with Siva*, Lesson 262: Withdrawing Into Sushumna



When we chant the mantra Aum, and do it correctly, we pronounce the AA so that it vibrates the physical body. The OO has to vibrate through the throat area, and the MM, the head. In doing this, we are deliberately moving awareness out of the *muladhara* and *svadhishthana* chakras, deliberately harmonizing all the forces of the instinct and physical body, and of the *ida* and the *pingala* currents. Chanting the AA and the OO and the MM brings the *sushumna* into power. We are transmuting and changing the flows of all the energies through the physical and astral body and blending them as much as possible into the body of the soul.

The mantra Aum can be chanted at any time. It can be chanted silently and cause the same vibration through the body. When you chant Aum, the *ida* and the *pingala* blend back into the *sushumna*.

You will actually see this happening. You will see the pink *ida* current begin to blend back into the golden center of the spine. At other times it is seen winding through the body. The same happens with the *pingala* force. It, too, moves back into the spine, until you are all spine when you are centered in the *sushumna*. This is how it feels, like being all spine. This beautiful, pure energy flows out through the *sushumna* and the *ida* and the *pingala* and then on out through the body. This energy becomes changed as it flows through the first three or four chakras. It makes what is called prana.

This energy runs in and through the body. It is a great mind energy which is in the world of thought. All the strata of thought are prana. The human aura is prana.

Prana, or odic force, is transferred from one person to another through touch, as in a handshake, or through a look. It is the basic force of the universe, and the most predominant force found within the body. You have to really study prana to get a good understanding of what it is. It runs in and through the skin, through the bone structure, through the physical body and around the body.

Breath controls prana. This practice is called pranayama. It is the control of prana, the regulation of prana, or the withdrawal of prana from the external world back to its primal source. That is why pranayama is so important to practice systematically, regularly, day after day, so we get all the prana into a rhythm. In this way we get a rhythm of the pure life force flowing through *ida*, *pingala* and *sushumna* and out through the aura. We gain a rhythm of awareness soaring inward, into refined states of the *ajna* chakra and *sahasrara* chakra, the perspective areas from which we are looking out at life as if we were the center of the universe. This is how we feel when we are in these chakras.

Diaphragmatic breathing is breathing according to nature. When man becomes confused, nervous, tense, fearful, he breathes out of tune with nature—out of tune with himself. Then his breathing is spasmodic, labored, shallow, and he has to expand his chest to get enough breath to keep going on. That's right: breathing by expand-



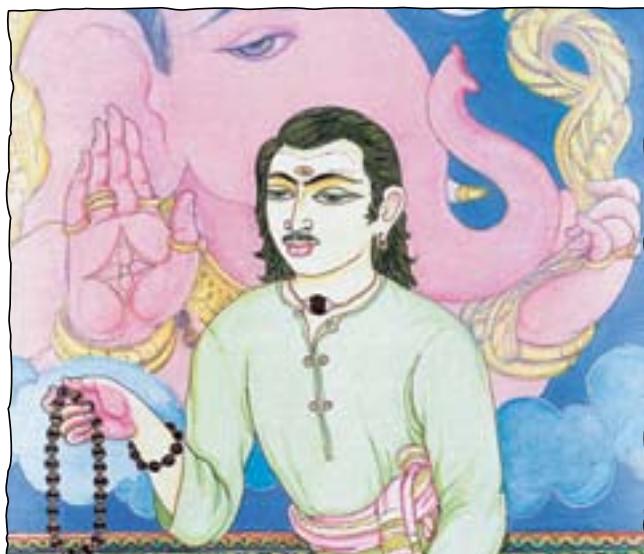
ing the chest is incorrect, unnatural, and conducive to nothing but ill health unless you are practicing an advanced breathing exercise, and then the chest is only expanded after the area beneath the chest is filled. And unless you are doing physically strenuous work, you will be able to bring more than sufficient air into your lungs by the simple, natural contraction and relaxation of the diaphragmatic muscle. The diaphragm you can feel right below your solar plexus, in the area where the floating ribs separate. Place your finger tips on top of the diaphragm and cough. If your fingers are directly on top of the diaphragm, you will feel them jump out away from you as you cough.

The quickest way to teach yourself natural breathing (the way you breathed until about the age of seven) is to lie on the floor with your spine absolutely straight. Place a book or some light object on top of your diaphragm. When you breathe in, the diaphragm will extend itself downward in the body and you will feel it push out and up away from the floor; watch the book rise. Breathing out is as important as breathing in, for without expelling all the waste matter and carbon dioxide from the lungs, they are not free to take in more fresh oxygen. As you exhale, the diaphragm relaxes slowly, smoothly and completely. The book, which previously was lifted away from the floor by the pressure of your expanding diaphragm, now returns back to its starting posi-

tion. You will find that squeezing or contracting the abdominal muscles slightly will aid you in making a complete exhalation, allowing most of the air to leave the lungs. At the end of your exhaled breath, your stomach should be flat, and the diaphragm relaxed, ready for the next inhalation. You are now on your way to perfect breath and mind control.

#### **Additional Resources**

*Merging with Siva*, Chapter 23: The Yoga of Incantation



## 9. Preparation for Meditation Sadhana

### Sadhana Practice

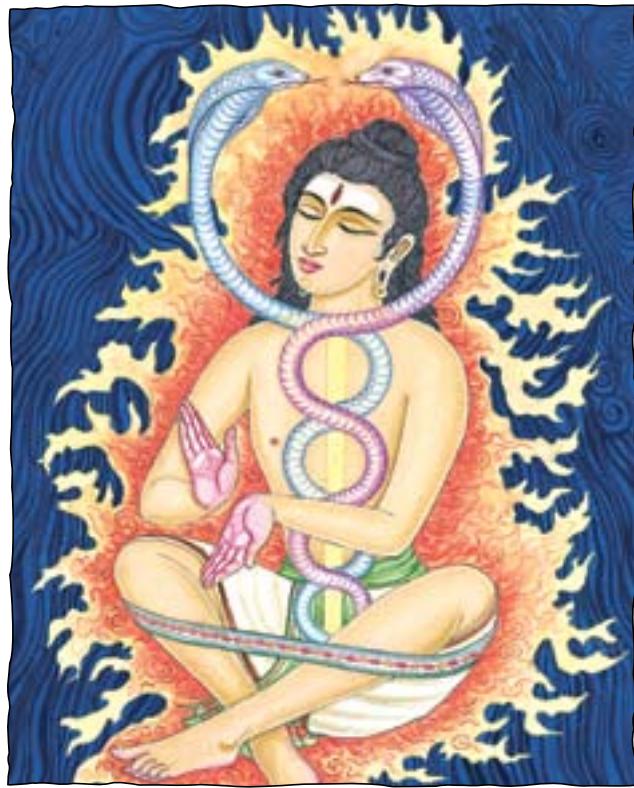
The seven-step preparation for meditation is designed to withdraw your energies from external consciousness at the beginning of a meditation. It is to be done utilizing the Shum-Tyeif language. The seven steps are: 1) Assume a meditation posture with a straight spine and head balanced on top of the spine. 2) Regulate the breathing through a simple pranayama. 3) Feel the warmth of the body. 4) Feel the nerve system of the body. 5) Feel the spiritual energy in the center of your spine. 6) Withdraw energy into the spine. 7) Experience awareness aware of itself.

Coming out of meditation, we perform this process in reverse beginning by feeling the power of the spine.

A fuller explanation, including the Shum-Tyeif name for each step, is given below in the Supplementary Reading.

### Quote from Gurudeva

Meditation is a long journey, a pilgrimage into the mind itself. Generally we become aware that there is such a thing as meditation after the material world has lost its attraction to us and previous desires no longer bind us to patterns of fear, greed, attachment and ramification. We then seek through philosophy and religion to answer the questions,



“Who am I? Where did I come from? Where am I going?”

### Supplementary Reading

*Twelve Shum Meditations*, Part Four: Preparation for Meditation

## Going In

*lishūmnambi* ☠ ☠ ☠

**MEANING:** Ideal meditation posture, in which the spine is straight and the head is balanced on top of the spine.

**PRACTICE:** Sit with the spine straight and the head balanced on top of the spine. Inwardly observe this posture and adjust the body to be poised and comfortable. Feel the muscles, bones and the nerve system. This posture is possible sitting in a chair, on a cushion, or on your knees. Ideally, a competent meditator will be able to cross the legs for meditation, either in full or half lotus. The hands are held in the lap, the right hand resting on the left, tips of the thumbs touching softly. In all cases, the posture should be natural and easy, and not cause discomfort, which is distracting during meditation. Look inwardly at the currents of the body. Observe their flow.

**BREATHING:** Breathe from the diaphragm in a relaxed manner without counting.

*kalibasa* ☠ ☠ ☠

**MEANING:** Regulated, diaphragmatic breathing, known in Sanskrit as pranayama.

**PRACTICE:** Become aware of your breathing and consciously regulate it. Eyes are slightly open, crossed and looking at the nose.

**BREATHING:** Breathe with the diaphragm, expanding the abdomen when you inhale, rather than the chest. On the inhalation, slowly count to nine, hold one count, then count to nine again as you exhale, softly contracting the abdomen as you expel the air. Breathe through the nose. The exhalation should be the same length as the inhalation. At first, the count may be faster than the heartbeat, but as the meditation continues, the two should ideally become synchronized.

**VISUALIZATION:** While counting the breath, mentally pronounce and simultaneously see the colors of the first eighteen images of Shum, the first nine with the inbreath and the second nine with the outbreath. This *sadhana* is called *siflimf* in Shum. The colors are: *i*, bright yellow; *m*, soft pink; *ing*, soft blue; *ling*, bright turquoise; *li*, bright violet; *nī*, rich yellow; *ka*, rich turquoise; *sim*, bright pink; *vūm*, rich purple; *reh*, bright orange; *tyē*, rich orange; *ā*, rich blue; *bī*, bright blue; *ū*, soft ivory; *na*, soft green; *si*, bright red; *di*, bright green; *shūm*, soft lavender.



## *ālikaiśhūm*

**MEANING:** The kundalini's psychic heat felt as meditation begins.

**PRACTICE:** Feel the warmth of the body, in the head, through the torso, the hands and the legs. Begin by locating *ālikaiśhūm* inside the body, then gradually become conscious of it emanating out through the skin.

**BREATHING:** Continue the same count. On the inhalation, slowly count to nine, hold one count, then count to nine again as you exhale, softly contracting the abdomen as you expel the air.

## *liūnasī*

**MEANING:** The feeling of energy, your life force, flowing through the network of nerves within your physical and subtle bodies. These nerves are called *nadis* in Sanskrit.

**PRACTICE:** Feel your nerve system, all those thousands of miles of nerve currents throughout the body and the psychic nerve system within and around the body. Feel the energy flowing through this vast network.

**BREATHING:** Continue the same count. On the inhalation, slowly count to nine, hold one count, then count to nine again as you exhale, softly contracting the abdomen as you expel the air.

## *simshūmbīsī*

**MEANING:** *Simshūmbīsī* names the area of fourteen strong psychic nerve currents of the subsuperconscious state of mind running along the spinal column. *Simshūmbīsī* is often referred to as the source of all life energies within man. As a command used in meditation, it refers to the yoga of feeling the actinic energy within the spine. This is the pure life force flowing through the spine out into the nerve system.

**PRACTICE:** Become aware of the actinic energy within the center of your spine. If necessary, move the torso back and forth slightly to locate the spine. Do not try to manipulate the spinal forces, such as lifting the kundalini, rather simply become conscious of the already-existing power within the spine.

**BREATHING:** Breathe in a normal and relaxed manner without counting.

## *nikashūm*

**MEANING:** The yoga of withdrawing the energy into the spine through the use of pranayama, breath control.

**PRACTICE:** Draw the energy from the five senses inward and upward in a systematic way. On the first inbreath, bring awareness into the left leg, all the way to the toes, and on



the outbreak slowly withdraw the energy from that leg into the spine. Repeat with the right leg, left arm (all the way to the fingertips), right arm and finally the torso (from the base of the spine slowly upward through the entire torso).

**BREATHING:** Breathe in a normal and relaxed manner without counting.

*kaif»* 

**MEANING:** The singling out of your pure awareness, allowing for the prolonged experience of being aware of being aware.

**PRACTICE:** Be aware of just being aware. Achieving this, you will be aware without any object, feeling or thought. Experience *kaif»* even for a brief time, and you feel renewed, clear-minded, centered.

**BREATHING:** Breathe in a normal and relaxed manner without counting.

In coming out of meditation the steps are repeated in reverse order. The return to normal consciousness through these same steps is quicker than the internalizing practice.

*simshumbisi»* 

*nikashum* 

**PRACTICE:** Reverse the process so that the energy is flowing out of the spine into the nerve sys-

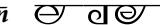
tem in the physical and subtle body.

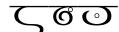
*liunasi* 

*alikaiishum* 

*kalibasa* 

*lishumnambi* 

*shumnuhm* 

*rehtyemba* 

**MEANING:** The guided group meditation in the Shum language has concluded.

#### Additional Resources

*Living with Siva*, Chapter 14: The Meditator



## CHAPTER FOUR

# Attending Pujas, Abhishekams and Homas

## 1. Prapatti Sadhana

### Sadhana Practice

Each time you prostrate in the temple, do so in the spirit of *prapatti*, surrendering to the will of the Deity, in the spirit of giving up the lower energies to the higher energies.

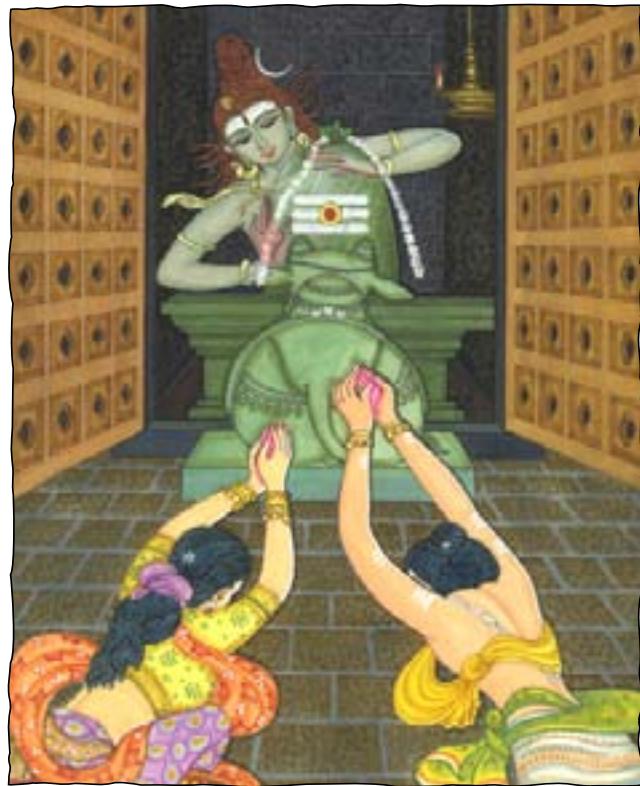
### Quote from Gurudeva

*Prapatti* truly is the key that unlocks the love needed as merger increases as the years pass by and, as Satguru Yogaswami said, "Love pours forth to melt the very stones."

### Supplementary Reading

#### Our Lexicon Definition of *Prapatti*

"Throwing oneself down." Bhakti, total, unconditional submission to God, often coupled with the attitude of personal helplessness, self-effacement and resignation. A term especially used in Vaishnavism to name a concept extremely central to virtually all Hindu schools. In Saiva Siddhanta, bhakti is all important in the development of the soul and its release into spiritual maturity. The doctrine is perhaps



best expressed in the teachings of the four Samayacharya saints, who all shared a profound and mystical love of Siva marked by 1) deep humility and self-effacement, admission of sin and weakness; 2) total surrender in God as the only true refuge and 3) a relationship of lover and beloved known as bridal mysticism, in which the devotee is the bride and Siva the bridegroom. The practice of yoga, too, is an expression of love of God in Saiva Siddhanta, and

it is only with God's grace that success is achieved. Rishi Tirumular states: "Unless your heart melts in the sweet ecstasy of love—my Lord, my treasure-trove, you can never possess" (*Tirumantiram* 272). It is in this concept of the need for self-effacement and total surrender, *prapatti*, that the members of all sects merge in oneness, at the fulfillment of their individual paths. Similarly, they all meet in unity at the beginning of the path with the worship of Lord Ganesha.



**From Merging with Siva, Lesson 147: Unqualified Surrender**

Individual practices to advance spiritual unfoldment include prostrating before God, Gods and guru, full body, face down, arms and hands outstretched, and in that act, total giving up, giving up, giving up, giving up. In Sanskrit it is called *pranipata*, “falling down in obeisance.” What are these devoted ones giving up? By this act they are giving the lower energies to the higher energies. It is a merger, a blending. When one is performing this traditional devotional act, awakening true *prapatti*, it is easy to see the lower energies from the base of the spine, the *muladhara* chakra, rising, rising, rising up the spine through all six chakras above it and out through the top of the head. It is transmuting, changing the form of, the base energies which breed conflict and resistance, “mine and yours” and “you and me,” division, insecurity and separateness, into the spiritual energies of “us and we,” amalgamation, security, togetherness.

Once the giving up of the lower is total—body and face on the ground, hands outstretched before the image of God, Gods or guru—those energies are surrendered into the higher chakras within the devotee, and it is a blissful moment, into the consciousness of “us and ours,” “we and oneness,” and inseparable love, thus claiming their individuality, not as a separate thing, but as a shared oneness with all. Thereafter, these devoted ones, having been transformed,

are able to uplift others, to harmonize forces around them that they work with day after day after day, year after year after year. This total surrender, *prapatti*, is the meaning of Siddhanta. This is the true meaning of Vedanta. The combination of both, and the pure practice of *prapatti* as just described, brings out from within the deeper meanings of Vedanta, the Vedic philosophy, without having to depend on the path of words, lectures and debates. My *satguru* was once heard saying, “It’s not in books, you fool.”

**Additional Resources**

*Merging with Siva*, Chapter 21: Total Surrender

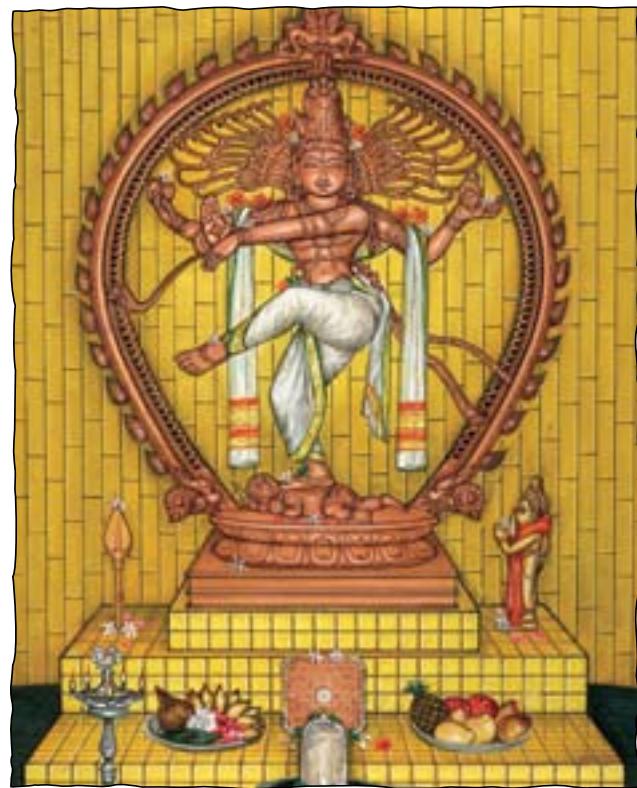


## 2. Attending Kadavul Nataraja Abhishekam or Puja Sadhana

### Sadhana Practice

The *sadhana* is to focus on experiencing God Siva as a God of love, a God of compassion for all He has created. Attending the 9am Siva puja in Kadavul Hindu temple on any day of the year can lead to this perception. However, it is easiest on the day of the month which is the *nakshatra* of Ardra. Ardra is the one day a month that a full *abhishekam* is given to the six-foot-tall bronze Nataraja in Kadavul's main shrine, while the small *sphatika* Lingam receives *abhishekam* daily. The most important Ardra *nakshatra* day of the year is the one that falls in the month of mid-December to mid-January. This Nataraja festival is celebrated in all Agamic Siva temples but most grandly at Chidambaram in Tamil Nadu.

The description of Ardra *nakshatra* clearly relates to the idea of compassion: “Teardrop star.” Astronomical constellation: Betelgeuse. This star cluster conveys ideas pertaining to: Tenderness, abundant feelings, flowing, dropping, melting, to be overwhelmed with. The teardrop refers to the *rudraksha*, or tear of Lord Siva. Ardra confers concern for the suffering of others. It names the 6th *nakshatra* division.





### Quote from Gurudeva

"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.... His immanent love protects us, guides us, lifting our mind into the arena of useful thoughts and keeping us from harm's way."

### Supplementary Reading

*Living with Siva*, Lesson 315: Emissaries Of Lord Siva

**W**orship God Siva and you will be filled with love.

Become a member of the united Saivites of the world, who love one another, who take care of each other in England, in South Africa, in Nepal, in North America, in South America, in Mauritius, in Malaysia, in Java, in Fiji, in Trinidad and Tobago, in Guyana, in Suriname, in Sri Lanka and in India. It is this Sivasambandam, this inner association of Saivites the world over, that is the strength for Saivites wherever they find themselves. In this technological age this must become an outer association as well.

I urge all Saivites, devotees of God Siva, to worship Him as the God of Love and, in doing so, to become beings of love. The great saints of our religion were Siva bhaktas. They changed the world through their love of God. They did not need vast institutions to spread their message. They did not



need riches or carts filled with books to spread their message. They did not need radio, television or the Internet. Their message spread because their minds were filled with direct knowledge, direct experience of God Siva. Their message spread far and wide, though they perhaps never left their native village. They just evolved within it. You, too, are emissaries of Lord Siva, and your love for Him is your greatest message. Simply love God Siva and let that love radiate out into the world.

We cannot forget that Lord Siva is the uncreated God. He is the closest to you. He is nearer than your breathing. He is nearer than your heartbeat. He is the very Self of you, each and every one of you. Saivites love Siva in that very way, as the Self of themselves. Being in all things simultaneously, at every point in time, God Siva is in your fingers, He is in your eyes, He is in your heart, He is in your mind. As our great *satguru*, Siva Yogaswami, said, "There is one thing that Lord Siva cannot do. He can do everything, but there is one thing He cannot do. He cannot separate Himself from me." That is the only thing that God Siva cannot do. He cannot take Himself out of you.

There are three things we must do: perform or attend puja every day in the home, attend a temple once a week and make a pilgrimage once a year. These three are the foundation of our Saiva Siddhanta. Plus, for those who are

able, meditation and certain *sadhanas* are part of this worship. External worship builds a vibration within us, and that vibration is taken within, into deep meditation—internalizing the worship in worshiping God and the Gods within you and contacting them within the higher chakras until you realize that you also have always been the all-pervasive energy that pervades the universe.

#### **Additional Resources**

*Living with Siva*, Chapter 45: Palaces of the Gods



### 3. Swayambhu Lingam Darshana Sadhana

#### Sadhana Practice

Attend the 9am Swayambhu Lingam puja. Afterwards read Gurudeva's description of his vision of Siva and reflect upon it, imagining God Siva sitting on the Swayambhu Lingam in front of you and walking in the valley behind you.

#### Quote from Gurudeva

This was the fulfillment of the quest for a vision of what the future might hold, which led me and my followers to the lovely Garden Island of Kauai.

#### Supplementary Reading

**S**an Marga was established as a result of a three-fold vision that came to me early one morning in 1975. I saw Lord Siva walking in the meadow near the Wailua River. Then His face was looking into mine. Then He was seated upon a great stone, His reddish golden hair flowing down His back. Astonished, I was seated on His left side. Upon reentering earthly consciousness, I felt certain the great stone was somewhere on our land and set about to find it. Guided from within by my *satguru*, I hired a bulldozer and instructed the driver to follow me as I walked to the north edge of the property that was then a tangle of buffalo grass





and wild guava. I hacked my way through the jungle southward as the dozer cut a path behind me. After almost half a mile, I sat down to rest near a small tree. Though there was no wind, suddenly the tree's leaves shimmered as if in the excitement of communication. I asked the tree, "What is your message?" In reply, my attention was directed to a spot just to the right of where I was sitting. When I pulled back the tall grass, there was a large rock, the self-created Linga on which Lord Siva had sat. The bulldozer's trail now led exactly to the sacred stone, surrounded by five smaller boulders. San Marga, the straight or pure path to God, had been created. All this happened February 15, 1975. Worship of the sacred stone with water and flowers was commenced immediately through daily puja rites, and a master plan was unfolded from the devonic worlds. Today, visitors to the sanctuary walk the path of the Tamil Nayanars around picturesque lotus ponds and visit the six shrines of the Kailasa Parampara on the banks of Saravanabhava Lake in Rishi Valley. Across rolling meadows, pilgrims will gaze upon the Iraivan Temple now being hand-carved in Bangalore to enshrine the world's largest single-pointed quartz crystal—a 700-pound, 39-inch-tall, six-sided natural gem, a *sphatika* Sivalinga, acquired in 1987. Iraivan, designed to stand 1,000 years as a spiritual edifice for forty generations, is America's first traditional, all-stone temple.



## 4. Ganesha Abhishekam/Puja Sadhana

### Sadhana Practice

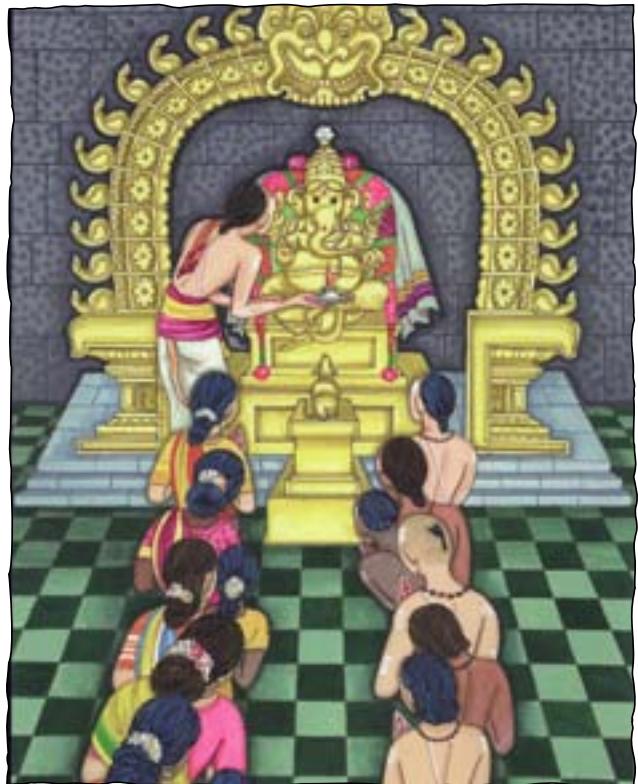
Attend a Ganesha puja or *abhishekam* in Kadavul Temple. Afterwards, strive to experience each in turn of the five shaktis of Lord Ganesha. First feel, tune into, the vibration of the shakti in the Ganesha *murti*. Next feel the vibration of that shakti within you.

A summary of the five shaktis: (one) creating harmony in the home, (two) concord among relatives, neighbors and friends, (three) good business and public relations, (four) cultural upliftment and (five) love of God and heartfelt charity.

### Quote from Gurudeva

To bring religion into one's life requires the worship of Lord Ganesha and the daily tuning into these five great shaktis. This worship brings harmony to our home, to our relatives and friends and to business associates. It brings culture, creativity and religion into our life. All this is crowned by such a heartfelt love of God that we can then give forth. We are allowed to perform charities and, in overflowing abundance, prepare the religious edifices for the next generation. This is what our daily pujas and meditation, our pilgrimages and other religious practices serve to manifest in our lives.





### Supplementary Reading

*Loving Ganesha*, Chapter Three: Ganesha's Five Powers

Come, now let us turn our hearts and minds to the five powers of Lord Ganesha. Devotees have asked for elucidation of the five profound ways this Great God functions in helping us from the inner worlds. For many Hindus in both the East and the West it is this understanding of the five powerful positive powers, or shaktis, of Lord Ganesha and their five powerful asuric counterforces that makes religion a working part of the devotee's life and a stabilizing force within the extended family—which embraces kindred, friends, community elders and close business associates. This knowledge and practical experience has helped them understand just how intimately Lord Ganesha works with each of us every day in even our mundane life.

There are five great shaktis of Lord Ganesha, as He Himself explained. Their positive vibratory rates can be felt through your astral and physical body and should always be with you. "What is this shakti?" you may be wondering. It is being in the presence of Divinity. All holy men and women emanate all of these shaktis, and you can, too, some stronger than others. Shakti is divine radiation from the Third World through the Second World into the First. The astral body is in the Second World and lives inside the physical body. It is through the astral body that shakti is felt. The shakti comes



from the Third World and permeates the astral body in the Second World. This is why the physical body sometimes seems to feel “filled up” with shakti from deep within, permeating out to the inside of our skin. Deeply awakened souls become so filled with the shakti of the Divine that it permeates as cosmic rays out through the skin to the perimeter of the aura, the colorful film of light that surrounds the body. It is felt by other people and attributed as a personal darshana.

Thus it can be said that Lord Ganesha has five aspects to His presence. Feeling the presence of the benevolent and beneficent Deity Ganesha everywhere is the exemplary example of what each soul wishes to attain. His five powers could well be called “the feet of the Lord,” for it is at these feet that we sit and worship, bringing harmony to our home, among our relatives and friends and business associates, bringing culture, creativity and religion into our life. Crowned by a heartfelt love of God that we then give forth, we are then allowed to perform charities and, in overflowing abundance, prepare the religious edifices for the next generation. Experiencing this personally will take daily meditation.

**THE FIRST SHAKTI:** The first shakti emanates the feeling of love and compassion that the good person naturally has for his or her immediate family. Love and harmony within the nuclear or joint family is most important to all Hindus, and

the beautiful feeling when it exists is the first shakti of the Lord. "When family life possesses love and virtue, it has found both its essence and fruition." *Tirukural* (45)

**THE SECOND SHAKTI:** The second shakti is the same feeling but extended to relatives, neighbors and friends, all who are part of the extended family. This is more difficult to hold, as inharmonious conditions often arise. These are called asuric forces, which come between people, causing misunderstanding and upsets. Through prayers and through worship, the first shakti can be extended beyond the circumference of the immediate family to include acquaintances, relatives and friends. When this vibration of harmony is felt, all the power of the Lord is with you, as the first shakti and the second shakti merge, bringing in abundance the onrush of the third shakti.

**THE THIRD SHAKTI:** The third shakti of Lord Ganesha is this same love extended to all persons one has dealings with in the external world: business associates, a casual merchant and the public at large. It is honest and harmonious relationships in conducting the business of trade and dealings in goods, finance and the distribution of the wealth of the world. This is a most important vibration to be felt, and constantly felt. This shakti of the Lord is tenuous to hold onto, for worldly and materialistic forces, as you well know, militate against this kind of harmony.



But once these lower powers are conquered, worries cease, concerns are alleviated and heartfelt joy comes. Such is the grace of loving Ganesha. As the *Tirukural* (120) declares, “Those businessmen will prosper whose business protects as their own the interests of others.”

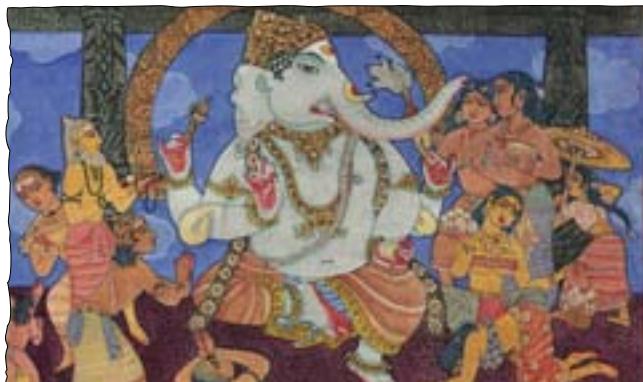
**THE FOURTH SHAKTI:** The fourth shakti is an outpouring from having held fast to the first three. It is a combination of the first two shaktis, stabilized by the third. The fourth shakti of Lord Ganesha brings through the creative-intuitive mind—the love of culture and all that it brings, religious formalities and the respect and appreciation of discipline. Here we find the vibration of religion, which brings as a boon creativity in music, art, drama and the dance. It is through these refining rays that religious life is adhered to and congested forces are braided together in a harmonious pattern for a glorious future. It is through the fourth shakti that religious practices are performed consistently and the refinements of the past are carried into the future. It also extends to devotion toward one’s ancestors and all forms of positive community participation.

**THE FIFTH SHAKTI:** The fifth shakti of Lord Ganesha is the combination of the first and the third in vibration, and it extends into the wonderful feelings obtained by the outpouring of love of this God. Loving Lord Ganesha with all your heart

and soul is the combined merging of these five shaktis. This gives the added boon of being able to be charitable; for those who love God perform charity, build shrines and temples and participate in the overflowing generosity from their resources, earning abundant *punya*, fine merit, accrued for this life and passed on to the next. We can see that harmony within the immediate family and harmony extended to all business associates creates the spiritual dynamic within the individual and the group to burst forth into loving this benign God and receiving His material, emotional, intellectual and spiritual abundance.

#### Additional Resources

*Loving Ganesha*, Chapter Three: Ganesha’s Five Powers





## 5. Murugan Abhishekam/Puja Sadhana

### Sadhana Practice

Attend a Muruga puja or *abhishekam* in Kadavul Temple. Afterwards, strive to experience the sixth shakti. First feel, tune into, the vibration of the shakti in the Murugan *murti*. It has the feeling of a dynamic spiritual energy. Next feel the vibration of that shakti within you.

### Quote from Gurudeva

The sixth shakti, entrusted to Lord Murugan, is that of *raja* yoga, the awakening of the kundalini, which should never be attempted until the first five vibratory rates of the Lord have been maintained and are a natural part of one's life. The sixth shakti is only felt in yogic meditation, when the crown of the head becomes the temple—the high-pitched “eee” tone ringing within it like a temple bell, and the kundalini awakened, the camphor light aglow. The yogi thus locked in his own yoke finds himself seated on the fifth shakti, supported by the lotus petals of the other four. In his state of yoga, he then merges into *jnana*; and answers to his deepest philosophical questions come crystal clear as the seventh shakti penetrates the akashic ether of his mind.



## Supplementary Reading

*Dancing with Siva*, Shloka 24: What is the Nature of Lord Karttikeya?

**Shloka:** Lord Arumugam, the six-faced, six-armed son of Siva, wields many weapons, as He battles the forces of darkness to end wars, large and small. He rides the noble peacock, Mayil, which represents effulgent beauty and religion in its fullest glory.

**Bhashya:** Lord Karttikeya flies through the mind's vast substance from planet to planet. He could well be called the Emancipator, ever available to the call of those in distress. Lord Karttikeya, God of will, direct cognition and the purest, child-like divine love, propels us onward on the righteous way through religion, His Father's law. Majestically seated on the *manipura* chakra, this scarlet-hued God blesses mankind and strengthens our will when we lift to the inner sky through *sadhana* and *yoga*. The *yoga pada* begins with the worship of Him. The yogi, locked in meditation, venerates Karttikeya, Skanda, as his mind becomes as calm as Saravana, the lake of Divine Essence. The kundalini force within everyone is held and controlled by this powerful God, first among renunciates, dear to all sannyasins. Revered as Murugan in the South, He is commander in chief of the great

devonic army, a fine, dynamic soldier of the within, a fearless defender of righteousness. He is Divinity emulated in form. The *Vedas* say, "To such a one who has his stains wiped away, the venerable Sanatkumara shows the further shore of darkness. Him they call Skanda." Aum Namah Sivaya.

## Additional Resources

*Dancing with Siva*, Shloka 25: What Does Lord Karttikeya's Vel Signify?



## 6. Gurudeva Chitra Puja Sadhana

### Sadhana Practice

Attend Gurudeva's Chitra puja in Kadavul Temple. During the final *arati*, strive to feel Gurudeva's presence in the room blessing you. After a guru's *mahasamadhi* (passing), he or she is honored each month on the *nakshatra* day of the *mahasamadhi*. The *nakshatra* for Gurudeva's *mahasamadhi* is Chitra.

### Quote from Gurudeva

Darshana (more popularly darshan) is a Sanskrit word meaning "vision, seeing or perception." But in its mystical usage, it is more than that. Darshan is also the feeling of the emotions of a holy person, the intellect, the spiritual qualities that he has attained and, most importantly, the sakti, the power, that has changed him and is there constantly to change others.

### Supplementary Reading

*Dancing with Siva*, Lexicon

**P**adapuja is the ceremonial worship of the guru's sandals or holy feet, often through ablution with precious substances and offering of fruit and flowers. After the ceremony, the water of the bath, the fruit and other precious substances



are partaken of as *prasada* by the devotees.

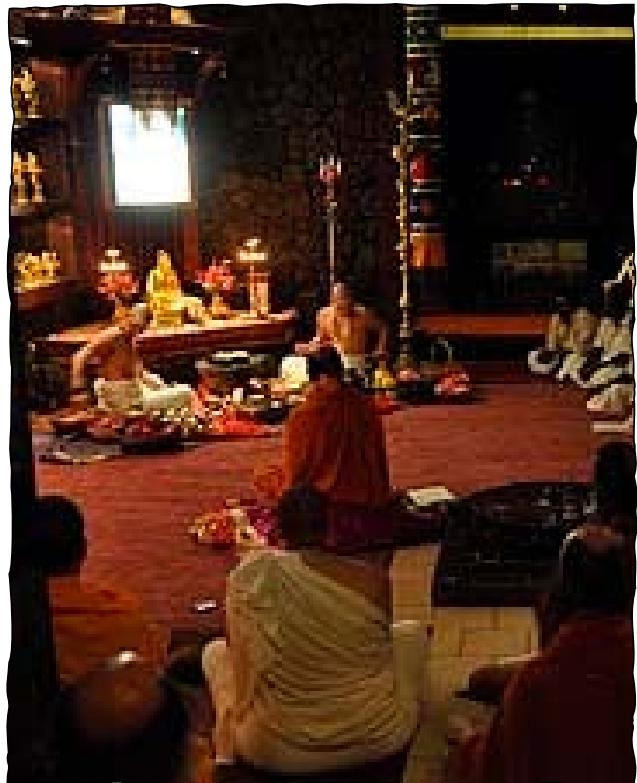
*Sri paduka* refers to the sandals of the preceptor, the traditional icon of the guru, representing his venerable feet and worshiped as the source of grace.

The feet of God, a God, *satguru* or any holy person are often represented by sacred sandals, called *sri paduka* in Sanskrit and *tiruvadi* in Tamil. The feet of a divine one are considered especially precious as they represent the point of contact of the Divine and the physical, and are thus revered as the source of grace. The guru's sandals or his feet are the object of worship on his *jayanti* (birthday), on Guru Purnima and other special occasions.

#### **Additional Resources**

*Dancing with Siva*, Mandala 31: Kailasa Parampara

*Merging with Siva*, Chapter 44: Darshan, Grace of the Guru



## 7. Yogaswami Aslesha Puja Sadhana

### Sadhana Practice

Attend Yogaswami's Aslesha *arati* in the Guru Peedam.

During the final *arati*, strive to feel Yogaswami's presence in the room blessing you. If there is no Yogaswami ceremony scheduled for the Guru Peedam, feel Yogaswami's presence after the final *arati* to Nataraja at the 9am Siva puja in Kadavul Temple.

After a guru's *mahasamadhi* (passing), he or she is honored each month on the *nakshatra* day of the *mahasamadhi*. The *nakshatra* for Yogaswami's *mahasamadhi* is Aslesha.

### Quote from Gurudeva

(In the moment of darshan), the sense of separation is transcended, so there is a oneness between seer and seen. This is monistic theism, this is Advaita Isvaravada. Each is seeing the other and momentarily being the other.

### Supplementary Reading

*Dancing with Siva*, Lexicon

**P**adapuja is the ceremonial worship of the guru's sandals or holy feet, often through ablution with precious substances and offering of fruit and flowers. After the ceremony, the water of the bath, the fruit and other precious substances



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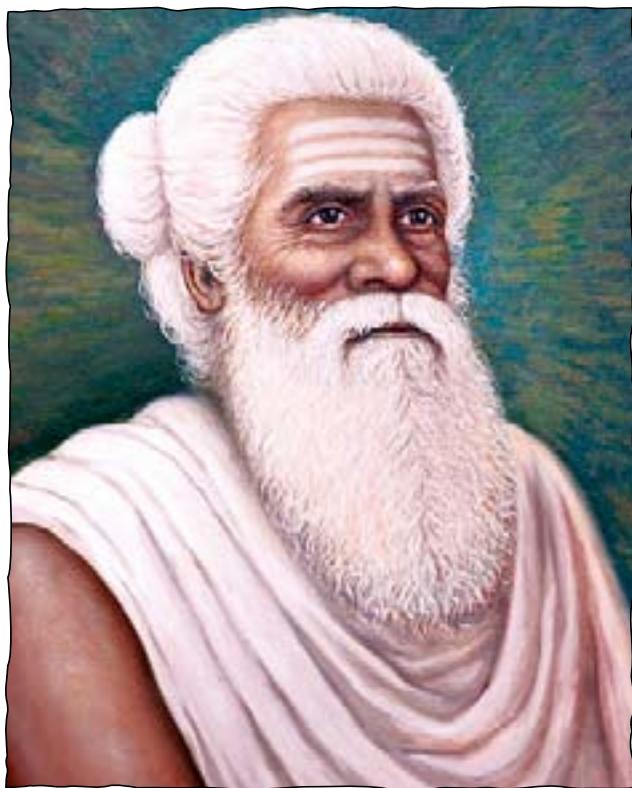
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#### **Additional Resources**

*Dancing with Siva*, Mandala 31: Kailasa Parampara

*Merging with Siva*, Chapter 44: Darshan, Grace of the Guru



## 8. Attend Kadavul Homa Sadhana

### Sadhana Practice

Participate in the *homa* worship of God Siva for at least ten minutes. Then write one or more prayers regarding any major decisions pending in your life such as changing jobs, moving to a new city, when to retire, etc. Remember the advice to give a few specific options.

The Gods and devas look very carefully into the karma of the devotee before taking any action. Because of this, it is always best to describe two or more alternatives that you would be satisfied with in each prayer, rather than insisting on only one solution. This is because your first preference may not be possible in your karmic pattern or, without your knowing, it may actually be the worst possible thing that could happen to you. In this case, your prayer would be answered with a non-answer. Therefore, it is wise to suggest two or more alternatives when making a request. For example, in seeking help in finding employment, you might suggest three places you would be content at, indicating first choice, second and third.

### Quote from Gurudeva

Writing and delivering prayers to the Devaloka through the sacred fire is an ancient Natha Sampradaya practice.



## Supplementary Reading

*Living with Siva*, Lesson 316: The Boon of Prayer Writing

Shortly after the Kadavul Nataraja Deity arrived from India at Kauai Aadheenam, our monastery-temple complex on the Garden Island of Kauai, we received the wonderful boon of communicating with the inner worlds through written prayers. With this six-foot-tall bronze image of the Lord of Dance came tens of thousands of devas. It was revealed to us that these devonic helpers, though unseen to the physical eyes, are skilled in the art of fulfilling prayers. We were delighted to know that written prayers could be offered into their hands through the sacred fire that burns perpetually at Lord Nataraja's holy feet. In those early days of the beginning of the first Siva temple in the United States, we felt blessed that this magical boon had come to us. Written prayers were offered up through the sacred temple fire and soon answered. The faith began to build among the devotees. The temple yantra was now fully activated.

But there was a problem. Sometimes, in devotees' emotional fervor, prayers were hastily scribbled out and could not be easily read. Seekers assumed that their requests and pleas for help or solace would be known by the Gods and devas who know them personally, and therefore they were not careful enough in composing their prayers, some even forgetting to sign their name or note the date. We soon



learned that if prayers were not answered, it might be simply due to incompleteness or illegibility. We also became aware that sufficient explanation must be given for the inner-plane helpers to provide adequate assistance.

Here is why absolute clarity is necessary in each written prayer. The astral image of each prayer that arrives in the Second World, or astral plane, is an exact duplicate of its physical-plane counterpart, but not quite as clear—more like a carbon copy. So if the physical-plane original is not clear, its astral counterpart will be even less clear. It will be blurred, like trying to read a letter without one's eyeglasses. Even the astral counterparts of typewritten documents prepared in small type are difficult to read in the inner worlds, we were told.

To solve the problem of illegibility, the devas themselves gave a new script, which came through from the inner sky in Paris in the early 70s. The devas called this script Tyeif. It is designed to look like bamboo leaves, arranged in an intricate pattern to form 135 characters or “images,” the first twenty-six of which correspond to the English alphabet. Here is the word Tyeif written in the devas’ script: ≈≡¤≈—

Writing and delivering prayers to the Devaloka through the sacred fire is an ancient Natha Sampradaya practice. Today this method of communication is still employed in Shinto and Taoist temples in Japan, China, Singapore,

Malaysia and other areas of Southeast Asia. The prayers are written down and placed in the temple fire. As the paper burns, the astral double of the prayer appears in the Devaloka. The prayer is then read by the devas, who proceed to carry out the devotee’s requests. These temple devas are fully dedicated to assist all who come through the temple doors with their emotional, mental and physical problems.

It was made very clear to me, however, that prayers may only be sent to the Devaloka in a sanctified *havana kunda* where special arrangements have been made with the devas.

#### Additional Resources

*Living with Siva*, Chapter 46: Sending Prayers to the Gods



## CHAPTER FIVE

# Iraivan Temple Sadhanas

*Note: Availability depends on the current stage of Iraivan's construction.*

## 1. The Iraivan New Self Image Sadhana

### Sadhana Practice

After worshiping in Iraivan Temple, sit facing the sanctum and repeat the following affirmation, having in mind Gurudeva's statements about creating "a new self-image and clear understanding of the purpose of life on planet Earth." "I am not my body, mind or emotions. They are but shells of the infinite energy that flows through them all. I am this energy. I am its source."

### Class

The Power of Affirmation  
True Success

### Quote from Gurudeva

Find your spiritual destiny for this lifetime.

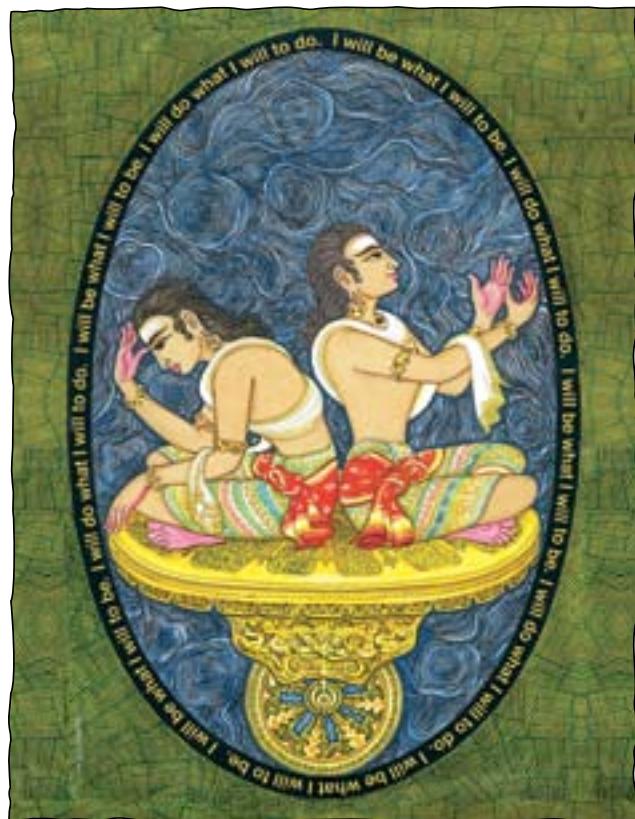


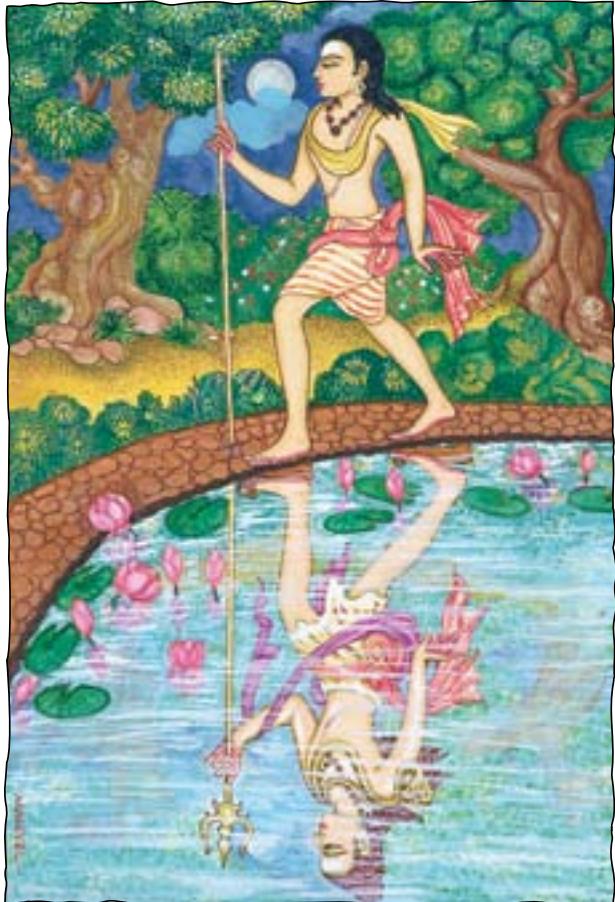
## Supplementary Reading

*Saiva Dharma Shastras*, Section 95

Strictly following ancient scriptural treatises, this 100-foot-long, 35-foot-tall, 3.5-million-pound Chola-style temple is being built according to divine architectural knowledge to channel and focus the spiritual power of the crystal Sivalinga representing the Supreme God, Siva: Parameshvara-Parashakti-Parasiva. Sculpted stone panels tell in pictures and potent aphorisms the temple's story and mystical philosophy of Saivism. Most importantly, Iraivan, with Lord Siva facing south, is a moksha temple. This means that being in the presence of its sanctum sanctorum brings the pilgrim closer to freedom from rebirth on this planet. The vibration of the temple wipes away the dross of the subconscious *vasanas* and simultaneously heals the wounds of psychic surgery. It takes away encumbrances and releases the pristine beauty of the soul. As pilgrims leave the San Marga Sanctuary they are escorted back the way they came, along San Marga and through the Rudraksha Meditation Forest with a new self-image and clear understanding of the purpose of life on planet Earth.

*Merging with Siva*, Lesson 77: All Knowing Is within You  
“I will be what I will to be. I will do what I will to do.” You can repeat these two powerful affirmations over time and





time again and thus rearrange, restructure, the forces of your subconscious mind and create a great inner peace within yourself. Become acquainted with the spiritual energies and bring the forces of superconsciousness through your subconscious. This creates feeling, a feeling that you are what you say you are—positive, direct, full of life and energy and creative power. Your intuitive mind proves this through your conscious mind, not only through feeling, but you will find yourself acting out the part in all kindness and security, exercising the positive will of “I will be what I will to be” and “I will do what I will to do.” Feel the spiritual force permeating the entirety of your body. You are the security of your statement, and you accept it into your subconscious mind. As the days go by, you will become more creative and more consciously aware of your spiritual destiny. Find your spiritual destiny for this lifetime.

The greatest thing that a devotee must learn is that all knowing is within oneself. Therefore, go to the great superconscious school within you and bring forth knowledge. In order to do this, be confident within yourself. In order to be confident within yourself, have no fear. In order to have no fear, say to yourself, “I am all right, right now.” This will quickly bring you into the here-and-now consciousness. You will feel spiritual force permeating your body, and your intuitive state of mind will be active. Go



ahead in full confidence that you are the knower of all that is known. This does not mean that you know everything that is to be known about the material plane, the emotional world of people, or what goes on within their minds. This means that you are nearing the source of all sources, that you understand the ultimate destiny of all souls—to unequivocally merge with Siva.

Spiritual destiny is manifested in the lives of those who stand out from the masses and actually do something, who live a creative life for the benefit of others. This last affirmation affirms an age-old truth and may be said several times before sleep and upon awakening: “I am not my body, mind or emotions. They are but shells of the infinite energy that flows through them all. I am this energy. I am its source. I am on my way to merge with Siva.”

#### **Additional Resources**

*Merging with Siva*, Chapter 11: The Power of Affirmation, or the *Power of Affirmation* booklet



## 2. The Iraivan Panchabrahma Circumambulation Sadhana

### Sadhana Practice

Walk clockwise around the Iraivan sanctum offering a simple chant to each bronze *murti* of one of the aspects of Panchabrahma, also called Sadasiva.

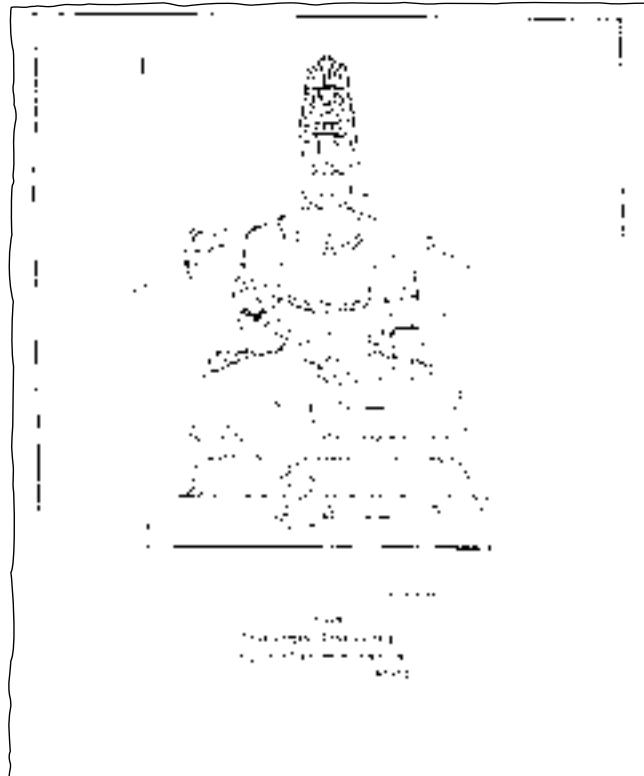
Left front is Tatpurusha. Chant “Aum Sri Tatpurushaya Namaha” three or more times while holding in mind the specific function of that aspect of Siva. Then move to the next bronze shrine.

Left back is Aghora. Chant “Aum Sri Aghoraya Namaha” three or more times while holding in mind the specific function of that aspect of Siva. Then move to the next bronze shrine.

Backside is Sadyojata. Chant “Aum Sri Sadyojataya Namaha” three or more times while holding in mind the specific function of that aspect of Siva. Then move to the next bronze shrine.

Right back is Vamadeva. Chant “Aum Sri Vamadevaya Namaha” three or more times while holding in mind the specific function of that aspect of Siva. Then move to the next bronze shrine.

Right front is Ishana. Chant “Aum Sri Ishanaya Namaha” three or more times while holding in mind the specific func-



tion of that aspect of Siva. Then move in front of the main sanctum.

The main sanctum represents all five aspects of Panchabrahma. Chant "Aum Sri Sadashivaya Namaha" three or more times while holding in mind all five functions of Sadashiva.

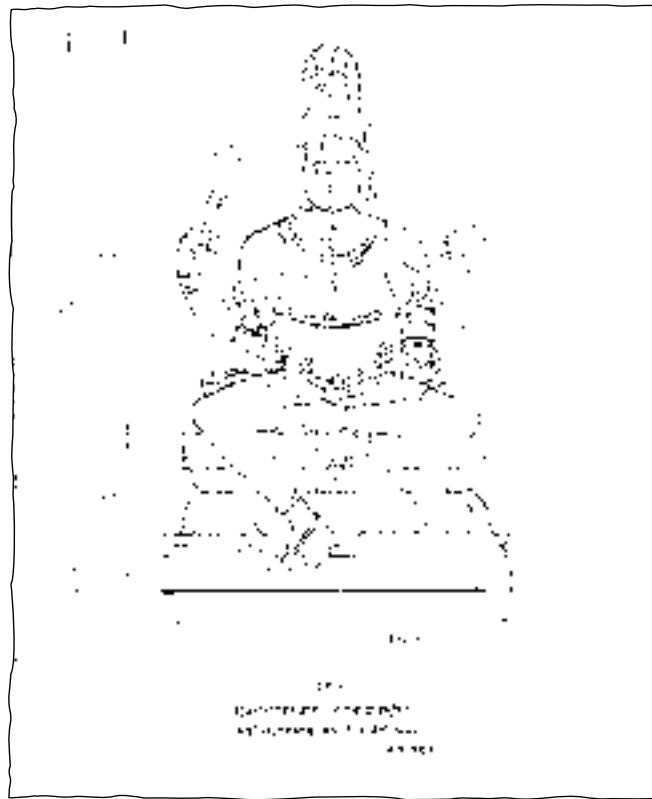
*Repeat the entire process at least three times.*

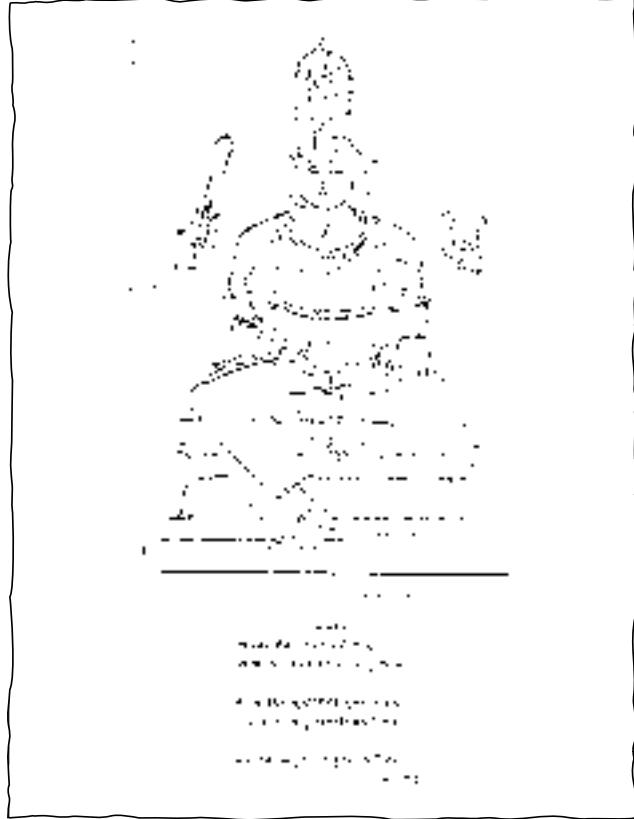
#### **Quote from Gurudeva**

God Siva is all and in all, one without a second, the Supreme Being and only Absolute Reality. He is Pati, our Lord, immanent and transcendent. To create, preserve, destroy, conceal and reveal are His five powers. Aum.

#### **Supplementary Reading**

**S**aiva Siddhanta is the formalized theology of the divine revelations contained in the twenty-eight *Saiva Agamas*. In the Saiva Siddhanta tradition, God Siva is the Supreme Being who, as the Lord of the Universe, Himself performs the actions of creation, preservation, and destruction. This, of course, is a totally different approach than the well known trinity approach found in the *Puranas*, the folk narratives containing ethical and cosmological teachings relative to Gods, man and the world. The *Puranas* present a concept of Hinduism as a religion with a trinity of Gods: Brahma the Creator, Vishnu the Preserver and Rudra (Siva) as the





Destroyer. However, in Saiva Siddhanta these cosmic actions are all performed by God Siva.

In addition to the three actions, God Siva also performs two more actions, which relate specifically to the soul. The fourth action is His concealing grace, which limits consciousness, allowing souls to mature through experience. And the fifth action is His revealing grace, by which the soul ultimately transcends its bondage and realizes its identity with Him. Here are two verses from the *Raurava Agama* describing these five actions of God Siva:

“The birth of the world, its maintenance, its destruction, the soul’s obscuration and liberation are the five acts of His dance.”

“Paramesvara (Siva) is the cause of the five manifest aspects: emanation, *srishti*; preservation, *sthiti*; dissolution, *samhara*; concealment, *tirobhava*; and revelation, *anugraha*.<sup>1</sup>”

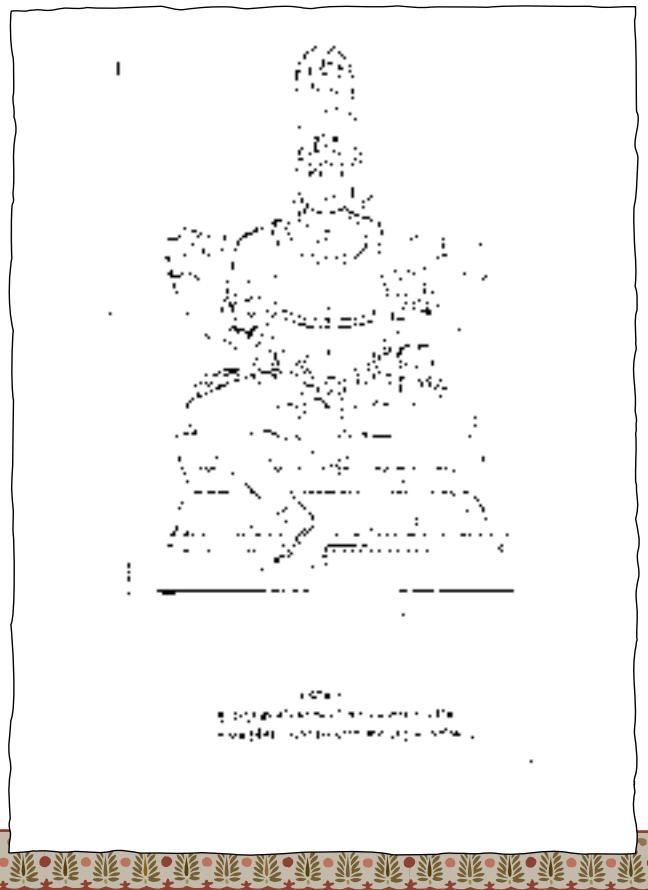
There is a form of God Siva that is widely known which depicts these five actions. It is Siva as the Lord of dance or Nataraja. In this *murti* the symbolism for all five actions is clearly present. *Srishti*, creation, or emanation, is represented by His upper right hand and the *damaru*, the drum, upon which he beats Paranada, the Primal Sound from which issue forth the rhythms and cycles of creation. *Sthiti*, preservation, is represented by His lower right hand in a gesture of blessing, *abhaya* mudra, saying “fear not.” *Samhara*, destruc-

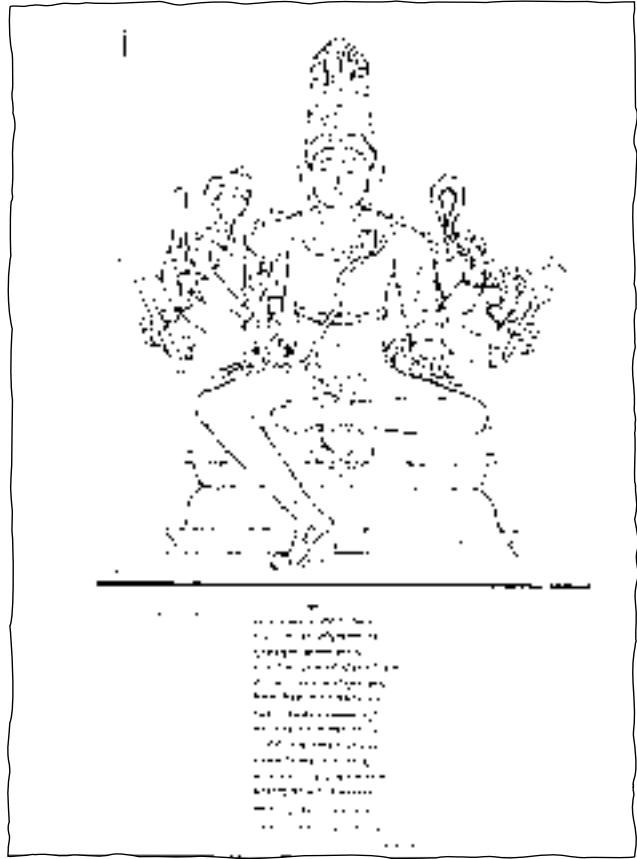


tion, dissolution or absorption, is represented by the fire in His upper left hand, posed in *ardhachandra* mudra, “half-moon gesture.” *Tirobhava*, obscuring grace, the power which hides the truth, thereby permitting experience, growth and eventual fulfillment of destiny, is represented by His right foot upon the prostrate person, Apasmarapurusha, the principle of ignorance, or *anava*. *Anugraha*, revealing grace—which grants knowledge and severs the soul’s bonds—is represented by Siva’s raised left foot, and by His lower left hand, held in *gajahasta* or “elephant trunk” mudra, inviting approach.

Less well known to the general public, but quite well known to the Saivite priesthood and others who are knowledgeable about temple worship, is another form of God Siva performing these five actions. It is a form of Siva that has five faces and is called the Sadasivamurti. In Sanskrit, the five faces are referred to as Panchanana. In Tamil, the five faces are referred to as Sivaperumanai Aindu Tirumukamkal, which translates as “The Five Holy Faces of God Siva”.

In temple ceremonies based on the *Saiva Agamas*, there is a specific mantra used for each face. The mantras are Ishana, Tatpurusha, Aghora, Vamadeva and Sadyojata. The relationship between these mantras, the five divine powers and the five alternate names for these powers is in the chart below.





Mantra Name	Alternate Name	Divine power
Ishana	Sadasiva	Revealment
Tatpurusha	Ishvara	Obscuration
Aghora	Rudra	Destruction
Vamadeva	Vishnu	Preservation
Sadyojata	Brahma	Creation

In temple ceremonies based on the *Saiva Agamas*, it is this five-fold form of Siva that is being worshiped in the Sivalingam. To show this, some temples include in their decorations a metal covering over the Sivalingam which has the five faces engraved in it. The fifth face of Isana can be placed on the top, but more commonly is left out. The Isana form is implied, whether the fifth head is shown or not. Some Sivalingas even have the faces carved into the Linga itself.

**Additional Resources**  
[Panchabrahma article](#)

### 3. The Panchabrahma Five Elements Sadhana

#### Sadhana Practice

The first part of this *sadhana* is to sit in front of the Iraivan sanctum reflecting on how the five steps of Na-ma-si-va-ya relate to the five aspects of God Siva and to the five elements.

Syllable	Element	Mantra	Alternate	Power
Na	Earth	Sadyojata	Brahma	Creation
Ma	Water	Vamadeva	Vishnu	Preservation
Si	Fire	Aghora	Rudra	Destruction
Va	Air	Tatpurusha	Ishvara	Obscuration
Ya	Akasha	Ishana	Sadasiva	Revealment

The second part of this *sadhana* is to choose various locations on the monastery property that relate specifically to each element and again reflect on how the syllables of Na-ma-si-va-ya relate to the five aspects of God Siva and to the five elements. For example, the Swayambhu Lingam relates to earth. Wailua River and Narmada stream relate to water. Kadavul Hindu Temple is a temple for the element of fire and has an eternal flame burning in the sanctum. The Orchid Mandapam relates to air. Iraivan Temple will be a temple for the element of ether.

#### Quote from Gurudeva

“Siva is the God of love and nothing else but love. He fills this universe with love. He fills you with love. Siva is fire. Siva is earth. Siva is air. Siva is water. Siva is ether. Siva’s cosmic energy permeates everything and gives light and life to your mind. Siva is everywhere and all things. Siva is your small, insignificant worry, the concern that you have been holding in your mind for so many years. See God Siva everywhere and His life energy in all things. First we dance with Siva. Then we live with Siva. The end of the path is to merge with Siva, the Self God within.”



## 4. Iraivan Homa Sadhana

### Sadhana Practice

When it is your turn to offer the grains into the sacred *homa* fire, while holding the grains in your right hand visualize that you are infusing them with your prana as well as your love for and praise of God Siva. Then offer them into the sacred fire. During the final *arati*, visualize God Siva standing in the center of the fire sending back to you as blessings all the prana, love and praise that you and all the other devotees placed into the *homa*.

Gurudeva gives an insight on the importance of prana in temple worship in the section of Loving Ganesha on offering of food. "Keep the offering covered until the point in the puja when the pranas (life energies) of the food are offered to the Deity. Keeping the food covered helps to preserve purity and contain the pranas, which the Gods and devas can see and absorb and enjoy and reflect back into the auras of devotees to cleanse them."

### Quote from Gurudeva

As we come closer to the wonderful Gods of Hinduism, we come to love them in a natural way, to be guided by them and to depend on them more than we depend on ourselves.

### Supplementary Reading

*Merging with Siva*, Lesson 140: Grace of the Gods

When you worship the God in the temple through puja and ceremony, you are bringing that Divinity out of the microcosm and into this macrocosm. You supply the energy through your worship and your devotion, through your thought forms, and even your physical aura. The pujari purifies and magnetizes the stone image for this to take place. The Gods and the devas are also magnetizing the stone image with their energy, and finally the moment is ready and they can come out of the microcosm into this macrocosm and bless the people. You observe that they stayed only for



an instant, but to them it was a longer time. The time sense in the inner worlds is different.

If you want to get acquainted with the Gods, first get to know Lord Ganesha. Take a picture and look at it. Put a picture of Lord Ganesha in your car or in your kitchen. Get acquainted through sight. Then come to know Him through sound by chanting His names and hymns. This is how you get acquainted with your personal Deity. You will get to know Him just as you know your best friend, but in a more intimate way, for Ganesha is within you and there ahead of you to guide your soul's evolution. As you get acquainted with Him, Ganesha then knows that you're coming up on



the spinal climb of the kundalini. He will work with you and work out your karma. Your whole life will begin to smooth out. Religion is the connection between the three worlds, and temple worship is how you can get your personal connection with the inner worlds. You never really lose connection with the inner worlds, but if you are not conscious of that connection, then it appears that you have.

The Gods of Hinduism create, preserve and protect mankind. It is through their sanction that all things continue, and through their will that they cease. It is through their grace that all good things happen, and all things that happen are for the good. Now, you may wonder why one would put himself under this divine authority so willingly, thus losing his semblance of freedom. But does one not willingly put himself in total harmony with those whom he loves? Of course he does. And loving these great souls comes so naturally. Their timeless wisdom, their vast intelligence, their thoroughly benign natures, their ceaseless concern for the problems and well-being of devotees, and their power and sheer godly brilliance—all these inspire our love.

#### **Additional Resources**

*Dancing with Siva*, Lexicon: *yājñā*



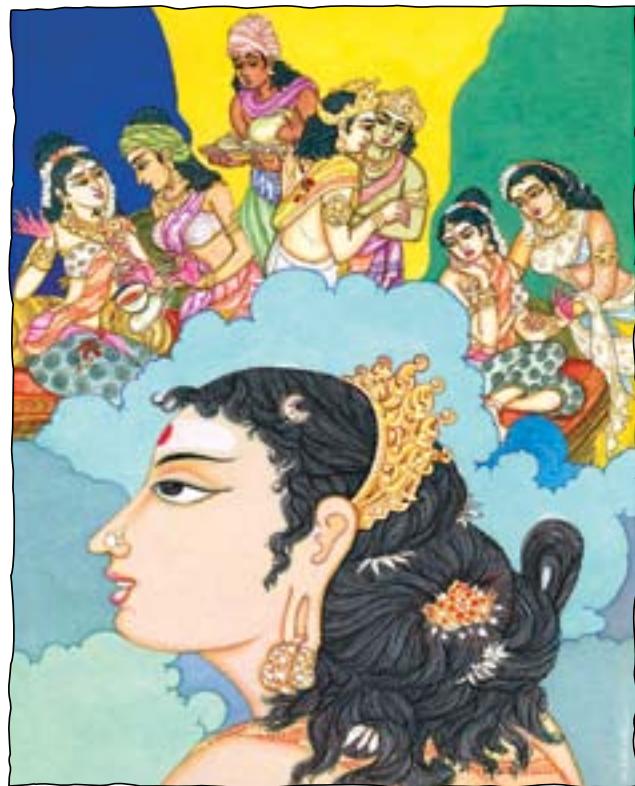
## Six Helpful Exercises in Claiming Our Spiritual Identity

This section of *sadhanas* consists of six exercises in claiming our spiritual identity. Each exercise focuses on a different perspective of our spiritual nature. The idea is to read the explanation in the supplementary reading section, the quote from Gurudeva and then wander the monastery grounds for at least fifteen minutes practicing the *sadhana*.

### 1. Not Body, Mind, Emotions

#### **Sadhana Practice**

Suggestions for Wandering : As you wander, be detached from body, mind and emotions. When you find yourself saying, I am hungry or I am thirsty, rephrase and say my body is hungry or thirsty. When you find yourself thinking I understand or don't understand certain points in the lesson, rephrase: my intellect understands or doesn't understand. When you claim an emotional identity—I am certainly happy this morning, or I am a bit depressed this morning, again rephrase: my emotions are happy or a bit depressed.



### **Quote from Gurudeva**

Become a student of life and live life fully, and as you merge into the sea of actinic life, you will realize that you are not your mind, your body or your emotions. You will realize that you are the complete master of your mind, your body and your emotions.

### **Supplementary Reading**

“**R**ishis proclaim that we are not our body, mind or emotions. We are divine souls on a wondrous journey. We came from God, live in God and are evolving into oneness with God. We are, in truth, the Truth we seek.”

This verse takes the approach of focusing on what we are not in order to lessen our attachment to them. Gurudeva describes this approach in the following way:

“Most people do not understand that they have a mind, that they have a body and emotions, that what they are is something far more lasting and profound. They think they are a mind, they presume they are a body and they feel they are a given set of emotions, positive and negative. To progress on the spiritual path, they must learn they are not these things but are, in fact, a radiant, conscious soul that never dies, that can control the mind and directs the emotion toward fulfillment of dharma and resolution of karma. While living in a normal, agitated state of fears, worries and

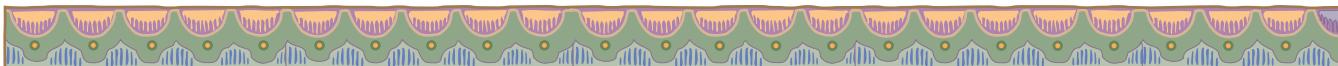
doubts, seeing the deeper truths is impossible. To such a person, there is no doubt about it: ‘I am fearful. I am worried. I am confused. I am sick.’ He says such things daily, thinking of himself in a very limited way.”

Let's look first at the body. The modern, secular world is constantly telling us we are the body. A great deal of this message comes through the media, including advertising.

We are taught to idolize movie stars; and, of course, the actresses are all beautiful and the actors handsome, otherwise they wouldn't be movie stars. Advertisements for clothing, beauty products and weight loss programs tell us the many ways “you,” meaning the body, can be more beautiful or handsome. What we read about health and aging also helps convince us that we are the body. We learn about the many illnesses that make us sick and the aging process where we become old.

Of course, the spiritual point of view is that we have a body rather than we are the body. The problem with thinking we are the body is that we put too much of our time into trying to hide the aging process, for example. And the fact we are aging is somewhat depressing to us. We would prefer to stay young forever. Also, not being as beautiful or handsome as the idolized movie stars can also make us feel inferior or frustrated.

Second, let's look at the mind, specifically the intellect.



Modern schools develop the intellectual mind, our ability to think and reason, which is quite important. However, because modern education is totally secular, there is no reference to the soul or a sense of the need for the intellect to be a tool of the soul. Thus the intellect itself is extolled as our highest ability. I know a number of university graduates who have acquired the attitude of always trying to out-think or out-debate you. It has become a way of life and reflects the belief that they are their intellectual mind.

The spiritual point of view is that we have an intellect rather than we are the intellect. The problem with thinking we are the intellect is that we are cut off from our deeper identity with our soul and its intuitive abilities. As Gurudeva says in *Cognizability*, “The intellect is the greatest barrier to the superconscious.” Being cut off from a deeper, spiritual identity can also be a source of depression and negativity.

Third, we have the emotions. We do not have to go to school to acquire the idea that we are our emotions. We learn this perspective from observing our parents and other adults who act in a way that shows us they believe they are their emotions. This perspective stays with us unless we are taught otherwise. We are also not taught that we can control the emotions. Therefore, when life brings us positive experiences we are happy. When life brings us difficult experiences

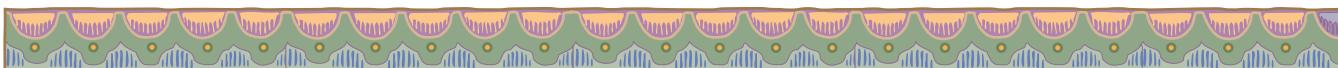
we are unhappy. And the idea that we could change unhappiness into happiness, through spiritual practices such as meditation, never occurs to us. The idea that our tendency to quickly anger could be overcome never occurs to us.

The spiritual point of view is that we have emotions rather than we are the emotions. The problem with thinking we are the emotions is that our life is always getting disturbed by them. We swing from up to down in mood, from calm to fiery. All this emotional activity completely covers up and obscures our soul nature from us. Emotional control—which comes from realizing I am not my emotions, rather my emotions are something I can control—is required to identify with the soul and make steady spiritual progress.

A quote from Yogaswami: “You are not the body. You are not the mind, nor the intellect, nor the will. You are the Atma. The Atma is eternal. This is the conclusion at which great souls have arrived from their experience. Let this truth become well impressed on your mind. But there is one thing to which you must give attention. Never swerve from the path of dharma. Let it be your practice to regard every life as the holy presence of God. He is both within and without.”

### **Additional Resources**

*Merging with Siva*, Chapter One: How to Realize God



## 2. The Soul Controls Instincts, Intellect, Ego

### Sadhana Practice

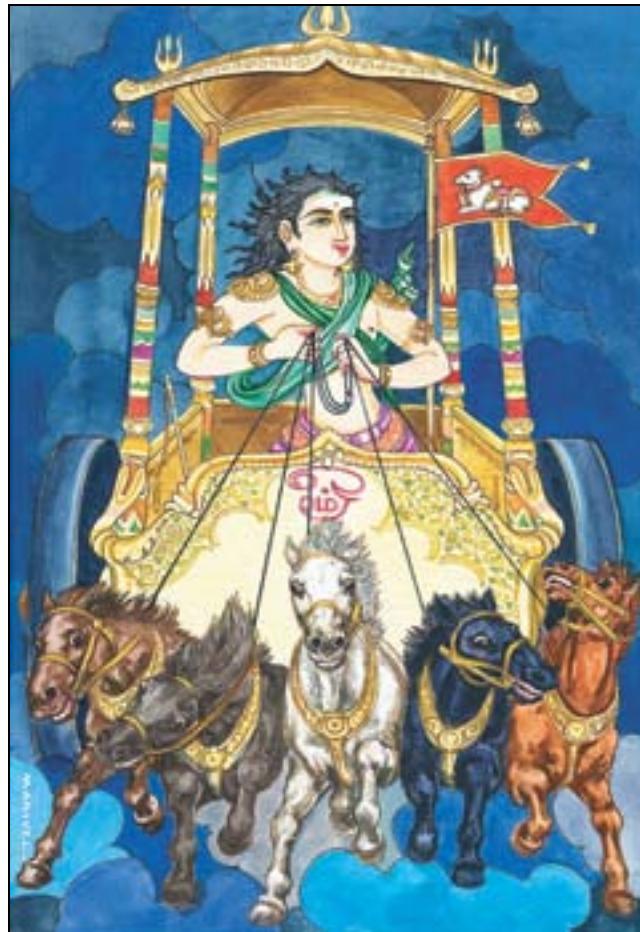
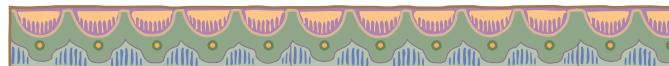
Suggestions for Wandering: For the first few minutes of wandering, watch your intellect think and notice particularly how active it is. Then sit for a few minutes and regulate your breath by breathing nine counts in, hold one, nine counts out, hold one. Keep your eyes open during this breathing exercise. Then again focus on your intellect and see how much the thought activity has slowed down.

### Quote from Gurudeva

Seeking for God in the depths of one's being through control of the mind, control of one's thoughts, feelings and emotions, gives birth to the highest qualities of nature. This transformation begins to take place as the light of the soul becomes more and more apparent within the mind.

### Supplementary Reading

**M**an's nature can be described as three-fold: superconscious or spiritual, intellectual or mental and instinctive or physical-emotional. It is the instinctive nature, the animal-like nature, which contains the tendencies to become angry and harm others. The goal is to learn to control these animal instincts as well as the ramifications of the



intellect and the pride of the ego and manifest one's spiritual nature. (Bodhinatha)

In our last spiritual identity exercise, we focused on the idea that we are not our body, mind or emotions. In this exercise, we are taking this idea one step further by saying that the goal is to learn to control the body, mind and emotions. Specifically, we are focusing on three types of control:

Controlling the animal instincts

Controlling the ramifications of the intellect

Controlling the pride of the ego

When we are successful in controlling these three, our spiritual nature naturally manifests.

Gurudeva quote: "When the instinctive mind becomes lifted into the light, a person is strong enough to be kind when he could have become angry. He generates enough spiritual power to be generous when he might have reacted selfishly. Disciplined periods of meditation nurture a magnanimous and benevolent nature. Such a being is naturally in the light of the supreme consciousness. His great strength is humility, a shock absorber for the malicious experiences in life. Humility makes one immune to resentment and places everything in proportion and balance within the mind. A person lacking in humility does not give the

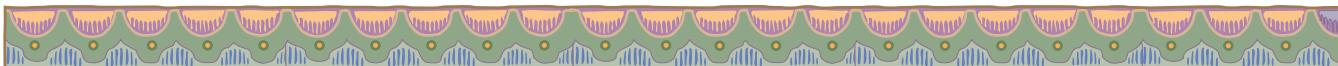
appearance of being firmly rooted and poised within himself. At the other extreme, the arrogant person who lives in the shadows of the mind presents a pitiful picture of insecurity and incompleteness."

### Instincts

Bodhinatha quote: One way we become a more spiritual person is gaining control over the tendencies of our instinctive mind. The instinctive mind comes along with having a physical body. If we didn't have a physical body, we wouldn't have an instinctive mind. It comes along with it. You can't get one without the other—it's a package deal! If you want to be here on Earth to unfold spiritually, you have to work through the animal instincts that come along with the physical body and gain better control over them. Each of the ten *yamas* gives us a different tendency of the instinctive mind to restrain. Therefore, they are invaluable tools in helping someone on the spiritual path gain better control over the instinctive nature.

Looking at each of the ten *yamas* and the instinct which it helps restrain would take far too much time and is worthy of a number of classes in itself. So we have chosen just one *yama* which is an easy one to relate to, which is moderate appetite, *mitahara*.

The instinctive tendency we are focusing on harness-



ing is the tendency to eat too much as well as foods that are not good for our health. Gurudeva states: “*Mitahara* is a restraint that we must all obey and which is one of the most difficult.” However, he explained, gaining control over our appetite helps us have greater control over all the other instinctive tendencies. So in making progress with this *yama*, we also progress in all the others as well.

Gurudeva’s last point is an important one—gaining control over our appetite helps us have greater control over all the other instinctive tendencies. This highlights the fact that controlling our appetite is a very worthwhile endeavor, as it automatically increases our control over other instincts.

A simple way to increase our control over our appetite is by fasting on a regular basis, such as on *pradosha* days. Another is to avoid the tendency to overcome the emotion of unhappiness by overeating and develop a new habit to replace it, such as going to the temple to attend puja to change unhappiness to happiness.

### **Intellect**

Let’s turn now to the second point, of controlling the ramifications of the intellect. Here are four keys as to how we can control its ramifications.

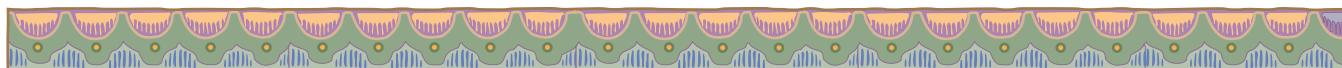
**FIRST KEY:** The first key is the concept in our last spiritual identity exercise, which is that we are not the intellect but the soul. This insight helps us not put all our energy into constantly acquiring more intellectual knowledge. We do not feel a great need to know all about the latest trends in the world. We are also less inclined to engage others in intellectual debates to show the superiority of our intellect to theirs.

**SECOND KEY:** Gurudeva has a relevant aphorism in his writing *Cognizability* which says, “The intellect strengthened with opinionated knowledge is the only barrier to the superconscious.” This is taking the idea of not being the intellect one step further by emphasizing that, in fact, when it is filled with the opinions of others, it is an obstacle to experiencing our soul, our superconscious intuition.

**THIRD KEY:** Regulating our breath quiets down our thinking mind. This is called pranayama and the basic form of it is nine counts in, hold one, nine counts out, hold one.

**FOURTH KEY:** Refraining from excessive talk is also quite helpful in harnessing the intellectual mind. It also helps us awaken observation, which is the first faculty of the awakening of the superconscious regions.

In our guru *parampara*, one of Chellappaswami’s great sayings is *Naam Ariyom*, which means “We do not know.” Yogaswami’s famous remark was, in scolding a devotee who



spent too much time reading books on philosophy: “It’s not in books, you fool.” When it comes to spirituality, the intellect cannot help us experience the soul. It can help us do a lot of things. It can help us run a computer, it can help us go shopping, it can help us cook, it can help us calculate. It is a useful tool. It is not that the intellect is not good. It just does not have any place when it comes to experiencing our soul. It can be the barrier. Said another way, the goal is to make the intellect a tool of the soul, subservient to the soul, rather than dominant over it.

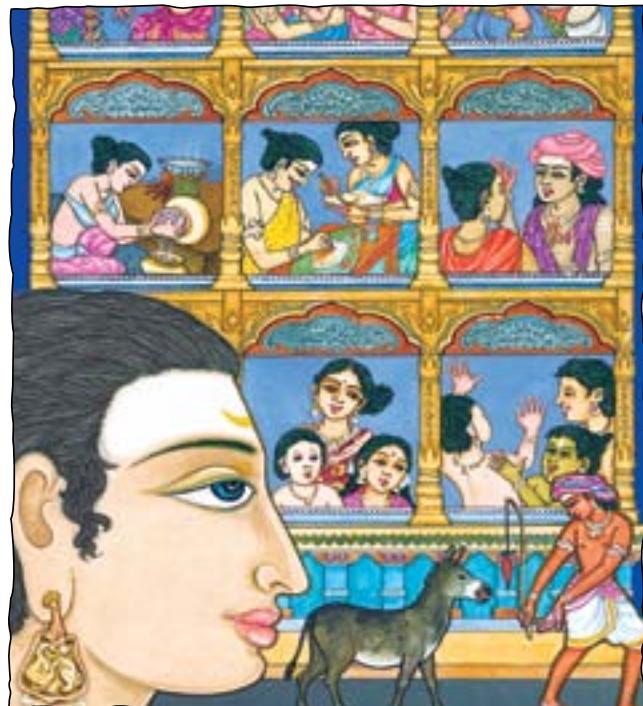
### Ego

Let’s turn now to the third point, of controlling the pride of the ego. This is the idea of feeling superior to others, being conceited. Of course, a sense of superiority comes from identifying with body, mind and emotions. And all of our spiritual practices help lessen any pride we have. However, here is one specific suggestion.

In informal discussions as well as in formal meetings, such as a committee, refrain from dominating the meeting with your ideas. Be respectful of the opinion of each person who is present. Furthermore, approach the meeting with the strategy that the best meeting is one in which creativity is present and the final concept exceeds the ideas that any individual brought to the meeting.

### Additional Resources

*Merging with Siva*, Chapter 10: From Darkness to Light



### 3. The Soul Is the Witness Who Observes the Mind

#### Sadhana Practice

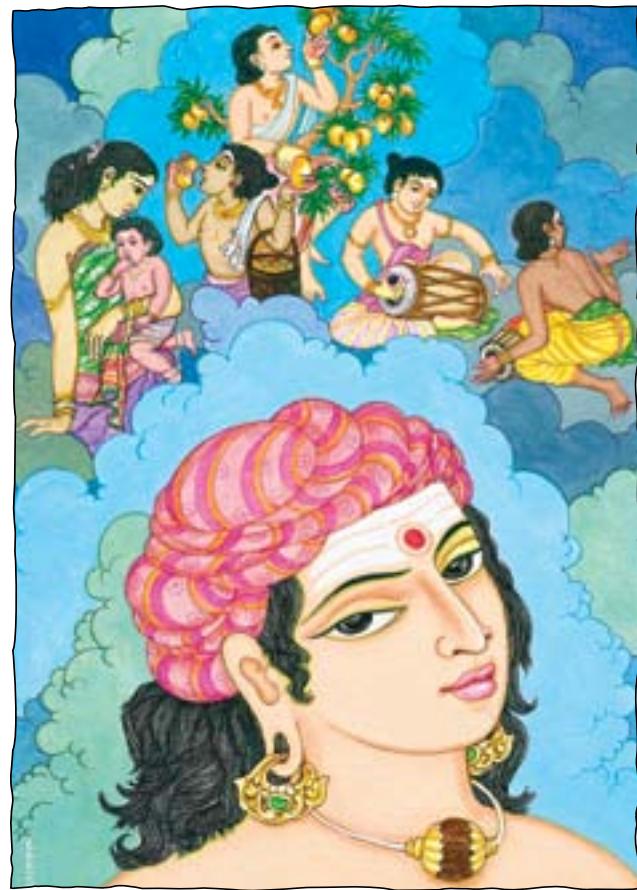
Suggestions for wandering: Begin by walking and observing the details of every aspect of nature that you see—the colors and shapes of the plants, trees, water and other objects. Then sit for a while and be the witness of your thoughts. Follow Markanduswami's exercise and try to be aware of everything you think about. Don't miss one topic of thought; identify them all.

#### Quote from Gurudeva

We can see that from the mystic's point of view, he is the watcher. And as the mirror is in no way discolored by what it reflects, so is the mystic in his perfected state. Your perfected state, too, as the watcher is right there, deep within you.

#### Supplementary Reading

**B**efore we actually begin serious *sadhana*, we must understand ourselves better, understand the three phases of the mind: instinctive, intellectual and superconscious. This takes time, meditation and study—study that must culminate in actual experience of the instinctive mind, the intellectual mind and the transcendent subsuperconscious state



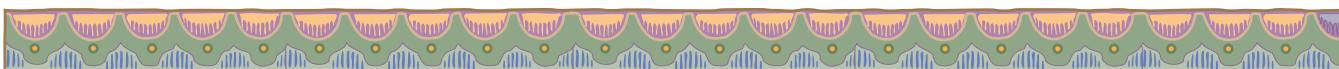
of the mind. Seeing the mind in its totality convinces the seeker that he is something else, he is the witness who observes the mind and cannot, therefore, be the mind itself. (*Merging with Siva*, Chapter One)

In this, our third exercise in claiming our spiritual identity, we are taking the concept of not being the mind one step deeper by identifying as the witness who observes the mind.

Markanduswami story about being the witness: There was a Saivite hermit, the venerable Markanduswami, living in a humble mud hut in Sri Lanka. He was very old when we met him in the 1970's and was for many years a disciple of Paramaguru Yogaswami. In fact, his every utterance was a quote from his guru. One afternoon at his hut, he described Yogaswami's approach to dealing with thoughts during meditation. He said, "Yogaswami said, 'Realize Self by self. You want to read this book, that book and all these books. The Book of Infinite Knowledge is here (pointing to his chest). You'd better open your own book.' The prescription he gave me to open that book is this: 'When you are in meditation, you watch the mind. Here and there the mind is hopping. One, two, three... a hundred. In a few seconds the mind goes to a hundred

places. Let him be. You also watch very carefully. Here and there this mind is running. Let him go anywhere, but if he goes to a hundred places, you must follow him to a hundred places. You must not miss even a single one. Follow him and note, He is going here. Now he is going there.' You must not miss even a single one. That is the prescription Satguru Yogaswami gave me to open this inner book. He said, 'Watch very attentively and learn to pick up things coming from within. Those messages are very valuable. You can't value them. Realize Self by self and open this inner book. Why don't you open your own book? Why don't you make use of it? What an easy path I am prescribing for you!'"

Gurudeva has a related comment: We can see that from the mystic's point of view, he is the watcher. And as the mirror is in no way discolored by what it reflects, so is the mystic in his perfected state. Your perfected state, too, as the watcher, is right there, deep within you. The next time you sit for meditation, follow my guru's advice to us all and witness your thoughts. Be that stationary awareness, holding form in its own perfection. All you have to do is to watch your mind think. Then and only then are you experiencing your perfect state of inner being. The only



difference between the *jnani* and the novice is that the *jnani* stays in there longer as the watcher, whereas the novice experiences this only momentarily from time to time.

A simple exercise for cultivating being the witness is when walking in nature, to notice every detail that you can about what you see. Perhaps you have had the experience of walking with a young child and they point out to you qualities about what you are seeing that you hadn't noticed. Young children have great powers of observation, because their intellect is not overactive, nor have they accumulated lots of unresolved past experiences. So we can try and be like them by noticing as many details as possible. Becoming a good witness of our natural surroundings is excellent preparation for becoming a good witness of our thoughts.

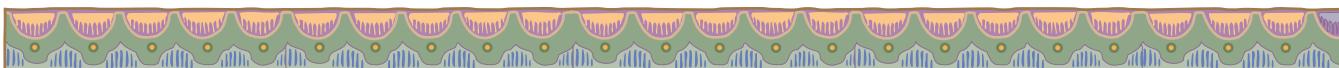
Another exercise is what we call mountain-top consciousness. In Gurudeva's early ministry, the first Sunday of every month he would take his devotees to the top of Mt. Tamalpais for the purpose of helping them achieve a mountain-top consciousness. Looking down on the cities below and the homes in them somehow helps you look more clearly at the patterns in your own life—witness more clearly what you are actually doing on a day-to-day basis. Often we can clearly see for the first time some negative patterns that we would be better off without. This, of course, is the first step toward changing those patterns.

Of course, you don't have to always go to the top of a mountain to clearly see the patterns in your thoughts. Once we have caught the idea, we can become quite skilled at seeing patterns and adjusting them no matter where we are. For example, if we find ourselves remembering specific events of the past on a regular basis, it shows it is an experience we have not resolved. Gurudeva suggests writing down such experiences and burning the paper and to continue doing this until we no longer think about the experience much at all. This shows it is resolved.

Another common example of an unproductive thought pattern is to think about a major decision you need to make, but without making the decision. In other words, we think about it and jump to another topic without making a conclusion. I have found an effective way for handling this is to make an appointment with yourself, say at 10am tomorrow, when you will sit down and think about it until you reach a conclusion. Then if you find yourself thinking about it before then, put the thought off by saying, "I have an appointment, and there is no need to think about it before then."

#### **Additional Resources**

*Merging with Siva*, Chapter 30: The Nature of Thought



## 4. You Are the Experiencer, Not the Experience

### Sadhana Practice

Suggestions for Wandering: Think back over the last few weeks and the states of consciousness you most commonly experienced. Imagine being in that state of mind in the present. Then see yourself as the experiencer, awareness, of that state of consciousness. Focus on identifying with the unchanging awareness that is constant through all the varied states of consciousness you experienced.

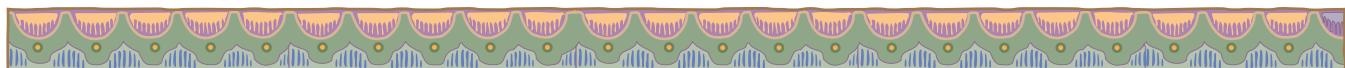
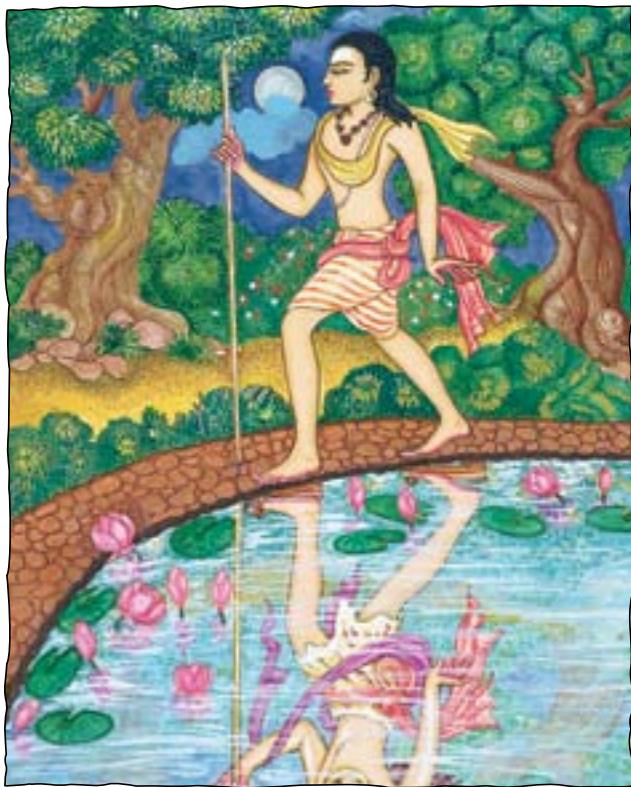
### Quote from Gurudeva

Awareness is free to travel in the mind according to our knowledge, our discipline and our ability to detach from the objects of awareness and see ourselves as the experience of awareness itself.

### Supplementary Reading

“Should we acquire the ability to identify as the experiencer instead of the experience, the true and valid nature of awareness and its patterns of movement in the mind become evident.”

In this, our fourth exercise in claiming our spiritual identity, we are deepening the concept of being the witness who observes the mind by exploring the concepts of awareness



and consciousness.

Let's look first at the process of seeing an object, our study notes, for example. When we look at the study notes, we say "I see the study notes." Does anyone think they are the study notes? No. We have been trained to think of ourselves as the seer and not the physical object seen.

Sound is the same way. Listen to the sounds inside and outside of this room. We say "I hear the sounds." Again, we have been trained to think of ourselves as the listener and not the sound heard.

Now, let's take our emotions. When we are happy we say "I am happy." And when we are sad, we say "I am unhappy." This is not parallel to seeing with the eyes and listening with the ears. To be parallel it would have to be "I am experiencing happiness." And "I am experiencing unhappiness."

We can see that we have been taught that we are the happiness and the unhappiness rather than the experiencer of those emotions. However, that is not really the deepest perspective. Just as much as we are not the study notes we looked at, nor the sounds we heard, we are not the emotions of happiness or unhappiness we experience.

Happiness and unhappiness are the experience; we are the experiencer of both. This shift in identity from the experience to the experiencer is an important part of deepening our spiritual identity and an important concept in Gurude-

va's teachings.

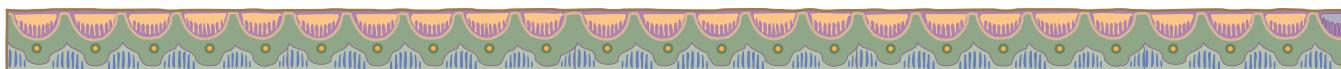
Gurudeva labels what we are experiencing in the mind as consciousness and the experiencer as awareness. Awareness is constant, whereas the different states of consciousness we are experiencing are constantly changing based on our experiences in life, especially our interactions with other people.

The soul's ability to sense, see or know and to be conscious of this knowing is called awareness. It is described as individual consciousness, perception, knowing; the witness of perception, the "inner eye of the soul." Sanskrit terms for awareness include *sakshin* and *chit*. Awareness is known in the *Agamas* as *chitshakti*, the "power of awareness," the inner self and eternal witness. Awareness is known as *nīf* in the mystical Natha language of Shum.

When our interactions with other people go well, our awareness ends up in positive, happy states of consciousness. And when our interactions with other people do not go well, our awareness tends to end up in negative, unhappy states of consciousness.

However, what we really are in both experiences, awareness, is unchanged. Awareness is like the mind's eye. Just as our physical eyes look at something beautiful and then at something ugly and are neither, our mind's eye, awareness, looks at happiness and unhappiness and is neither.

Therefore, the goal is to reprogram our subconscious



mind to look at our everyday experiences in this way and say to ourselves “this morning I find my awareness is in a state of consciousness that is content and happy” rather than “This morning I am content and happy.”

As some of you know, Gurudeva created his own language to be able to have precise descriptions of the realm of meditation. Every new field of knowledge traditionally develops its own technical vocabulary. For example, computers have brought with them a complex vocabulary of recently created terms.

The language Gurudeva created is called the Shum-Tyeif language (also simply known as Shum). It is a Natha mystical language of meditation that was revealed to Gurudeva in Switzerland in 1968. You will be interested to know that there is not just one word in the Shum language for awareness but rather there are many words that give precise descriptions to different perspectives on awareness. The perspective we are referring to is the Shum word *nīf*» (neeeeef). Its particular perspective of awareness is defined as individual awareness distinguished from impersonal consciousness. It is also defined as the observation of individual awareness as well as the perception of being aware. These three aspects of the definition of *nīf*» are helpful in grasping the full meaning:

1) Individual awareness distinguished from impersonal consciousness – distinguished, of course, is focus-

ing on recognizing the difference between awareness and consciousness

2) Observation of individual awareness – a clear perception of what awareness is; we see it

3) Perception of being aware – the sense of being an awareness independent of consciousness (like an eye that is not seeing an object, an ear not hearing anything)

It is interesting to note that Gurudeva has assembled in Shum what he calls the *īf*» collection of twenty-seven words for different perspectives on awareness. For example:

*Īf*» is the observation of one’s awareness flowing or traveling from one area of the higher mind to another.

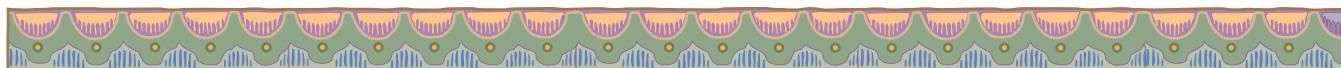
*Nūmf*» is the observation of one’s awareness flowing into and out of lower areas of the physical and astral mind.

Here is one word from the *īf*» collection of a deeper nature:

*Innyawf* is awareness of experiencing one’s own soul body.

## Additional Resources

*Merging with Siva*, Chapter 6: Wisdom’s Path



## 5. Awareness Traveling through the Mind

### Sadhana Practice

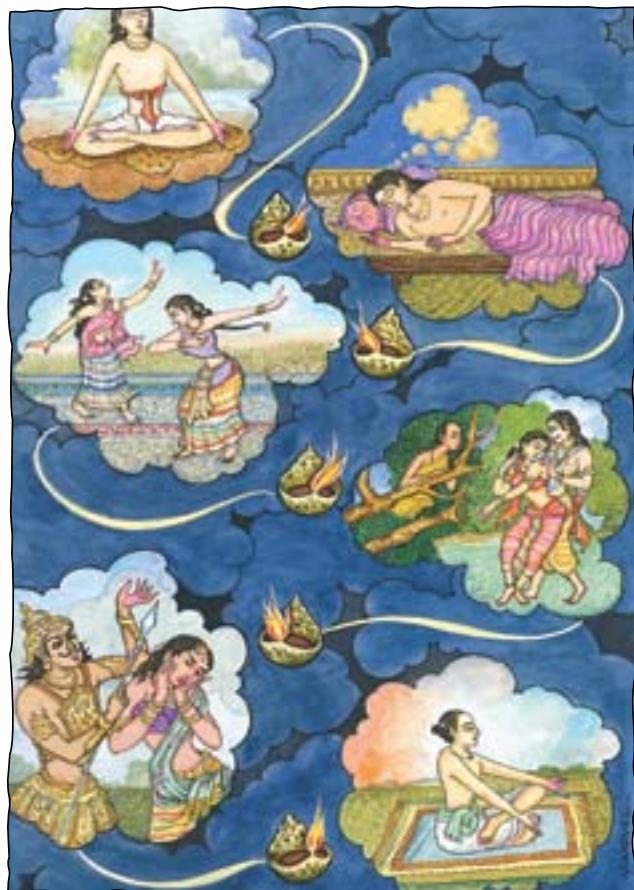
Exercise for wandering: Think back to your last visit to a large city. Recollect the various parts of the city you traveled through. Impress yourself with the idea that you are the traveler moving through the various sections of the city. Now reflect on the states of consciousness, both positive and negative, you have been experiencing the last few months. Impress yourself with the idea that you are the inner traveler, awareness, moving through these different areas of consciousness that are always existing.

### Quote from Gurudeva

Consciousness and awareness are the same when awareness is totally identified with and attached to that which it is aware of. To separate the two is the artful practice of yoga.

### Supplementary Reading

To the awakened mystic, there is only one mind. There is no "your mind" and "my mind," just one mind, finished, complete in all stages of manifestation. Man's individual awareness flows through the mind as the traveler treads the globe. Just as the free citizen moves from city to city and country to country, awareness moves through the multitude



of forms in the mind. (*Merging with Siva*, Chapter Six)

This fifth exercise introduces the idea of awareness traveling.

Gurudeva develops this idea in one of his *Merging with Siva* lessons: “I look at the mind as a traveler looks at the world. Himalayan Academy students have traveled with me all over the world, in hundreds of cities, in dozens of countries, as we’ve set up ashramas here and there on our Innersearch Travel-Study programs. Together we have gone in and in and in and in amid different types of environments, but the inside is always the same wherever we are. So, look at the mind as the traveler looks at the world.”

Just as you travel around the world, when you’re in meditation you travel in the mind. We have the big city called thought. We have another big city called emotion. There’s yet another big city called fear, and another one nearby called worry. But we are not those cities. We’re just the traveler. When we’re in San Francisco, we are not San Francisco. When we’re aware of worry, we are not worry. We are just the inner traveler who has become aware of the different areas of the mind.”

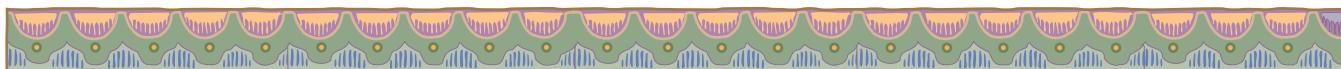
As we mentioned, Gurudeva created the Shum words *iiſ* and *nūmf* to name the experience of observing one’s awareness flowing or traveling from one area of the mind to another. The vast areas of the mind contain many things

such as pictures, concepts. Our individual awareness flows from one place within it to another.

The traveler, the experiencer, is of course referred to as awareness. What it experiences, the various areas of mind, is called consciousness. We can drive through a city, such as San Francisco, and experience the different districts in it such as the downtown business district, Chinatown, the fancy hotels on Nob Hill, the wealthier residential districts and the poorer districts. Just as the different areas of San Francisco are always there, the various states of consciousness always exist—they don’t go away just because we are not aware of them at the moment.

In our last spiritual identity exercise we learned to identify with the experiencer rather than the experience, being awareness rather than consciousness. The current exercise takes this one step further by realizing that awareness can travel from one state of consciousness to another. When we drive through San Francisco, we can choose which district to drive to. Similarly, in the mind, we can choose which area of consciousness to have awareness travel to.

Our car can malfunction and we can end up stuck in one district of the city, unable to travel. Likewise, our awareness can become stuck in a particular area of consciousness, seemingly unable to move to another. Gurudeva has an insightful statement describing this: “Consciousness and



awareness are the same when awareness is totally identified with and attached to that which it is aware of. To separate the two is the artful practice of yoga.”

What are some keys to achieving the ability to move our awareness freely through the various areas of consciousness?

A good place to start is to understand the tendency of awareness to move around because of what others are saying to us and how they are treating us. Some people’s state of consciousness is totally at the mercy of others. If what they are saying and how they are treating us is problem free, then we are happy. If they are saying things we do not want them to or mistreating us, then we are unhappy. Also, casual interactions with others can move our awareness into the same states of consciousness as the other person, if we are not careful.

To have the ability to move awareness, we need to avoid conflict with others. Conflict upsets and externalizes us, and this makes it easy to get stuck in an externalized state of mind for a few hours or even a few days.

Another point is that we really need to intellectually accept the idea that all areas of consciousness are always existing and that our awareness can travel to them if we learn how to direct it. Inner light is always there; ananda, bliss is always inside of us.

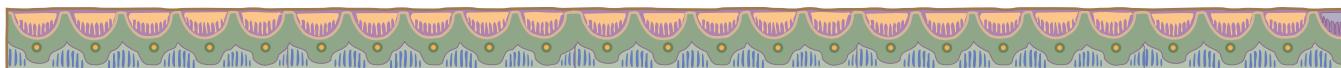
Regulating our breath, pranayama, is also important in

gaining the ability to move awareness.

Gurudeva: “In meditation, awareness must be loosened and made free to move vibrantly and buoyantly into the inner depths where peace and bliss remain undisturbed for centuries, or out into the odic force fields of the material world where man is in conflict with his brother, or into the internal depths of the subconscious mind. Meditate, therefore, on awareness traveling freely through all areas of the mind.”

### **Additional Resources**

*Merging with Siva*, Chapter 35: The Story of Awareness



## 6. Life of Life

### Sadhana Practice

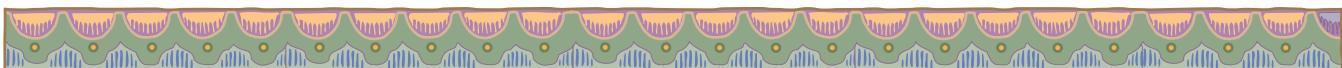
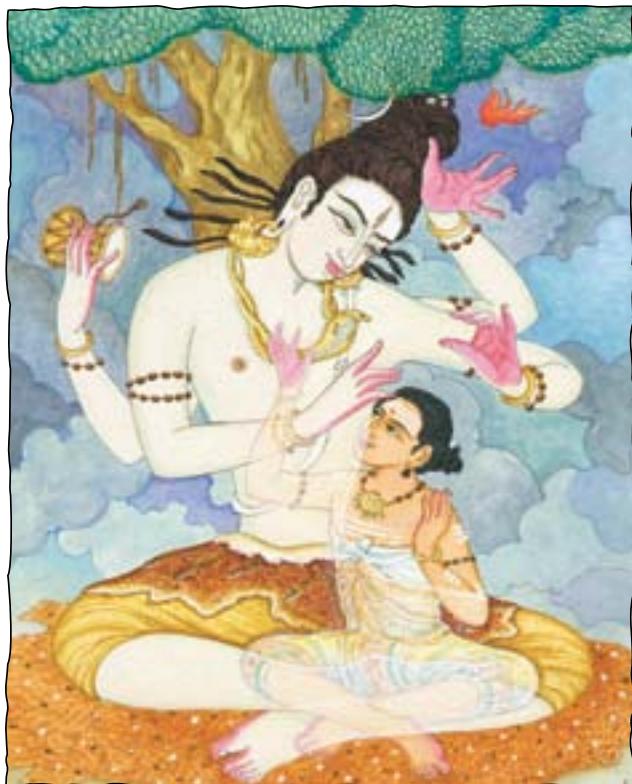
Suggestions for Wandering: Step one is to find a mirror and look into it with the purpose of seeing your soul. This is done by looking into your eyes and seeing the sparkle, the pure life energy within them.

Step two is to wander the grounds and look at the humans and the nature that surrounds you and focus on the life in it—the people, plants, trees, animals, fish birds.

Step three is to focus so intently on the life in all these forms that you become aware of God as the sense of oneness that pervades them all, the “Life of life.” Follow Yogaswami’s advice and consider yourself as the same as others and not separate. You are in everyone.

### Quote from Gurudeva

As our great *satguru*, Siva Yogaswami, said, “There is one thing that Lord Siva cannot do. He can do everything, but there is one thing He cannot do. He cannot separate Himself from me.” That is the only thing that God Siva cannot do. He cannot take Himself out of you.



## Supplementary Reading

**H**e who knows God as the Life of life, the Eye of the eye, the Ear of the ear, the Mind of the mind, he indeed comprehends fully the Cause of all causes.

In this exercise, our sixth and final one, we are taking the concept of the soul and having an individual awareness even deeper by focusing on the underlying unitary consciousness that is found in the essence of the soul. In this perspective, there is only one being, not a group of separate individuals.

In the monks' morning Shum meditation, there is a word that is meditated on toward the end which is *iliftyē*. It names the experience of being the life force in everyone. Gurudeva's exact definition is: seeing, knowing, feeling, being *lamf*, the life force, actinic energy in everyone, especially those closest to the experiencer. This last part of Gurudeva's definition gives us an important key to achieving this experience of God, which is that it is easier to achieve with those we are close to.

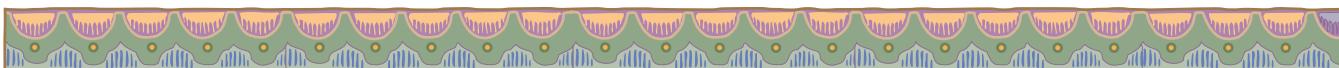
The Hindu idea that God is inside of every person as the essence of our soul, and can be experienced today, is quite different from the concept of Western religions that God is in heaven and therefore not able to be experienced. Gurudeva stated this beautifully when he said, "God Siva is so close to us. He is closer than our breathing, nearer to us than our hands or feet. Yes, He is the very essence of our

soul."

Gurudeva gives us another way of experiencing God within all, which is focusing on the life energy in everything we see. He states in the first verse of *Dancing with Siva*: "We are immortal souls living and growing in the great school of earthly experience in which we have lived many lives. Vedic rishis have given us courage by uttering the simple truth, 'God is the Life of our life.' A great sage carried it further by saying there is one thing God cannot do: God cannot separate Himself from us. This is because God is our life. God is the life in the birds. God is the life in the fish. God is the life in the animals. Becoming aware of this Life energy in all that lives is becoming aware of God's loving presence within us.

"We are the undying consciousness and energy flowing through all things. Deep inside we are perfect this very moment, and we have only to discover and live up to this perfection to be whole. Our energy and God's energy are the same, ever coming out of the void. We are all beautiful children of God. Each day we should try to see the life energy in trees, birds, animals and people. When we do, we are seeing God Siva in action."

As we mentioned in one of our talks, in Hindu thought the concept of life and the soul are synonymous. One of the advantages of this simple explanation of the soul, which equates it with life, is that it makes it easy to experience the



soul. We can do this by looking into a mirror and seeing the light and sparkle within our eyes. That life is your soul.

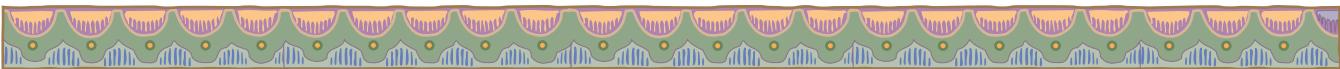
Taking this concept of divinity one step further is the concept of God as the Life of life, the Soul of the soul. Another useful phrase that conveys the same meaning is that God is the essence of the soul, meaning if you look deeply enough into the soul you will experience God. In other words, the life we see in someone is the soul, and the essence or Life of that life is God.

We also mentioned that the way we know if we are experiencing the individual soul or God as the essence of the soul is that when we are experiencing the soul, there is a sense that every soul is separate from the others. However, when we perceive God as the Life of life, the sense of separateness is replaced with a sense of oneness.

Yogaswami's story which illustrates this point is: There were four people in the room. Yogaswami asked, "How many are here?" Someone said: 'Four'. Yogaswami then said, "No. Only one is here, like four people." Yogaswami would often make the statement to his devotees "I am in you." He would also say: "I know all your thoughts; not only yours but everybody's; I am in everybody. You do not know this, because you think of yourself as being separate from others. Learn to consider yourself as the same as others and not separate."

### Additional Resources

*Merging with Siva* Lesson 315: Yoking the Inner Worlds



CHAPTER SEVEN

## Twelve Shum Meditations

### 1. Inner Light Meditation

*Based on the January Mamsanī*

#### Sadhana Practice In English

Begin by looking out into the exterior world through the physical eyes, which are slightly open, and at the same time looking back into the head as if one had pupils on the back of the eyeballs. Next, visualize a tree. See the image of the tree and the light that lights it up. Repeat this with different trees for a few minutes. Move on to the next portion of the meditation by the command *nīmf» balikana*, meaning to focus on the light and hold it without any images appearing. It is the moon-like glow that remains where the mental pictures used to be. If the mind wanders and starts to create images, quickly dismiss them and bring it back to the imageless light.

#### Sadhana Practice In Shum

*tyēmmūif*

*sīkamchacha*

*ūū»*

*nīmrehnīmling*



*nīmf»*

*balikana*

### Quote from Gurudeva

You are a divine being of light, and this you will truly realize by becoming aware of this light within you. Adjust yourself to the realization that you are a divine being, a self-effulgent, radiant being of light.

### Supplementary Reading

*Twelve Shum Meditations:* Shum-Tyeif *Mamsanī* for the Month of January

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Our first *mamsanī* tells us to not only meditate upon it during vigil after our worship and before sleep but all through the day. Yes! We must constantly be looking within ourselves all month during our waking hours. Throughout each day, try to see the light within the mind. Have you ever stopped to think that the light that lights up your thoughts, even

when you are in a darkened room, is the light of the mind? That is true. Try taking the image out of the mind, and you will see that only light is left. Just before you go to sleep each night, while you are thinking and visualizing the happenings of the just-completed day, the images that you are seeing are set apart, distinguished, by light, shadows and color. This is the light of the mind that you are seeing. But this light is taken for granted. We do not often think about it. We are too involved in the pictures that we are making. The practice to be mastered this month is to consciously remove the pictures and only see *balikana*, the light of the mind. Even in our dreams, there is light which lights up the colors of the scenes that pass before us. Truly, each and every one of us is a divine being of light. Yes! You are a divine being of light, and this you will truly realize by becoming aware of this light within you. Adjust yourself to the realization that you are a divine being, a self-effulgent, radiant being of light.

*tyēmmūif* ଶୁମ

27.33.41

- 1) Looking within with eyes slightly open; 2) looking out into the exterior world through the physical eyes, which are slightly open, and at the same time looking back into the head as if one had pupils on the back of the eyeballs;
- 3) *tyēmmūif* may be practiced many times during the day;
- 4) this is the practice and the state of being of protecting the



inner life by remaining two-thirds within inner consciousness and one-third in external consciousness, in communication with the third dimension or conscious-mind world; 5) *tyēmmūif* brings a *shūmīf* perspective, as well as *kamsatyēmni*; 6) while in *tyēmmūif*, looking within, the meditator will see many things—from *balikana* (a clear whitish field of soft light) to pleasing and not-so-pleasing pictures; 7) people are often seen in a state of *tyēmmūif* while thinking deeply, working out a problem or intuiting an idea or plan; 8) when one becomes sleepy in meditation, it is wise to go into *tyēmmūif* by opening the eyes slightly.

***nīmf»*** ☽ 06.46.148

1) Awareness flowing through the mind, being singularly aware of one area and then another; 2) *nīmf»* constantly changes its name to the name of the area it becomes conscious in while traveling, and is only called *nīmf»* when it is the thread of consciousness traveling or in between one of the names of awareness and another; for instance, *nīmf»* when traveling through *balikana* is then called *balikana*, and when traveling through the experience of *narehrehshūm* it is named that; 3) *nīmf»* can travel from the seventh to the fourth dimension; its home is in the fifth and fourth dimensions, but it usually resides in the fourth looking at the third, in contrast to *īf»,* which is the observation of awareness

flowing only through the higher areas of mind; 4) awareness as psychic sight and hearing; 5) awareness traveling, while seeing with the inner eye and hearing with the inner ear, into and out of areas of the mind; 6) represented in *mamsanī maā»* and *mambashūm maā»* by a flowing line between portraits; 7) pronounced *nīmf*, often pronounced and written simply as *nīmf*; 8) one of the many forms of awareness delineated in Shum.

***balikana*** ☽ 38.05.07.15

1) Seeing light by looking out upon and through the fourth dimension of the mind; 2) visualize a tree, then remove the tree; the light that remains is *balikana*; 3) it is the moon-like glow that remains where the mental pictures used to be; 4) this light is the light of the mind, and is generally not taken for inner light as such, but accepted as a natural function of the mind; 5) this light does not come from the fifth dimension, but is a different kind of light; it is the light of the conscious mind that lights the thoughts; 6) even if one has not yet had his first fifth-dimensional inner light (*iftyē*) experience, *balikana* can be isolated and enjoyed.

***milinaka*** ☽ 20.05.15.07

1) *Balikana* sustained over a long period of time; 2) when *balikana* is seen as a natural state all through the day, the



*natyē* is in a state of *mīlinaka*.

### Additional Vocabulary

In addition to the words in the *mamsanī*, we will utilize the following Shum words in our meditation. Their definitions are:

**sikamchacha**  16.25.79.79

1) Visualization, an image or picture within the mind; 2) the visual image of the tree itself is *sikamchacha*; the light is *nīmrehnīmling*; 3) see another tree, or move awareness to another tree, and that tree will appear to be different as it had always been growing there; 4) the practice of *sikamchacha ūū» nīmrehnīmling* gives the power to eventually read, in the past or future, mind patterns, by following the sequences that naturally unfold.

**ūū»**  14.14.14.8

1) Connect together, join or bind; 2) in this area of the mind, things or concepts are connected, joined or bound together; 3) the focus of individual awareness is simultaneously upon two or more areas of the mind at the same time.

**nīmrehnīmling**  24.10.24.04

1) Observing the light and darkness of the lower mind;

2) this portrait names a practice, not an experience; inner light or darkness surrounding light or light out of darkness; 3) the light that shines through the darkness; 4) the light and shadows; 5) this is not the shadowless light of the fourth dimension; 6) when one makes a visual image, *sīkamchacha*, the image is lighted, illuminated with the light this picture names; 7) this light can be seen each time one reminisces the past or plans for the future, or thinks something over; 8) visualize a tree: the light surrounding and shining through the tree is *nīmrehnīmling*.

### Additional Resources

*Merging with Siva*, Chapter Eight: The Clear White Light



## 2. Eternal Now Meditation

*Based on the February Mamsani*

### Sadhana Practice in English

Begin by observing your thoughts and feelings for a few minutes. This is the third dimension of the mind. Bring them all to one point by regulating the energies through the control of breath, pranayama. Move on to the next portion of the meditation by the command *nūmf» simvūmkamī*, meaning to internalize our awareness so that it is experiencing the fourth dimension. This dimension relates to the fourth *kam-shūmālingā rehmyēnali*. Therefore, to experience the portraits within this dimension, look into the inner mind from the chest area. Find the state of consciousness that is intensely aware in the present moment, having let go of concerns and thoughts about the past and future.

### Sadhana Practice in Shum

*rehūnīshūm*

*kalibasa*

*nūmf»*

*simvūmkamī*

*bisi»*



### Quote from Gurudeva

Do you know that the ability to live right now, in the instant, is a spiritual power, reflecting the awakening of the soul and requiring a subconscious control of the mind? Your soul is never bothered with the things that disturb the rest of the mind! The mind lives in the past, and the mind tries to live in the future. But when you quiet your mind, you live in the present. You are living within your soul, or the higher state of your mind which is undisturbed by the things of time.

### Supplementary Reading

*Twelve Shum Meditations:* Shum-Tyeif *Mamsanī* for the Month of February

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*Shūm, kanīf, ūū», makaif»—these four concepts comprise this important *mamsanī*. The meditation this month should make us feel content and complete within ourselves, open and alive, basking in the knowledge that we have*

an inner language that names our dearest, closest feelings and thoughts and interrelated concepts, which no other language on the Earth can adequately convey. This is why *kanīf* is sometimes known as a religion by those who have no religion until they convert to or adopt Saivism for an even greater fulfillment, balancing out the *makaif»* perspective of the inner path of enlightenment. Inner areas of the mind seem to be frail to external consciousness when they cannot be named or identified. Just suppose we had no word for the emotion we have named by the word fear. We could not convey what we were feeling, nor release ourselves from that feeling by speaking with others about it. It would be difficult for someone to console us if we had no word to identify the emotion called fear. And so it is with all other words in our vocabulary. They are but tools, in the many different languages, which identify states of mind, emotion and physical objects. Our meditation—*shūm, kanīf ūū» makaif»*—tells us that now we have a path to follow, which no words on Earth can describe, except those given by Lord Siva to help us on the path to His holy feet. Note: In this *mamsanī* illustration, *makaif»* is written in the stylized form, not the formal spelling.

*shūmtyeif* ◊ 18.11.41

1) Name of Shum-Tyeif language; 2) a Natha mystical



language of meditation revealed in Switzerland in 1968 by Sivaya Subramuniyaswami; 3) it is often known simply as Shum and may be signified by the character ☽ with a dot above it, as in the *mamsanī* mural for this month.

***kanif*** ☽ 07.43

1) The religious lifestyle found within the structure and the vocabulary of the Shum language; 2) the perspective of a religious, contemplative way of life that brings a feeling of being at the center of the universe; 3) essentially, *kanif* names a religious feeling or need; 4) the area of the mind where this need is fulfilled; 5) the way of conducting one's life, or the way of directing life's activities, in homes and in the shrine, so that *shūmif* is a constant experience for the devotee; 6) the governing laws of being in constant remembrance of the path to the holy feet of Lord Siva; 7) the learning of the Shum language has a molding effect upon the nature of the devotee, bringing him into his religious life; 8) the language that is a religious experience; by learning Shum, the learning of the Saivite religion is an indelible experience.

***ūū»*** ☽ 14.14.148

1) Connect together, join or bind; 2) in this area of the mind, things or concepts are connected, joined or bound together; 3) the focus of individual awareness is simultaneously upon

two or more areas of the mind at the same time.

***makaif»*** ☽ 29.72.148

The philosophy of the inner path of enlightenment found within the vocabulary and structure of the Shum language; 2) The Shum-Tyeif language delineates the inner path to the absolute reality, Parasiva; 3) the collage *makaif»* opens the area of the mind that makes the Shum language easy to learn by drawing forth insights from the superconscious.

**Additional Vocabulary**

In addition to the words in the *mamsanī*, we will utilize the following Shum words in our meditation. Their definitions are:

***rehūnishūm*** ☽ 10.14.06.18

1) Dimension, third; subconscious mind; 2) the interrelated magnetic forces that exist between people and between people and their things; 3) the world of thoughts and feelings, of emotions and intellectual theory; 4) this dimension relates to the first three *kamshūmālingā*—*ākaiilisimbī*, *rehnantyevūm* and *bivūmbika*.

***simvūmkamī*** ☽ 08.09.07.20

1) Dimension, fourth; subsuperconscious mind; 2) awareness



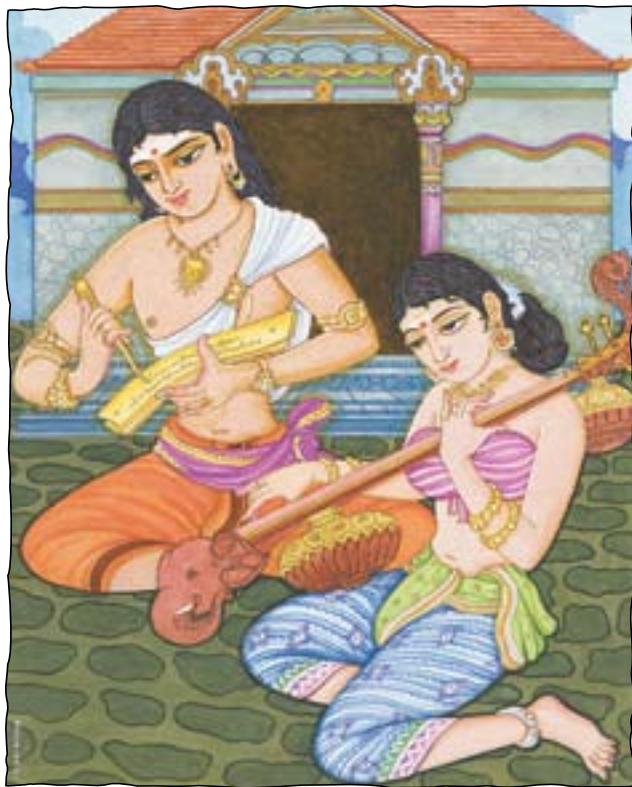
cognizing the interrelated forces of the fifth, fourth and third dimensions; 3) from this detachment we gain the ability to dissolve confusions, conflicts and the various and varied entanglements that are encountered daily; 4) the realm of artistic creativity; 5) here is the resting place where we look in and up and out and down; 6) consciousness should never go lower, but when soaring higher, returns to the resting place within the fourth dimension; 7) this dimension relates to the *kamshūmālingā rehmtyēnali*; 8) to experience the portraits within this dimension, look at the world from the chest area.

### **bisi»** 13.16.148

1) Eternity of the moment felt in the middle of three days in the past and three in the future; 2) *bisi»* means “I am aware of the unreality of time and the eternity of the moment;” 3) have you noticed that any concern you might carry always bears upon the past or the future? 4) to dissolve any concern, therefore, all one has to do is guide awareness to the present; 5) living in the moment, in the center of three days in the past and three days in the future, is the spirit of *bisi»*.

### **Additional Resources**

*Merging with Siva*, Chapter 17: The Eternal Now



### 3. State of Being Meditation

*Based on the March Mamsanī*

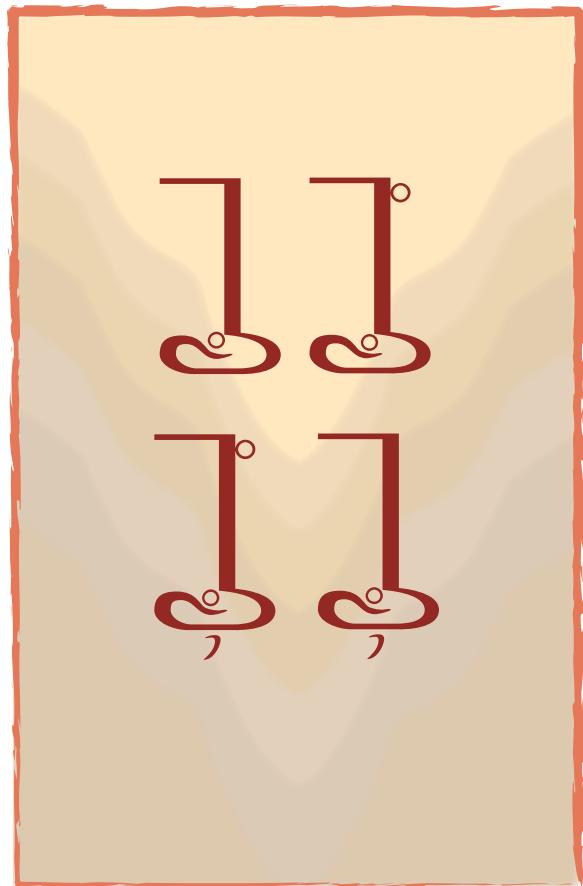
#### Sadhana Practice in English

Identify and investigate *yūla*: Feel the vibration of the physical body, your muscles, the bones, the circulation. This is your physical being.

Identify and investigate *yūlam°*: feel the vibration of your emotional and intellectual natures, what you are feeling and thinking at this moment.

Identify and investigate *yūlaf»*: become aware of the spiritual or actinodic energy in the center of your spine. Feel this vibration ooze out through the physical body.

Next feel the three vibrations of *yūlaf»*, *yūlam°* and *yūla* simultaneously.



## Sadhana Practice in Shum

*mīmm̄°*

*yūla»*

*mīmm̄°*

*yūlam°*

*mīmm̄°*

*yūlaf»*

*mīmm̄°*

*yūla» ūū» yūlam° ūū» yūlaf»*



*La, lam, laf, lamf* are four vibratory rates of energies which can be perceived singularly or in any combination. For example, one can feel the vibration of someone's physical body and emotional body, be they healthy or unhealthy, both at the same time. When an individual has matured inwardly and realized God Siva, the most refined *shakti*, called *lamf*, can also be felt.

This most important *mamsanī* tells our story, the story of our states of being. When we meditate upon it, we are seeing our superconscious existence, which will eventually come fully into existence after we have attained *īm» kaif»*.

We experience some days when divine energies flow through our bodies, when Siva's cosmic energy sparks our mind. Now we have a name for this state of being, this energy: *laf*. *Laf* describes our state of mind when Lord Siva's superconscious, creative knowledge enriches our vision and the vision of others, improving the quality of life for all. When we experience our subconscious, emotional feelings—

## Quote from Gurudeva

It is important in securing your unfoldment where it is that you really are very much aware of the difference in vibration between *yūlam°* and *yūlaf»*. For one is often taken for the other. Very often *yūlam°* is emotionally taken to be *yūlaf»*, especially when much bhakti yoga and chanting is done by unfolded people. This accounts for religious fervor and emotionalism.

## Supplementary Reading

*Twelve Shum Meditations: Shum-Tyeif Mamsanī* for the Month of March



good, bad, mixed—we now have a name to call it: *lam*. And when we are only aware of the external world and our physical body, we have a name for that too: *la*.

This *mamsanī* shows the path in a different way than the one we will study in October, *makaif», kaif», īm» kaif»*, *īm» kaif»*. On the last two days of each week this month, put these two *mamsanī* side by side and meditate on them together. You will experience how they tie into each other. You will see how the *lamf* path ties into the *kaif», īm» kaif»* path. In doing this, you will be taking your first step in creating your own *mamsanī*. Shum is a full and fluid language. You can create your own *mamsanī*.

### *yūlamf»* ०᳚ 84.53.148

1) Being and life in the sixth and seventh dimensions; superconscious existence; 2) the vibration, energies, emanating from the actinic causal body (*anandamaya kosha*) of a realized soul as a result of many repeated *īm» kaif»* experiences; 3) awareness of the physical, astral and soul bodies and the quantums that have constructed them; 4) the ability to understand the nature of quantum particles; 5) pronounced *yūlamf* and often written simply as *lamf*, especially in the *mamsanī*.

### *yūlaf»* ०᳚ 84.52.148

1) Being and life in the fourth and fifth dimensions; subsuperconscious existence; 2) the vibration of the soul as experienced through the actinodic causal sheath (*vijnanamaya kosha*) in the fourth and fifth dimensions; 3) the ability to understand the difference between the physical, astral and soul bodies; 4) pronounced *yūlaf* and often written simply as *laf*, especially in the *mamsanī*.

### *yūlam°* ०᳚ 84.51.140

1) Being and life in the second and third dimensions; conscious-subconscious, intellectual-emotional existence; 2) the vibration, energies, emanating from the instinctive-intellectual, astral sheath (the odic-causal/odic-astral sheath); 3) pronounced *yūlam* and often written simply as *lam*, especially in the *mamsanī*.

### *yūla»* ०᳚ 84.50.148

1) Being and life in the first and second dimensions; conscious-mind, physical existence; 2) the vibration, energies, emanating from the physical or odic body; 3) pronounced *yūla* and often written simply as *la*, especially in the *mamsanī maā»*.



## **Additional Vocabulary**

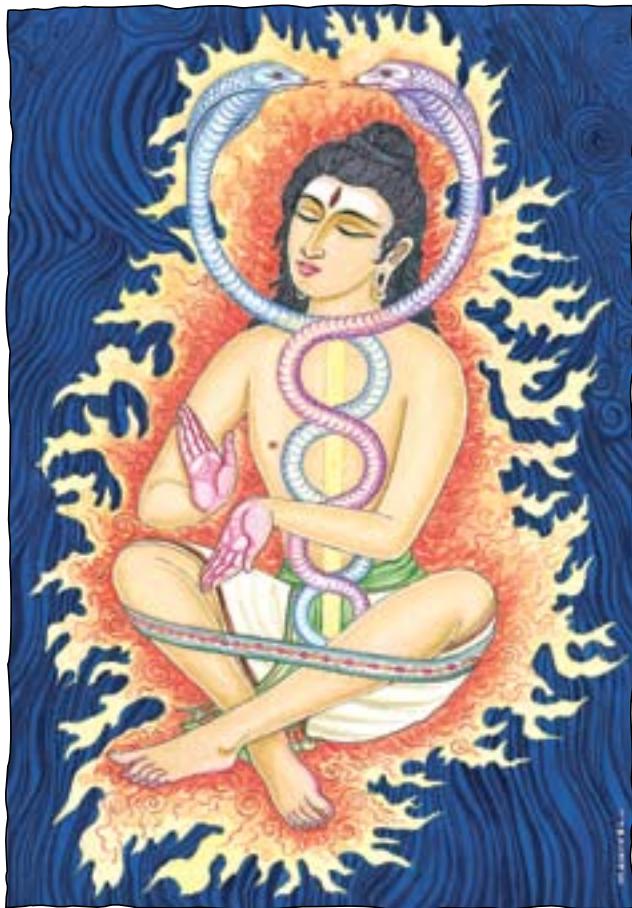
In addition to the words in the *mamsanī*, we will utilize the following Shum word in our meditation. Its definition is:

*mīmmō* —————— 21.02.140

- 1) Search, look for, investigate; 2) innersearching, going within; going in and in; 3) this area of the mind is often used, as the desire to investigate is the cause of movement; 4) individual awareness is ever flowing through all areas of the mind within all available dimensions.

## **Additional Resources**

*Merging with Siva*, Chapter 2: All Knowing is Within You



## 4. Shum Image Visualization Meditation

*Based on the April Mamsanī*

### Sadhana Practice in English

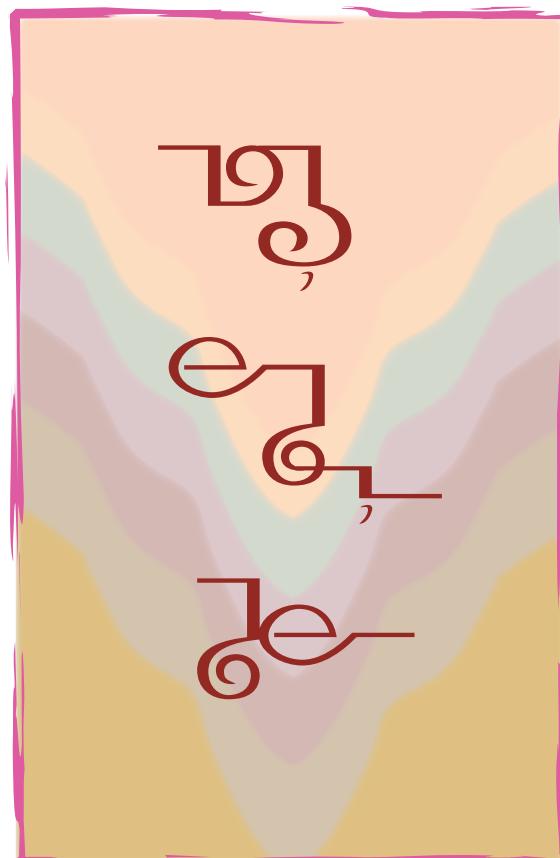
visualize <i>i</i>	visualize <i>ka</i>	visualize <i>bī</i>
visualize <i>m̄</i>	visualize <i>sim̄</i>	visualize <i>ū</i>
visualize <i>ing</i>	visualize <i>vūm̄</i>	visualize <i>na</i>
visualize <i>ling</i>	visualize <i>reh</i>	visualize <i>sī</i>
visualize <i>lī</i>	visualize <i>tyē</i>	visualize <i>dī</i>
visualize <i>nī</i>	visualize <i>ā</i>	visualize <i>shūm̄</i>

### In Shum

<i>bīmūmlīyū i</i>	<i>bīmūmlīyū ka</i>	<i>bīmūmlīyū bī</i>
<i>bīmūmlīyū m̄</i>	<i>bīmūmlīyū sim̄</i>	<i>bīmūmlīyū ū</i>
<i>bīmūmlīyū ing</i>	<i>bīmūmlīyū vūm̄</i>	<i>bīmūmlīyū na</i>
<i>bīmūmlīyū ling</i>	<i>bīmūmlīyū reh</i>	<i>bīmūmlīyū sī</i>
<i>bīmūmlīyū lī</i>	<i>bīmūmlīyū tyē</i>	<i>bīmūmlīyū dī</i>
<i>bīmūmlīyū nī</i>	<i>bīmūmlīyū ā</i>	<i>bīmūmlīyū shūm̄</i>

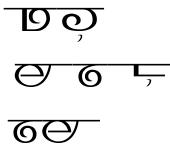
### Quote from Gurudeva

Visualization of inner things is the same as opening an inner door for awareness to flow through to gain the experience that is already there.



## Supplementary Reading

*Twelve Shum Meditations:* Shum-Tyeif *Mamsanī* for the Month of April



*Kanīf* names the contemplative lifestyle found within the structure and vocabulary of the Shum language. The inner meaning of this fifth-dimensional portrait is a state of being silent on the inside, so absolutely still that all life goes on around you while you remain centered. You are in the state of *kanīf* when you feel your inner energies as being at the center of the universe—still, blissful, quiet. *Kanīf* also indicates that by learning the Shum language through the study of the Shum-Tyeif *tyēshūm*, the learning of the Saivite religion is an indelible experience.

This fourth *mamsanī* explains how one undertakes the formal study of the Shum-Tyeif language. We begin by creating our own *tyēshūm*. A *tyēshūm* is a handwritten book of all that we have and are learning in the Shum-Tyeif lexicon. It is a loose-leaf collection of lessons and exercises called challenges or *ūkanuhshūm*. The *tyēshūm* is neatly wrapped

in a cloth in a prescribed manner. Your *tyēshūm* is actually called Shum-Tyeif *tyēshūm*, as it is your very own lexicon and the name of a study hall or room. As you explore the Shum-Tyeif language of meditation, you will want to record your own meditations as well as make lists of all the words and sentences that you will be learning. The study begins with the alphabet. There are 108 images in the Shum alphabet. The first challenge, or *ūkanuhshūm*, is learning to chant and write the first eighteen images.

### *kanīf* 07.43

- 1) The religious lifestyle found within the structure and the vocabulary of the Shum language; 2) the perspective of a religious, contemplative way of life that brings a feeling of being at the center of the universe; 3) essentially, *kanīf* names a religious feeling or need; 4) the area of the mind where this need is fulfilled; 5) the way of conducting one's life, or the way of directing life's activities, in homes and in the shrine, so that *shūmīf* is a constant experience for the devotee; 6) the governing laws of being in constant remembrance of the path to the holy feet of Lord Siva; 7) the learning of the Shum language has a molding effect upon the nature of the devotee, bringing him into his religious life; 8) the language that is a religious experience; by learning Shum, the learning of the Saivite religion is an indelible



experience.

### ***shūmtyēif*** ☽□━ 18.11.41

1) Name of Shum-Tyeif language; 2) a Nātha mystical language of meditation revealed in Switzerland in 1968 by Sivaya Subramuniyaswami; 3) it is often known simply as Shum and may be signified by the character ☽ with the dot above it.

### ***tyēshūm*** ☽□━ 11.18

1) A lexicon or book of the Shum-Tyeif language; 2) a hall or room for Shum study and meditation; 3) a student's hand-written book of all that he has learned and is learning in the Shum-Tyeif lexicon; 4) properly called Shum-Tyeif *tyēshūm*.

### **Explanation**

Gurudeva outlines in detail in the Shum word *imfmimf* exactly how the first *ūkanuhshūm* of learning the eighteen basic images is to be approached. Initially the subject learns to chant and write these eighteen images of the Shum alphabet. Once somewhat mastered, the subject learns the colors connected to the images. The third step is through visualization: each image is seen along with its color, with eyes closed. Lastly, while breathing nine counts in and nine counts out, use the eighteen images to mark the counts while vitalizing

the color and the shape of the image.

Our meditation this month will focus on the third step. To do so, we will utilize the Shum word *bīmūmliyū*. Its definition is:

### ***bīmūmliyū*** ☽▢━ 13.34.05.84

1) Holding a thought picture firmly in visualization.

We will go through each of the eighteen images visualizing the color. Those of you who know the Shum script can, in addition to the color, also visualize the script of each image. If you have forgotten the color of the image, it is acceptable to open your eyes and look it up on the list of colors.

The colors are: *i*, bright yellow; *m*, soft pink; *ing*, soft blue; *ling*, bright turquoise; *lī*, bright violet; *nī*, rich yellow, *ka*, rich turquoise; *sim*, bright pink; *vūm*, rich purple; *reh*, bright orange; *tyē*, rich orange; *ā*, rich blue; *bī*, bright blue; *ū*, soft ivory; *na*, soft green; *sī*, bright red; *dī*, bright green; *shūm*, soft lavender.

Gurudeva mentions in the lexicon in a number of places that this type of color *sadhana* is to strengthen the power of attention, concentration and visualization, and that visualization is a vital faculty in the process of creation.

### **Additional Resources**

*Merging with Siva*, Lesson 62: The Diamond of Light



## 5. Simshūmbīśī» Kaif» Meditation

*Based on the May Mamsani*

### Sadhana Practice in English

Begin by feeling the actinic energy within the spine. Visualize a clear tube within the center of your spine being filled with yellow light coming from the top of your head. See the pure life force, yellow in color, flowing through the spine and out into the nerve system.

After a few minutes of meditation on the actinic energy within the spine, direct your thoughts to refocus on this task by the command *kannakamnam simshūmbīśī»*.

After a few more minutes, move on to the next portion of the meditation by the command *nūīmf» kaif»*, meaning to move your awareness into the state where awareness is only aware of itself.

After a few minutes of meditation on pure awareness aware only of itself, direct your thoughts to refocus on this task by the command *kannakamnam kaif»*.

Continuing meditating on *kaif»* for a few more minutes, then begin the preparation for meditation routine for coming out of meditation.



## Sadhana Practice in Shum

*simshūmbīśī»*

*kamnakamnam*

*simshūmbīśī»*

*nīimf»*

*kaif»*

*kamnakamnam*

*kaif»*

## Quote from Gurudeva

The *simshūmbīśī»* is seen as yellow in color. When a mystic is conscious in the entirety of the *simshūmbīśī»*, his consciousness is that of a Being. In this way it is first and mostly identified.

## Supplementary Reading

*Twelve Shum Meditations: Shum-Tyeif Mamsanī* for the Month of May



One of our most powerful *mamsanī* is *simshūmbīśī»*, *nīimf»*, *kaif»*. The wavy line represents awareness flowing—*nīimf»*. Awareness flowing from one area of the mind to another is called *nīimf»*. Here it flows from the fourth dimension, where *simshūmbīśī»* is, into the seventh dimension, where awareness is completely aware of itself—*kaif»*. This *mamsanī* you can live with all of the time. Carry it with you on a little card in your pocket all month long. It's the easiest one, the most vital one and one of the most powerful. Feel the power within your own spine when you meditate on *simshūmbīśī»*. The *mamsanī* tells us that until we are aware of being aware in the beautiful bliss of *kaif»*, where awareness does not move, because it is so centered within itself, we must constantly be centered in *simshūmbīśī»*. Whenever you are not feeling quite up to par, remember this *mamsanī* and move awareness into *simshūmbīśī»*. Sit, breathe, become aware of simply being aware of these inner energies deep within the spine. These energies come from the central source of it all. Then feel yourself going in and in and in, into the seventh-dimensional area of the mind, *kaif»*, being aware of simply being aware. This state is not beyond your reach. It does take a little bit of quieting down, however; but not a great deal of spiritual unfoldment is needed. It is very easy to attain *kaif»*. Just try. You will see for yourself just how easy it can be. Note: In this *mamsanī* illustration, *kaif»* is written in



stylized, artistic form, not the formal spelling.

*kamshūmālingā*  25.18.12.04.12

*simshūmbisī»*  8.18.13.16.148

1) Feeling the actinic energy within the spine; 2) the pure life force, yellow in color, flowing through the spine and out into the nerve system; 3) the area of fourteen strong psychic nerve currents of the subsuperconscious state of mind running along the spinal column; 4) the currents run up the center of the spine; 5) these fourteen currents include the *vūmyēūdi* and *karehāna* currents, termed *pingala* and *ida* in Sanskrit; 6) the central *nadi* within *simshūmbisī»* is called *sushumna* in Sanskrit; 7) when a *yogi* lives in this current, his consciousness is that of a being, neither man (aggressive) nor woman (passive).

*nīmf»*  06.46.148

1) Awareness flowing through the mind, being singularly aware of one area and then another; 2) one of the many forms of awareness delineated in Shum; 3) represented in *mamsanī maā»* and *mambashūm maā»* by a flowing line between portraits; 4) pronounced *nīmf*, often pronounced and written simply as *nīmf*.

*kaif»*  07.41.148

1) Pure awareness aware only of itself; 2) feel yourself going in and in and in, into the seventh-dimensional area of the mind called *kaif»*, being aware of simply being aware; 3) it only takes a moment to become aware of being aware, but to hold this state for any length of time, preparation has to be made.

#### Additional Vocabulary

In addition to the three words in the *mamsanī*, we will utilize the Shum word *kamnakamnam*. Its definition is:

*kamnakamnam*  25.15.25.35

1) Yoga of gently pulling awareness back to the object of concentration; 2) concentration, focusing awareness, attention; 3) this portrait names the process of handling the flow of thought which has wandered from the subject matter being concentrated upon; 4) perceiving the flowing areas of the fourth dimension of the mind, which governs the third dimension and causes it to flow.

#### Additional Resources

*Merging with Siva*, Chapter 38: Powers of the Spine



## 6. Liūnasī Meditation

*Based on the June Mamsani*

### Sadhana Practice in English

Follow Gurudeva's advice: "There are thousands of miles of nerve currents in each of us. Don't try to feel them all at once. Start with the little ones, with the feeling of the hands. Now, feel the life force going through these nerves energizing the body. Try to sense the subtle nerves that extend out and around the body about three or four feet. Tune into the currents of life force as they flow through these nerves. This is a subtle feeling, and most likely awareness will wander into some other area of the mind. When this happens, gently bring it back to your point of concentration, to feeling the nerves within the body and the energy within the nerves."

### In Shum

*liūnasī*

### Quote from Gurudeva

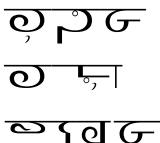
Inhaling prana is not air, of course, yet it is contained in the air in a certain manifestation. Much prana is found in the air among the trees or near the ocean. All of nature and the forces of nature are various manifestations of odic prana that have taken visual shape. Plants feed on the odic prana in the air. You can absorb



prana simply by walking through a grove of trees. The air is filled with it. Take a walk today, out into the odic force field of nature and absorb the prana in the air through your breath and through the pores of your skin. You will feel the prana entering into your pranic sheath, or vital health body, and remaining there while you exhale.

### Supplementary Reading

*Twelve Shum Meditations: Shum-Tyeif Mamsanī* for the Month of June



*Nifmasī liūnasī* is the sixth *mamsanī* of the year. *Nifmasī* is a portrait of the sixth dimension, and the meaning has to be experienced to be known. It means that the inner body of the soul is alive and conscious in the physical body and to some degree is taking over the elements of the physical body because you have put the physical body into a certain position. *Nifmasī* also names this position, this sixth-dimensional position of the body where you can feel the power of the soul, the body of the superconscious that we study about

so intently in The Master Course. The *nifmasī* position is sitting with your right foot on your left thigh—you put that leg up first, and then you put your left foot on the right thigh. Your hands are placed in your lap, the right hand resting on the left, palms up, tips of the thumbs touching softly. The spine is, of course, straight, and the head is balanced at the top of the spine.

Sometimes in the practice of *nifmasī*, great pain is experienced in the joints, muscles and ligaments. It is recommended, within the realms of wisdom, to experience some of this pain, because the inner elements are adjusting the outer elements of the body, and you are working out deep subconscious areas that may have been accumulating within you for many, many lives. This is a very important position and should be worked at until you can sit comfortably in *nifmasī* and feel the power of the soul for a half-hour or an hour or more without moving. So, work diligently with this posture while meditating upon this *mamsanī*.

Sitting in *nifmasī* makes it easy to come into the next area, which is named by the fourth-dimensional portrait *liūnasī*. *Liūnasī* refers to feeling the nerve currents of the body. There are thousands of miles of nerve currents in each of us. Don't try to feel them all at once. Start with the little ones, with the feeling of the hands, thumbs touching. Now feel the life force going through these nerves, energizing the body.



Try to sense the even more subtle nerves that extend out and around the body about three or four feet. This may take a long time. When you have located some of these nerves, feel the energy within them. Tune into the currents of life force as they flow through these nerves. This is a subtle feeling, and most likely awareness will wander into some other area of the mind. When this happens, gently bring it back to your point of concentration, to feeling the nerves within the body and the energy within the nerves. This *mamsanī*, then, tells us that if we sit in *nīfmasī*, we bring the power of the soul into prominence in the physical body and allow awareness to flow quite naturally into the *līūnasi* area. The flowing line between *nīfmasī* and *līūnasi* means awareness traveling from one area of mind to another, and its name is *nīimf*.

### *nīfmasī* 43.29.16

1) The traditional meditation posture in *hatha yoga*, called lotus or *padmasana*; 2) first, place the right foot on the left thigh, then place the left foot on the right thigh; 3) the spine is held straight with the head balanced on top; 4) the hands are resting in the lap, palms up and open, right hand on top, with the thumbs gently touching in *dhyana mudra*; 5) the twenty-fourth and last pose of the special series of *hatha yoga* postures known as *namtyēmbī*.

### *nīimf* 06.46.148

1) Awareness flowing through the mind, being singularly aware of one area and then another; 2) one of the many forms of awareness delineated in Shum; 3) represented in *mamsanī maā»* and *mambashūm maā»* by a flowing line between portraits; 4) pronounced *nīimf*, often pronounced and written simply as *nīmf*.

### *līūnasi* 05.14.15.16

1) Astral; feeling life force flowing through nerves; 2) feeling energy flowing through the network of nerves within your physical body and subtle body; 3) energy flow, psychic nerves, nerve currents; 4) life flowing through the nervous system creates the feeling of *līūnasi*; 5) sitting in *līshūm-nambī ūlisim*, striving to locate this basic instinctive energy flow within your body and subtle bodies; 6) “In the heart is the *atman*; here are the hundred and one arteries to each of which belong a hundred other arteries, and to each of these belong 72,000 small branches; in those moves the diffused breath.” (*Rig Veda, Kaushitaki Upanishad*)

### Additional Resources

*Merging with Siva*, Lesson 257: Overcoming Karma



## 7. Nikashūm Simshūmbīśī» Meditation

*Based on the July Mamsanī*

### Sadhana Practice in English

First focus on your breath—nine counts in, holding one beat, and nine counts out, holding one beat. Once it is regulated and relaxed, move to the next step.

Spend a few minutes watching your thoughts, how frequent or infrequent they are, what topics they are centered above. Then observe your emotional nature, what you are feeling and toward whom, if you are reacting over any recent events. Withdraw your energy from these two areas into the actinic energy within the spine. Do this on the out-breath. Visualize a clear tube within the center of your spine being filled with yellow light coming from the top of our head. See the pure life force, yellow in color, flowing through the spine and out into the nerve system.

### In Shum

*kalibasa*

*vūmtyēūdī*

*karehāna*

*nikashūm*

*simshūmbīśī»*

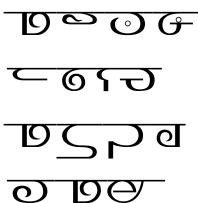


### Quote from Gurudeva

When we begin a religious pilgrimage or retreat into *sadhana* and we want awareness to dive deep within, we have to withdraw the energy of the vibrating *ida* and the vibrating *pingala* current into *sushumna*. This is quite a chore, because these currents have had energy flowing in them for a number of years. So, to rechannel that energy is to rechannel the entire circumference of awareness into the *sushumna* current. This takes a lot of practice.

### Supplementary Reading

*Twelve Shum Meditations:* Shum-Tyeif *Mamsanī* for the Month of July



The first portrait in this *mamsanī* is a practice of the inner feel within the fourth dimension when awareness is in the area of the mind named *kalibasa*. The breath is regulated from the inside out—nine counts in, holding one beat, and

nine counts out, holding one beat. When you are aware within this particular area of the mind from the inside out, your breath will automatically be regulated. But to get into this area of the mind, called *kalibasa*, you can also regulate your breath from the outside in. So, it can be approached in either one of two ways.

The next portrait, *vūmtyēūdī*, is the vibration of the intellectual area of the mind. When we are in the area of the mind that is always thinking, aware of thought patterns, reason patterns and memory patterns, this is called *vūmtyēūdī*. It is a fourth-dimensional area. *Karehāna* is also within the fourth dimension. It names the “feel” of the physical body, the magnetic forces of the physical body, the instinctive nature of the physical body and the emotional unit.

*Nikashūm* is the wonderful practice of withdrawing the energies of awareness from *vūmtyēūdī* and *karehāna* into their source, *nikashūm*. As we breathe in, *kalibasa*, we pull the energies back out of the physical body, out of the emotional, out of the intellectual, into the spine. *Nikashūm*, the withdrawal of energies, is a third-dimensional picture. And when you are in that area of the third dimension, *nikashūm* is what automatically happens.

***kalibasa***        07.05.38.39  
1) Breath control, called pranayama in Sanskrit; 2) a



diaphragmatic breathing practice; 3) the breath's rhythm during *nikashūm*—nine counts in, hold one count, nine counts out, hold one count; 4) the duration of the inhalation is the same duration as the exhalation; 5) counting should be on the heartbeat; but, to begin with, the counting does not have to be on the heartbeat, as this will naturally occur when *kalibasa* has been mastered; 6) the breathing should be done through the nose; 7) during the inhalation of nine counts, the diaphragm is pushed downwards and the stomach gently pushed out as the air is taken in; 8) during the exhalation of nine counts, the diaphragm comes up, and the stomach is gently pulled in as the air is released.

### *vūmtyēūdī* ວຸມຕີ ເອົ້າ 09.11.14.17

1) The current, blue in color, that flows upward, ending on the right side of the body; 2) called *pingala* in Sanskrit; 3) this current, masculine-aggressive in nature, is the intellectual-mental energy within the being; 4) the intellectual energy which causes one to think and to become aware of the intellectual mind; 5) *vūmtyēūdī* is one of the currents of *simshūmbīsī»*.

### *karehāna* ກະຣ່ານາ ເອົ້າ ເປົ້າ 07.10.12.15

1) The current, pink in color, that flows downward, ending on the left side of the body; 2) called *ida* in Sanskrit; 3) this

current, feminine-passive in nature, is the physical-emotional energy within the being; 4) *karehāna* is one of the currents of *simshūmbīsī»*.

### *nikashūm* ນິກສຸມ 06.07.18

1) The art of withdrawing the energy into the spine through the use of pranayama; 2) names the process of drawing the magnetic energy from the subtle nerve fibers (*nadis*), which surround the body, into the spine; 3) when a devotee enters meditation, the energy is drawn from the conscious mind into its subconscious; 4) then the energy of the subconscious is drawn into the subsuperconscious; 5) when this happens, the devotee becomes conscious in the inner states of mind.

### Additional Resources

*Merging with Siva*, Chapter 38: Powers of the Spine



## 8. Shum Perspective Meditation

*Based on the August Mamsanī*

### Sadhana Practice in English

See yourself as awareness flowing from one area of the inner mind to another, the mind itself being stationary. All areas of the inner mind always exist.

Move on to the next portion of the meditation by the command *nīmf» simvūmkamī*, meaning to internalize our awareness so that it is experiencing the fourth dimension. This dimension relates to the fourth *kamshūmālingā rehmyēnali*. Therefore, to experience the portraits within this dimension, look into the inner mind from the chest area.

Find the state of consciousness that is intensely aware in the present moment, having let go of concerns and thoughts about the past and future.

### In Shum

*shūmīf*

*nīmf»*

*simvūmkamī*

*bīsī»*

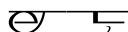


### **Quote from Gurudeva**

These four major perspectives of the consciousness of human beings create their major inner mind styling. There is no relationship to ordinary life within these perspectives. Not one of them is a second or third-dimensional picture. These are four names that capture and categorize consciousness into four divisions. Saivism can well name all four. A fully developed Saivite should be able to experience at will each of these four perspectives, consciously live in two, three or more at the same time, as did the rishis of yore.

### **Supplementary Reading**

*Twelve Shum Meditations:* Shum-Tyeif *Mamsanī* for the Month of August



This is one of our most delightful *mamsanī*, naming the four different focuses of consciousness. The intelligence within each one of these four can and has taken lifetimes to

know, to memorize, to investigate, cognize and expand the mind into the depths which are there to be explored. But imagine this month gaining a superconscious glimpse of all four of these perspectives at one time: 1) *Shūmīf* is the perspective of awareness flowing through the mind, the mind itself being unmoved. 2) The *simnīf* perspective is its opposite: the mind is moving, and the intelligence of the person observing—such as a scientist looking through a microscope into the inner workings of matter—is stationary. 3) The *mūlīf* perspective is the way of words, the way of the scholars of philosophical intellect. 4) Its opposite is the *dīmīf* perspective, which is just now coming into focus on this planet through the newly found abilities of being able to communicate with Mahādevas, devas and beings of all kinds on other planets, such as the Pleiades, in this galaxy and beyond. Those in this perspective are not aware of being the center of all things, the *shūmīf* perspective. Nor are they aware of the world's many philosophies, the *mūlīf* perspective. Nor are they much concerned about the nature of a drop of water, the *simnīf* perspective. Their minds fly high in *dīmīf*.

You will find, when you meditate on this *mamsanī*, that *shūmīf* and *simnīf* are companion states of consciousness and inner awareness, as are the *mūlīf* and *dīmīf* experiential perspectives of human consciousness and awareness.



These four major perspectives of the consciousness of human beings create their major inner mind styling. There is no relationship to ordinary life within these perspectives. Not one of them is a second- or third-dimensional picture. These are four names that capture and categorize consciousness into four divisions. Saivism can well name all four. A fully developed Saivite should be able to experience at will each of these four perspectives, consciously live in two, three or more at the same time, as did the rishis of yore.

**shūmīf**  18.41

1) One of four perspectives, the meditative viewpoint of being awareness flowing from one area of the inner mind to another, the mind itself being stationary; 2) the perspective of the Shum-Tyeif language; 3) it is also simply called the Shum perspective; 4) in Saiva Siddhanta, it includes the deeper meditative practices; 5) it is *advaita*, or a monistic viewpoint.

**mūlīf**  33.42

1) One of four perspectives, the philosophical viewpoint of understanding theological, metaphysical and psychological concepts; 2) realization is often attained simply through understanding deep philosophical concepts, which would be an intellectual realization, not a spiritual one; 3) in Saiva

Siddhanta, it includes the intellectual study of Siddhanta philosophy; 4) it can be nondual, dual or both, depending on the comprehensiveness of the philosophy.

**simnīf**  08.43

1) One of four perspectives, the scientific viewpoint of looking into matter; 2) in this perspective, the mind is moving and the intelligence of the observer is stationary; 3) understanding comes through observing matter and achieving insights into its behavior; 4) in Saiva Siddhanta, it includes the knowledge of hatha yoga, pranayama and the currents of the physical body; 5) it can be dual, nondual or both, depending on the inclusiveness of the scientific theory.

**dīmfī**  68.01

1) One of four perspectives, the metaphysical viewpoint of looking into inner and outer space; 2) it is a perspective that acknowledges, understands and communicates with God and Gods, beings on the astral plane, people from other planets; 3) it is here that all psychic phenomena take place; 4) in Saiva Siddhanta, it includes the consciousness of the devas, Mahadevas and God Siva experienced in the temple; 5) it is *dvaita*, or a dualistic viewpoint.



## **Additional Vocabulary**

In addition to the words in the *mamsanī*, we will utilize the following Shum words in our meditation. Their definitions are:

### ***bisi»*    ॐ    13.16.148**

Eternal now. 1) Eternity of the moment felt in the middle of three days in the past and three in the future; 2) *bisi»* means “I am aware of the unreality of time and the eternity of the moment;” 3) have you noticed that any concern you might carry always bears upon the past or the future? 4) to dissolve any concern, therefore, all one has to do is guide awareness to the present; 5) living in the moment, in the center of three days in the past and three days in the future, is the spirit of *bisi»*.

### ***simvūmkamī*    ॐ    08.09.07.20**

1) Dimension, fourth; subsuperconscious mind; 2) awareness cognizing the interrelated forces of the fifth, fourth and third dimensions; 3) from this detachment we gain the ability to dissolve confusions, conflicts and the various and varied entanglements that are encountered daily; 4) the realm of artistic creativity; 5) here is the resting place where we look in and up and out and down; 6) consciousness should never go lower, but when soaring higher, returns to the resting

place within the fourth dimension; 7) this dimension relates to the *kamshūmālingā rehmyēnālī*; 8) to experience the portraits within this dimension, look at the world from the chest area.

## **Additional Resources**

*Merging with Siva*, Chapter 30: The Nature of Thought



## 9. Āūm Simshūmbisī» Meditation

*Based on the September Mamsani*

### Sadhana Practice in English

After completing the preparation for meditation, move awareness into *simshūmbisī»*. Feel the actinic energy within the spine for a few minutes.

Aum can be chanted silently and cause the same vibration through the body. Do this in the way described by Gurudeva, where we pronounce the AA so that it vibrates the solar plexus. The OO has to vibrate through the throat area, and the MM, the head. Silently chant Aum for five to ten minutes in this way.

Again move awareness into *simshūmbisī»* and feel the actinic energy within the spine for a few minutes. Ascertain if the actinic energy feels stronger after chanting Aum than it did before.

### In Shum

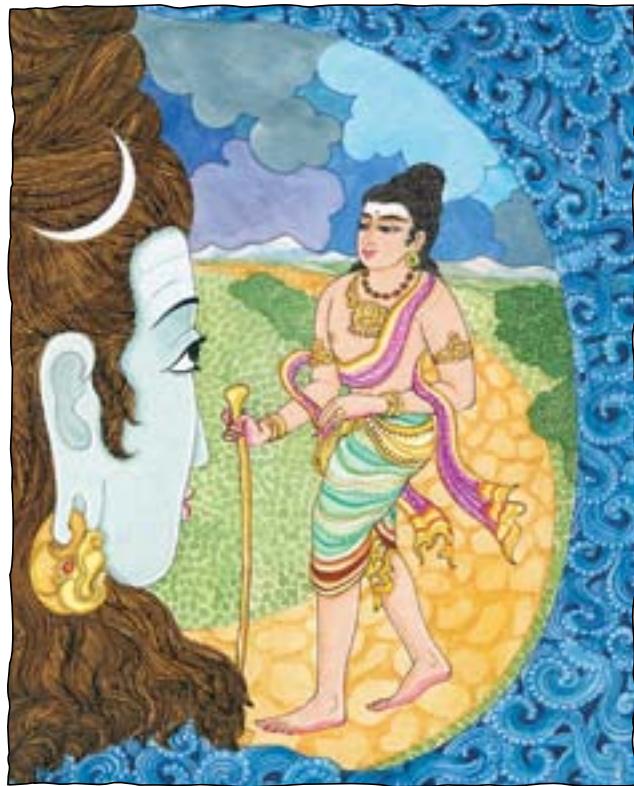
*nūmf»*

*simshūmbisī»*

*āūm*

*nūmf»*

*simshūmbisī»*

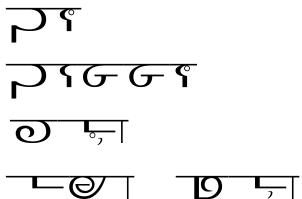


### **Quote from Gurudeva**

This simple practice of mentally chanting Aum many, many times, followed by a period of meditation and self-reflection, alone makes devotees strong enough to face the external world with enhanced willpower, true confidence and a heart filled with love, realizing that we are truly one world, one family.

### **Supplementary Reading**

*Twelve Shum Meditations:* Shum-Tyeif *Mamsanī* for the Month of September



The third *mamsani* begins with the portrait *Aūm*. It is one of the most powerful portraits in the universe. All tones together make the Aum. Listen to the ocean and you hear the Aum. Listen to all the noises of a city blended together and you hear the Aum. Listen to all the tones of the physical body and you hear the Aum. When we chant the mantra Aum, and do it correctly, we pronounce the AA so that it vibrates the physical body. The OO has



to vibrate through the throat area, and the MM, the head. In doing this, we are deliberately moving awareness out of the *muladhara* and *svadhishtana* chakras, deliberately harmonizing all the forces of the instinct and physical body, and of the *ida* and the *pingala* currents. Chanting the AA and the OO and the MM brings the *sushumna* into power.

This leads us to the next portrait, a fifth-dimensional portrait, *āūsiśīūm*, which describes the rising of the primordial cosmic energy, kundalini. In most people, kundalini lies coiled like a serpent at the base of the spine. Through the practice of yoga, kundalini rises up the *sushumna nadi* through all seven chakras.

The flowing line is called *nīmf»*, awareness traveling through dimensions into the seventh dimension, and beyond into *iṁ» kaif»*. When the kundalini rises into the realms of pure actinicity, the pineal gland and pituitary center are activated. When these two centers are activated simultaneously, the forces of both of them merge, bringing man into *iṁ» kaif»*. Therefore, the aggressive odic force merges with the passive odic force in perfect balance, and the actinodic power of the *sushumna* current comes into perfect balance, poised with the kundalini force.

This *mamsanī* is very powerful. Work with it. Love it. Try to understand it. It's one of the goals that you will eventually reach on the path. And we stay on the path as

long as we strive. One never really goes off the path once one is on it, but one should never stop striving. A devotee can, however, stop trying. But we must never stop trying. We must never stop working with ourselves. And we must live in the good company of those who are on the path. The group helps the individual and the individual helps the group to sustain inner life. Note: In the *mamsanī* illustration, *iṁ» kaif»* and *āūm* are written in stylized, artistic form, not the formal spelling.

**āūm**  12.32

1) Aum (*āā ūū īī*) for chanting; 2) inner sounds, chakra sounds, sounds of force centers—all sounds; 3) sounds of energies flowing.

**āūsiśīūm**  12.14.16.16.32

1) Kundalini, ascending through all of the seven *kamshūmālingā*.

**nīmf»**  06.46.148

1) Awareness flowing through the mind, being singularly aware of one area and then another; 2) one of the many forms of awareness delineated in Shum; 3) represented in *mamsanī maā»* and *mambashūm maā»* by a flowing line between portraits; 4) pronounced *nīmf*, often pronounced



and written simply as *nīmf*.

*īm» kaif»*



01.02.148 07.41.148

1) Pure awareness aware only of itself, dissolving; 2) the intense state of *kaif»* when awareness withdraws all energies from all bodies into a peak experience; 3) *kaif»* eliminates itself, or the locus of awareness dissolves, as the superconscious being of man, *lamf*, returns to its source; this experience may be brief; 4) *īm» kaif»* does not name what is found from the experience, it only names the entrance and what happens to *kaif»*.

### Additional Resources

*Merging with Siva*, Lesson 262: Withdrawing Into Sushumna

## 10. Steps in Makaif» Meditation

*Based on the October Mamsanī*

### Sadhana Practice in English

Reflect on and strive for new insights into the meaning of *makaif»*: the philosophy of the inner path of enlightenment found within the vocabulary and structure of the Shum language. Feel yourself going in and in and in, into the seventh-dimensional area of the mind called *kaif»*, being aware of simply being aware. Strive to attain the state which comes after we experience prolonged periods of *kaif»* in which we only hear the *nada*, a high tone within the head which has the sound of “eee,” and we are totally aware of it with no distractions.

### Sadhana Practice In Shum

*mīmm̄o*

*makaif»*

*kaif»*

*ī» kaif»*

### Quote from Gurudeva

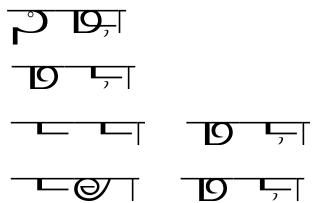
The most intriguing area of consciousness found in Shum is *kaif»*. *Kaif»* is awareness aware of itself. For those who have



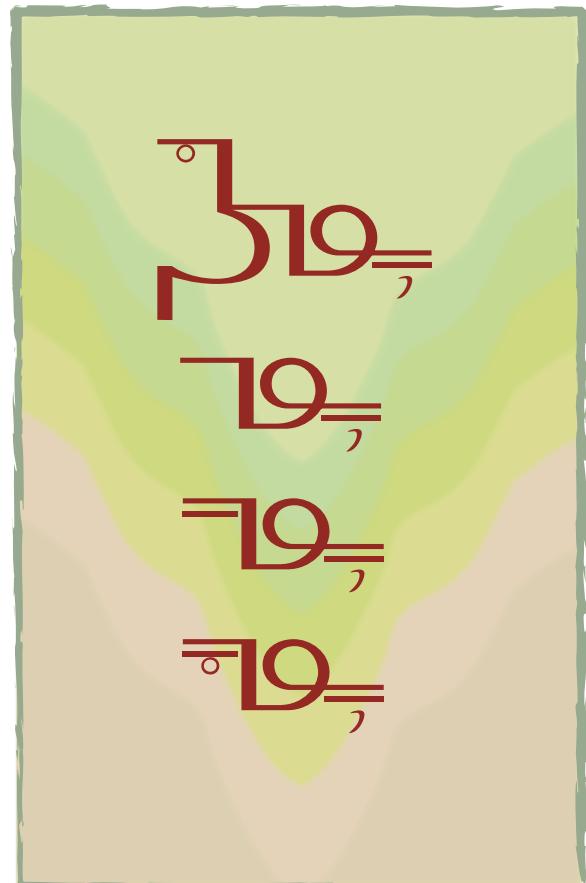
had an initial inner light experience, will find *kaif* rather easy to attain. It is simply a deep state of consciousness where awareness is aware of itself. Now, when awareness can be aware of itself long enough, it sort of coils up into a little tight ball and begins to disappear. This is called *iṁ kaif*. When it finally disappears, the Self alone remains, or a vibration which is greater than the mind itself takes over awareness and blocks it out, so to speak. When man comes back from this experience of experiencing the total Self, everything within the mind is more understandable, and he is locked in the perspective of looking at the world from the fourth dimension of the mind.

### Supplementary Reading

*Twelve Shum Meditations:* Shum-Tyeif *Mamsanī* for the Month of October



Here we have the straight path, the San Marga, which has been brought to Earth on the garden island of Kauai. San Marga, the



straight path to God, has been named the San Marga Sanctuary. In this Sanctuary each one expresses his or her Truth as seen at that particular place on the Path of San Marga, the path to *īm» kaif»*, the realization of eternal Parasiva.

*Īm» kaif»* is not the name of the ultimate state. It names the eradication of the name which names the brink of the Absolute, of the ultimate state, because in the Shum language, *īm* means “no.” *Īm» kaif»* means no awareness aware of itself, elimination of, the perpetuation of, and is the fulfillment of everything. The very nature of the construction of this most important word in the Shum language tells us that, “That which is Absolute Reality cannot bear a name.” *Īm» kaif»* is an intense state of *ī» kaif»*, when awareness withdraws all energies from all bodies into a peak experience, awareness’s elimination of itself. The experience of *īm» kaif»* may be brief. *Īm» kaif»* is where time stops. *Īm» kaif»* does not name what is found from the experience. It only names the entrance and what happens to *kaif»*. In the *mamsani* illustration, *makaif», kaif», ī» kaif»* and *īm» kaif»* are in stylized, artistic form and do not reflect the formal spelling.

### *makaif»* 29.72.148

1) The philosophy of the inner path of enlightenment found within the vocabulary and structure of the Shum language; 2) Shum and Tyeif delineate the inner path to the absolute

reality, Parasiva; 3) the collage *makaif»* opens the area of the mind that makes the Shum language easy to learn by drawing forth insights from the superconscious.

### *kaif»* 07.41.148

1) Pure awareness aware only of itself; 2) feel yourself going in and in and in, into the seventh-dimensional area of the mind called *kaif»*, being aware of simply being aware; 3) it only takes a moment to become aware of being aware, but to hold this state for any length of time, preparation has to be made.

### *ī» kaif»* 01.01.148 07.41.148

1) A state between *kaif»* and *īm» kaif»*; 2) when we only hear the *nada*, or “eee,” and we are totally aware of it with no distractions, this is called *ī» kaif»*; 3) the state of consciousness when only the *nada* is heard, and awareness is not conscious of another sound; 3) a high tone within the head that is often heard, which has the sound of “eee;” 4) this state comes after we experience prolonged periods of *kaif»*.

### *īm» kaif»* 01.02.148 07.41.148

1) Pure awareness aware only of itself, dissolving; 2) the intense state of *kaif»* when awareness withdraws all energies from all bodies into a peak experience; 3) *kaif»*



eliminates itself, or the locus of awareness dissolves, as the superconscious being of man, *lamf*, returns to its source; this experience may be brief; 4) *īm» kaif»* does not name what is found from the experience; it only names the entrance and what happens to *kaif*.

### Additional Vocabulary

In addition to the words in the *mamsanī*, we will utilize the Shum word *mīmīm°*. Its definition is:

*mīmīm°*  21.02.140

1) Search, look for, investigate; 2) innersearch, going within, going in and in; 3) this area of the mind is often used, as the desire to investigate is the cause of movement.

### Additional Resources

*Merging with Siva*, Lesson 263: An Exercise in Energy Balance; and Lesson 264: The High “eee” Sound

## 11. Parampara Nada Nadi Meditation

*Based on the November Mamsanī*

### Sadhana Practice in English

Visualize the energy in your *satguru* as being the same energy within you and experience a beautiful inner flow, spine-to-spine, between you and your guru.

Tune in to the vibration of the inner power of the line of gurus through listening to the *nada nadi* sound of the *parampara*.

### Sadhana Practice in Shum

*mingbasīda*

*ānamśinamnīamnyam*

### Quote from Gurudeva

The *sadhana marga* leads us into the *yoga pada* quite naturally. But people don't study yoga. They are not taught yoga. They are taught *sadhana*, and if they don't perform it themselves—and no one can do it for them—they will never have a grip strong enough over their instinctive mind and intellectual mind to come onto the *yoga marga*, no matter how much they know about yoga. So, we don't learn yoga. We mature into it. We don't learn meditation. We



awaken into it. You can teach meditation, you can teach yoga, but it's all just words unless the individual is mature and awake on the inside.

### Supplementary Reading

*Twelve Shum Meditations:* Shum-Tyeif *Mamsanī* for the Month of November

ମଂଗାଳ

ପତଙ୍ଗ

କାନ୍ଦା

ନାନ୍ଦାଶ

**M**ingbasīda, the first portrait of this month's *mamsanī*, means a beautiful inner flow, spine-to-spine, between you and your guru. In this way *ūkanuhshūm* will become easy, possible, and a lot of joy will be emitted from your accomplishments. *Mingbasīda*—visualize the energy in your guru as being the same energy within you. If you can locate and identify with this basic life force between yourself and your guru, automatically and retroactively you will feel one with everyone in the universe, for it is the same energy which permeates all.



An



*ūkanuhshūm* is an assignment given by your *guru* to help you on the path, a challenge to test your ability to direct awareness. *Nabaluhtyē* means the constant working with *ūkanuhshūm*, working with yourself, striving inwardly, even when you don't want to. *Nabaluhtyē* is the name of this inner area within the fourth dimension of the mind, a subsuperconscious state in which you are working with the instinctive-intellectual areas of the mind in order to accomplish *ūkanuhshūm* on the path. Before a *natyē*, a *shishya*, is allowed to go further, he must master *ūkanuhshūm*, working in and through the inner states of *nabaluhtyē* and *mingbasida*.

There are eighteen established *ūkanuhshūm maā*, known as the *kanīf ūkanuhshūm*. The first nine are the *inglīf ūkanuhshūm maā*, all of which are contemplative arts. They are: 1) *bīmmuhū ūkanuhshūm*, the art of fasting for religious purposes, purifying the physical body so that the inner bodies can vibrate and radiate through it; 2) *shūmlinuh ūkanuhshūm*, practicing a contemplative craft or hobby; 3) *banasana ūkanuhshūm*, the hatha yoga art of exercising the physical body and tuning the nerve system; 4) *ānamsinamniamnyam ūkanuhshūm*, maintaining contact with the inner power of the line of gurus; 5) the *iṁv kaif ūkanuhshūm*, seeking the realization of the Self, God; 6) the Shum *ūkanuhshūm*, studying Shum daily as a religious prac-

tice; 7) the *rehmnam ūkanuhshūm*, actively participating in building a temple; 8) the *amsadanuh ūkanuhshūm*, adhering to a daily vigil, which includes *shūmnuhīm*, meditation; and 9) the *līkaii ūkanuhshūm*, pursuing dance as a contemplative art, which can extend to gentle sports that employ the art of concentration, to the playing of music, and even, in a philosophical sense, to the inner ability to look at what one does not understand as the eternal divine dance of Lord Siva Nataraja, known as *sīfah*, *līkā ūū* *kalīf*.

**mingbasida** 22.38.16.40

1) Harmony with one's *satguru*; 2) a beautiful inner flow, spine-to-spine, between you and your guru; 3) visualize the energy in your *satguru* as being the same energy within you; 4) if you can locate and identify with this basic life force between yourself and your guru, automatically and retroactively you will feel one with everyone in the universe, for it is the same energy that permeates all.

**nabaluhtyē** 15.38.102.11

1) Constant striving on the spiritual path; 2) striving consistently and urgently to perfect a balance of the *vūmtyēūdī* and *karehāna* currents through hatha yoga, *padmasana*, *pranayama*, *nīkashūm*, and other *ūkanuhshūm maā* given by the *satguru*; 3) this pattern of constant striving is from the



fourth dimension of the mind, pulling all the forces within; 4) this striving must be stimulated in the initial stages of unfoldment; one can lose consciousness of it, but it is an inner state that persists once *nīmf»* has become it many times during the initial training.

*nīmf»* ନିମ୍ଫ୍ 06.46.148

1) Awareness flowing through the mind, being singularly aware of one area and then another; 2) one of the many forms of awareness delineated in Shum; 3) represented in *mamsanī maā»* and *mambashūm maā»* by a flowing line between portraits; 4) pronounced *nīmf*, often pronounced and written simply as *nīmf*.

ସାଧନା 14.07.104.18

1) Order or direction; 2) spiritual yoga discipline, *sadhana*; 3) the state of causing a deliberate innovation to one's consciousness by taking on a spiritual discipline; 4) this portrait means the taking on of, the name of, and performance of, discipline; 5) an assignment given by the guru to his *shishya*, the working through and final accomplishment of which helps the *shishya* arrive into a full control over the flow of awareness; 6) causing the student to employ all his faculties to accomplish *sadhana*.

### Additional Vocabulary

In addition to the words in the *mamsanī*, we will utilize the Shum word *ānamsīnamnīamnyam*. Its definition is:

*ānamsīnamnīamnyam*

ଅନମ୍ସିନମନ୍ୟମ୍

12.35.16.35.06.28.56

1) Name for the *nada nadi* shakti of one's *satguru* and that of the *paramaguru*; 2) the art of listening to the *nada nadi* sound of the *parampara*.

### Additional Resources

*Merging with Siva*, Lesson 264: The High “eee” Sound; Lesson 296: Controlling Odic Force Fields; and Lesson 297: Creating the Golden Yoke



## 12. Inner Quiet Meditation Sadhana

*Based on the December Mamsani*

### Sadhana Practice in English

Find the place within yourself that is absolutely quiet. Go deep enough within that all of the forces of the mind can be seen and you are, like the hummingbird, totally quiet.

### Sadhana Practice in Shum

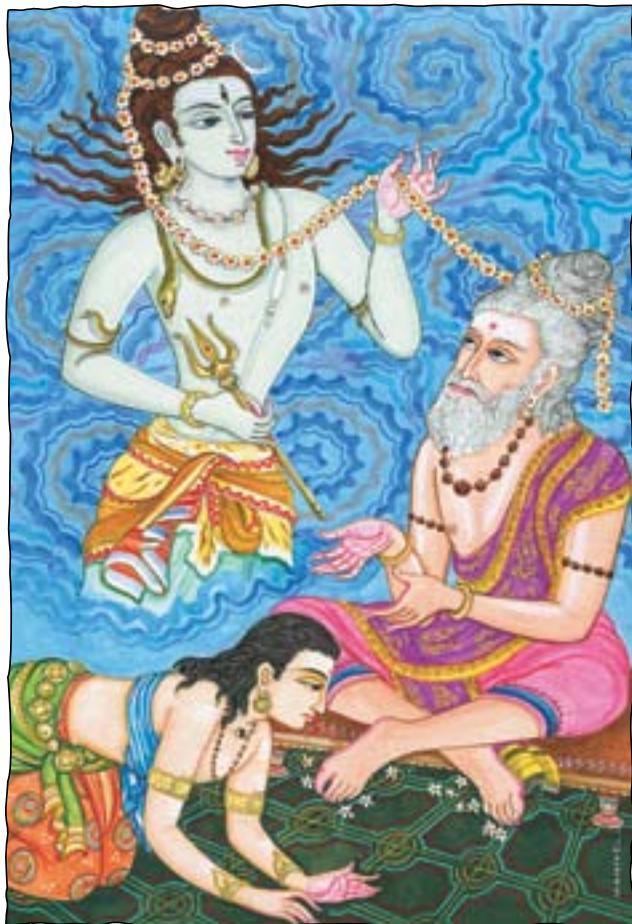
*anif*

*If you are performing this meditation more than once, then use the following version.*

### Sadhana Practice in English

Begin your meditation by finding the state of consciousness you attained in your last meditation on *anif*.

Find the place within yourself that is absolutely quiet. Go deep enough within that all of the forces of the mind can be seen and you are, like the hummingbird, totally quiet. Each time try to go deeper into *anif* in your current meditation than your previous one.



## Sadhana Practice in Shum

*nalif*

*anif*

### Quote from Gurudeva

*Nalif* is the holding of the inner vibration from one meditation to another. For instance, if you perform *anif* in the morning just as you awaken, it sets a vibration which you feel all through the day; and we strengthen that vibration when performing *anif* just before we go to sleep at night. This holding of the inner memory, so to speak, or inner vibration, from one *anif* period to another is called *nalif*. It is a challenge in itself, holding the inner awareness until our next meditation, all through the day, holding that inner thread so that we remain two-thirds within and only one-third in external consciousness.

### Supplementary Reading

*Twelve Shum Meditations:* Shum-Tyeif *Mamsanī* for the Month of December





*Anif* means to find that place inside yourself that is absolutely quiet. *Anif* is an area in which we are deep enough within that all of the forces of the mind can be seen, and we are, like the hummingbird, totally quiet. We look out from that place and see the forces equalizing themselves.

*Nashūmīf* is the perspective we hold while looking at the energy fields in and through things—looking at the inside of a tree, seeing how the energy comes up through the tree and finally causes a leaf to form. *Nashūmīf* is a state that you are in when you can see the ebb and flow of the eighteen predominant forces working within the mind consciousness. These forces are always trying to equalize themselves. Some are static, some are spinning, some are active, some are lifting others up. And this makes form as we see it in its various dimensions. We experience *nashūmīf* in the pull of forces between people who are close to us, and in the forces of nature, the full moon, the moon that's waning, the noon-

day sun. The line flowing from *nashūmīf* to the next portrait means *nūmf*. *Nūmf* is the flow of awareness from one area of the inner mind to another.

*Nalif* is the holding of the inner vibration from one meditation to another. For instance, if you perform *anif* in the morning just as you awaken, it sets a vibration which you feel all through the day; and we strengthen that vibration when performing *anif* just before we go to sleep at night. This holding of the inner memory, so to speak, or inner vibration, from one *anif* period to another is called *nalif*. It is a challenge in itself, holding the inner awareness until our next meditation, all through the day, holding that inner thread so that we remain two-thirds within and only one-third in external consciousness.

The very best time to meditate is as soon as you wake up in the morning; find *anif*. As soon as you go to bed at night, find *anif*. Then deliberately put the body into a state of sleep, which is putting awareness deep within the mind, which is into a state of meditation. How do you do that? Lay the body down, palms up, heels not touching, and go into the power of the spine. Feel the power of the spine, just like you do when you sit in meditation. You'll feel your body relax. Concentrate the mind, concentrate awareness, right at the back of the neck, and the first thing you will know, it's morning.



***anīf***  12.43

1) The sublime vibration of a place or platform of worship, an altar outside or inside; 2) finding the place within yourself that is absolutely quiet; 3) in *anīf*, we are deep enough within that all of the forces of the mind can be seen and we are, like the hummingbird, totally quiet; 4) from *anīf*, we look out and see the forces equalizing themselves.

***nashūmīf***  15.18.41

1) The perspective of looking into the second dimension from the fourth, omitting the third, holding no mental or emotional association with what is observed; 2) the perspective to hold when looking at the energy fields in and through things; 3) from *nashūmīf*, we see the eighteen basic movements of nature, subsuperconsciously.

***nīmf»***  06.46.148

1) Awareness flowing through the mind, being singularly aware of one area and then another; 2) one of the many forms of awareness delineated in Shum; 3) represented in *mamsāni maā»* and *mambashūm maā»* by a flowing line between portraits; 4) pronounced *nīmf*, often pronounced and written simply as *nīmf*.

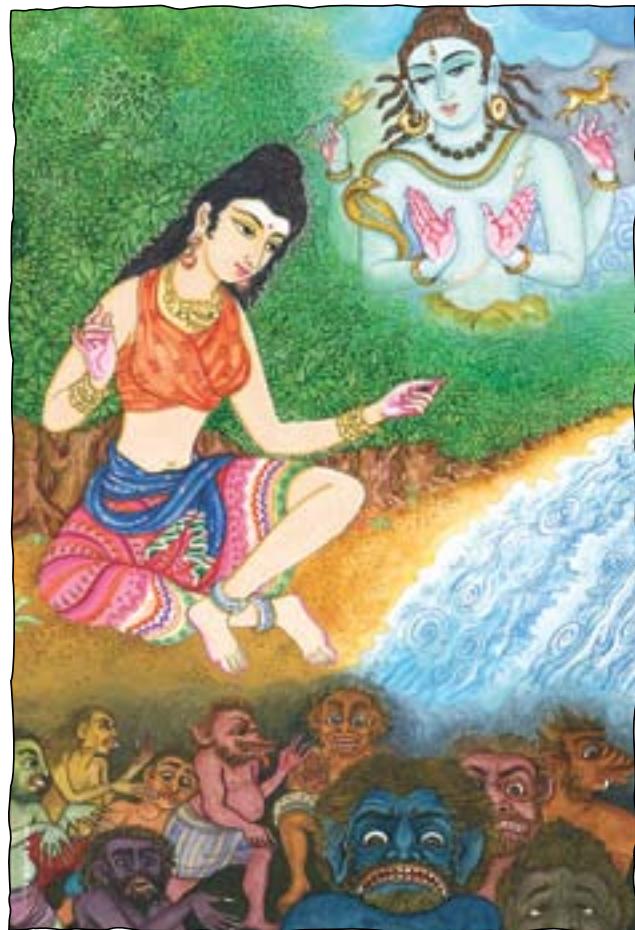
***nalīf***  15.42

1) Meditation, holding the vibration from one *shūmnūhīm* to another; 2) continuity between meditations; 3) after *shūmnūhīm*, or any type of meditation practice, pilgrimage or temple puja, a vibration fills one and remains with one long after; this vibration, or current, or *sidiśī*, is called *nalīf*; 5) *nalīf* should be held from meditation to meditation or puja to puja; 6) it can be likened to a phrase in music: each time the *nalīf* vibration wears thin, we should reconstruct that area through *shūmnūhīm*, puja or another meditation; 7) *nalīf* is generally held within the vibration of the *kalingkāsim° kamshūmālingā*; 8) it is possible to go in consciousness into *bīvūmbīka*, *rehmtyēnali*, *tyēmavūmna* or *kamakadītsareh* and not break the *nalīf*, but getting into a detailed discussion or argument within *rehnamtyēvūm*, or being remorseful or reminiscing the past in *ākaiilisimbī*, would break the *nalīf*; 9) it would then, with some effort, have to be reestablished; 10) *nalīf* is especially necessary to those yogi *tapasvins* who hope to advance in their *raja yoga* on the Saiva path.

**Additional Resources**

*Living with Siva*, Lesson 117: To Realize the Spirit Within





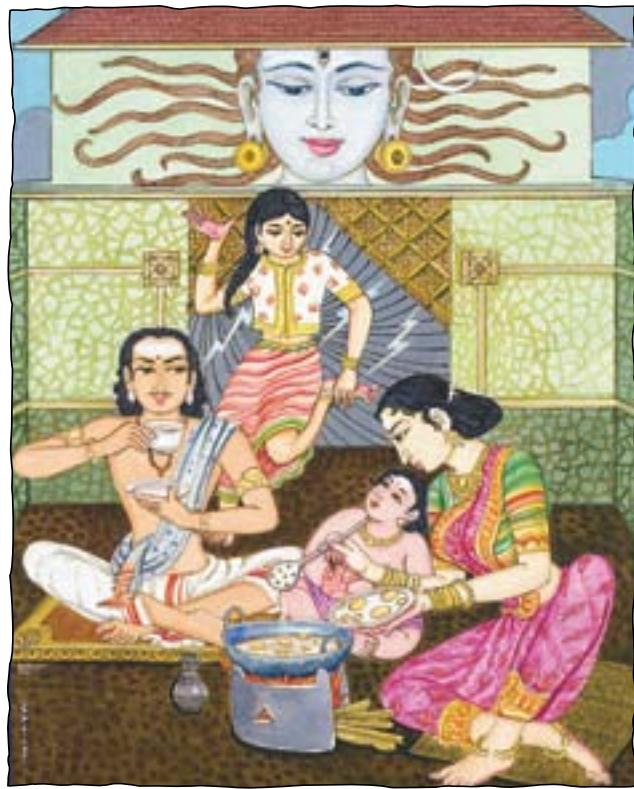
## Reflections On Spiritualizing Daily Life

### Introductory Quote from Gurudeva

The origin of man—being spawned from Siva, the birthless, deathless God—therefore, is as a pure, taintless soul. After thus being spawned, the soul goes through a maturing process. This slow growth is in three basic categories: karma exercises, *anava* clouds, maya distorts. This classroom of these experiences finally matures an intelligence free enough from the bondage of the classroom of *anava*, karma and maya to realize its own Divinity and at-one-ment with Siva as a taintless, pure soul. This, then, is the foundation, after once attained, for final liberation, Self Realization, to be sought for.

### The World Is an Ashram

The following material is designed to help you reflect on how you could make your daily life more spiritual. It provides two lists to focus on. The first is a list of six common challenges we face in life that provide us with good opportunities for spiritual progress if we respond in a wise manner with self-control. The second is a list of six common



opportunities to serve, opportunities to help others at home, work, school, in the neighborhood and community. The idea is to reflect on how you could improve in each of these twelve actions and thus increase the amount of spiritual progress you make in your daily life.

Life is demanding, and you have no time for spiritual pursuits? Everyday happenings offer abundant opportunities to evolve.

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In Hinduism we are fortunate to have many God-realized souls to guide us along the spiritual path. Their teachings are so profound and powerful that they penetrate our normal consciousness and give us new insights into how to live to maximize our spiritual progress.

Our *paramaguru*, Yogaswami, of Jaffna, Sri Lanka, gave us one such gem when he said, "The world is an ashram, a training ground for the achievement of moksha, liberation."

Yogaswami's statement has a parallel in William Shakespeare's play "As You Like It."

All the world's a stage,  
And all the men and women merely players:  
They have their exits and their entrances;  
And one man in his time plays many parts,  
His acts being seven ages.

Here is a paraphrase of Shakespeare's lines, adapted to reflect Yogaswami's spiritual meaning:

All the world's an ashram,  
And all the men and women are divine souls;  
They are spiritually maturing through earthly experiences,  
And one soul in its time takes many births,  
And thus evolves into oneness with God.

Let's look more closely at what it means to say that all the world's an ashram. An ashram, of course, is the residence and teaching center of a swami or spiritual preceptor. It is a place we go to learn about our religion and make spiritual progress. When we go out the door of our home to go to work, school or elsewhere, do we have in mind that we are going to an ashram, that our actions during the day in the office, factory, hospital, classroom or elsewhere will help us evolve spiritually and bring us closer to moksha? Probably not. When we come home and reflect back on the day, do we feel we made spiritual progress while out of the home? Probably not. Why is this? It is because we have not been trained to look at life in this way. We think of the ashram as a place of spiritual advancement, and we regard the world as a place of mundane tasks and distractions from our spiritual work. The common idea is that what we do in the ashram,

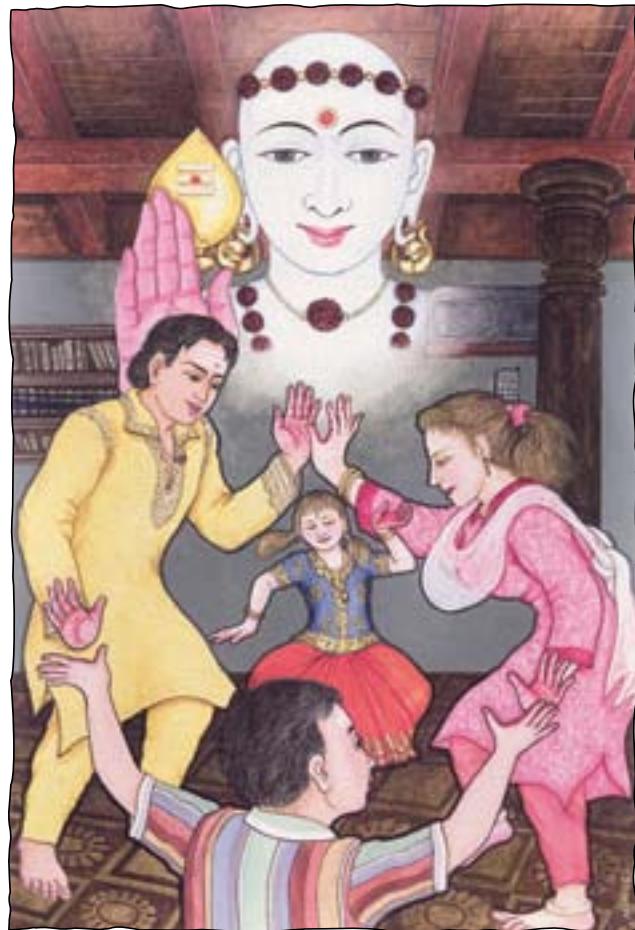


the home shrine or the temple is what brings us spiritual progress, and what we do at the office or in the classroom has nothing to do with our spiritual life.

This common perspective is not the viewpoint of great souls such as Yogaswami. Such souls know that much spiritual progress can be made during our time in the world if we hold the right perspective. I call this approach “spiritualizing daily life.” Let’s bring this concept down to Earth by dividing the occasions for spiritual progress when out in the world into two categories: facing life’s challenges and finding opportunities to serve.

First, let’s look at facing life’s challenges. Life is going to come to you whether you want it to or not. Joyful, easy times, difficult times, happy days and sad—it is all coming. It is all there, in your karma. It can’t help but come. So you don’t have to go looking for it. You don’t have to go try and do something different. You can’t avoid it. You can’t hide from it.

Life’s challenges will come to us. What is going to happen is going to happen. But where the focus should be, for those on the spiritual path, is on how we respond to these challenges. Why? Because that is where we have a choice. For example, a small infant keeps us awake all night by crying. How do we respond to it? Does it upset us? Do we complain? Or, do we just accept it and respond back with lots of love? In every experience of life we have control over our response.



It can be impulsive or thoughtful. It's our choice.

When accused of something that we didn't do, how do we respond? When we face challenges at work—say our boss is unfair with us, yells at us—what is our reaction? We want to yell back, but cannot. So, do we go home and yell at the spouse? In all such cases, we have choices. It is not the challenges that come, but how we face those challenges that makes the difference. We can react emotionally without thinking about spiritual principles. We can get angry or despondent. We can worry a lot and become irritable.

Or we can decide to control any emotional reactions that we might have. We can choose to live without anger. We can choose to cultivate patience. We can choose to be kinder to other people, to be more generous. That is what makes us spiritually stronger. As we curb our instinctive nature, our soul nature shines forth.

In other words, if we get angry now and then, let us try and eliminate anger altogether. If we get impatient with people who seem to explain things at great length when they could be explained in a short way, let's learn how not to get impatient. Let us learn how to accept that verbosity is their nature.

Here is the list of six common challenges we face in life that provide us with good opportunities for spiritual progress if we respond in a wise manner with self-control.

**FIRST CHALLENGE:** Mistreatment by Others. Life provides us a steady stream of experiences in which we are mistreated by others. Rather than retaliate or hold resentment, we can forgive and respond with kindness.

**SECOND CHALLENGE:** Our Own Mistakes. When we make a major error, we have a choice to wallow in self-doubt and self-deprecation or to figure out how to not repeat the mistake.

**THIRD CHALLENGE:** Difficult Projects. When faced with tasks that stretch our abilities, we can do the minimal just to get by or be inspired to do our best by looking at them as an opportunities to improve our concentration, willpower and steadfastness, all of which will enhance our meditation abilities and inner striving.

**FOURTH CHALLENGE:** Disturbed Emotions. When we get upset by life's experiences, we have a choice to suffer the emotional upheaval or to strive to pull ourselves out of it as quickly as possible.

**FIFTH CHALLENGE:** Interpersonal Conflicts. When serious disagreements, quarrels or arguments occur, we have a choice to hold a grudge and perhaps even shun the person or to resolve the matter and keep the relationship harmonious.

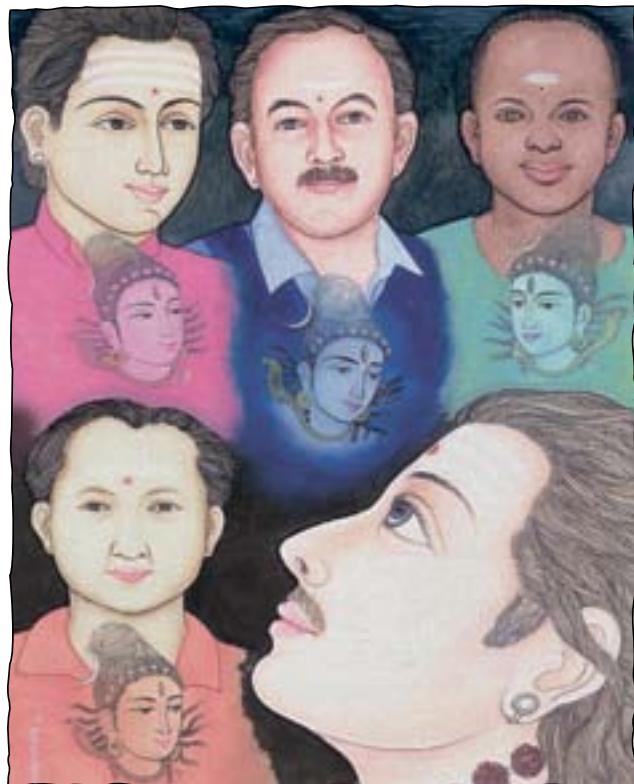
**SIXTH CHALLENGE:** Gossip and Backbiting. When those around us indulge in gossip, rumors, backbiting and



intrigue, we have a choice to join in or to not participate and even, among those close to us, make it clear that we do not approve.

The second category of occasions for spiritual progress when out in the world is what I call finding opportunities to serve. Here is an introduction to this concept from Gurudeva's *Living with Siva* which beautifully illustrates the idea of spiritualizing daily life through service.

"Go out into the world this week and let your light shine through your kind thoughts, but let each thought manifest itself in a physical deed of doing something for someone else. Lift their burdens just a little bit and, unknowingly perhaps, you may lift something that is burdening your mind. You erase and wipe clean the mirror of your own mind through helping another. We call this karma yoga, the deep practice of unwinding, through service, the selfish, self-centered, egotistical *vasanas* [subconscious inclinations] of the lower nature that have been generated for many, many lives and which bind the soul in darkness. Through service and kindness, you can unwind the subconscious mind and gain a clear understanding of all laws of life. Your soul will shine forth. You will be that peace. You will radiate that inner happiness and be truly secure, simply by practicing being kind in thought, word and deed."



There are many opportunities to help others at home, work, school, in the neighborhood and community. We have developed a list of six simple practices. Let me briefly introduce them.

**FIRST OPPORTUNITY:** Seeing God in Those We Greet. When greeting someone, we strive to look deeply enough into them to see God, to see them as a divine being evolving through experience into oneness with God. Our attitude is then naturally helpful and benevolent.

**SECOND OPPORTUNITY:** Volunteering. There are many opportunities each day to step forward and offer to help in ways that are beyond what is required of us. An attitude of humble service diminishes the ego and strengthens our spiritual identity. One important spiritual attitude to hold is to be willing to help when called upon, to not resist or refuse, to be as open to helping others as you are in doing things for yourself.

**THIRD OPPORTUNITY:** Expressing Appreciation. We can uplift and encourage others by sincerely expressing how grateful we are for their help, friendship and importance in our life.

**FOURTH OPPORTUNITY:** Helping Newcomers. In our modern world, people move around a great deal. Thus there is a steady flow of newcomers at work, at school, in

our neighborhood and at our temple. Stepping forward to welcome and help orient them to their new environment is an excellent way to be of service.

**FIFTH OPPORTUNITY:** Offering Hospitality. Everyone can find creative ways to be hospitable in the home, at school and even at work.

**SIXTH OPPORTUNITY:** Making Encouraging and Complimentary Remarks. Make a point to say something encouraging and complimentary to everyone you meet. Their day will be brighter because of it, and so will yours.

In conclusion, having a great day needs to mean more than getting a bonus at work or an A on a school test. It should include the spiritual progress you made that day through effectively facing life's challenges and the ways in which you helped and uplifted others. Our list of twelve practices is a good beginning, but hopefully you will keep expanding it as additional insights come from your striving to maximize the spiritual progress you can make from the experiences and opportunities each day brings. Also, parents can teach children to consciously strive for spiritual progress each day at school by facing life's challenges and finding opportunities to serve.



## Post-Trip Sadhanas

### Introductory Quote from Gurudeva

Sincere devotees who prepare first and then travel here on pilgrimage are very special to us. It is important that potential pilgrims write or call us and ask for *sadhanas* to prepare themselves before they depart. While at Kauai Aadheenam, they receive instructions on what to do while under Iraivan's moksha vibrations, and what *sadhanas* to perform after returning home to solidify personal achievements and strengthen the home shrine for the coming year. All this and more has to be imparted in a very short time to seekers who visit us.

### Create/Update Your Family Plan

#### Practice

With the insights and inspiration gained during your pilgrimage freshly in mind, it is an excellent time to update—or if you don't have one, create—your family plan. If convenient, you could do so on the flight home. Otherwise, within the first week of returning home is good before the insights and inspiration wane.

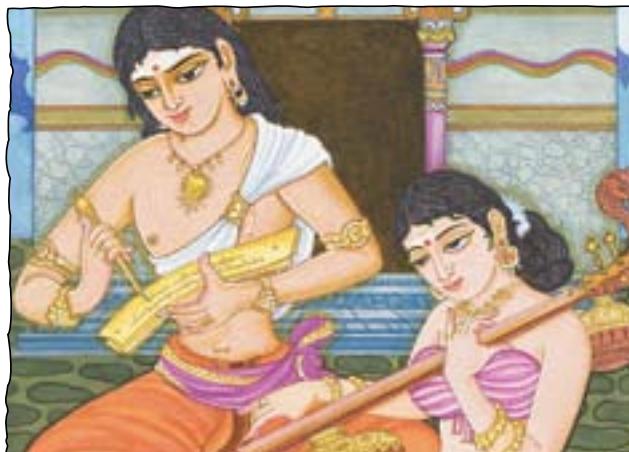
### Quote from Gurudeva

"Siva's devotees approach each enterprise with deliberate thoughtfulness, and act only after careful consideration. They succeed in every undertaking by having a clear purpose, a wise plan, persistence and push."

### Supplementary Reading

#### Personal and Family Planning

The benefits of planning are not limited to the business or financial side of life. Personal life can also benefit, for a



plan keeps us focused and motivated toward specific goals in life's various departments. Though the connection may not be immediately apparent, having an up-to-date personal plan is quite helpful for our spiritual advancement, as it helps us maintain a balanced approach to living.

To help you create a business plan, there are scores of resources available. You can find web listings of specialized software for business plans. Search engines give you hundreds to choose from. But if you google "Personal Plan Software" or "Family Plan Software," how many do you find? Zero. A search for books to buy on the subject? Again: countless titles on business planning but none on personal planning.

It is clear we have to create our own approach in this area. We can, however, draw a few important points from business plan resources. They all start by listing the objectives, then outlining the strategy to accomplish them, including financial considerations.

A business develops goals for its various departments, such as production, sales, marketing and finance. For our personal plan, it is useful to divide life into its major departments. My guru designated a five-fold division that encompasses all aspects of life—spiritual, social, cultural, economic and educational—to which we have added a sixth: physiological.

Our first step is to list our goals or objectives in each of the six areas. Ask six questions, and write down the answers to each. What are the family's or individual's: 1) spiritual goals? 2) social goals? 3) cultural goals? 4) economic goals? 5) educational goals? 6) physical and health goals?

As you begin this process, the question will sooner or later arise of how many years ahead to plan: one, two, three, six, ten? Gurudeva recommended a six-year time frame as ideal, then each year adding one more year to the plan to keep it always six years into the future. However, if six years seems a bit daunting at first, a good minimum period to start with is three years.

### **Additional Resources**

Bodhinatha's Publisher's Desk: "Planning: the Key to Success"

### **Add a Sadhana to Your Daily Routine**

#### **Sadhanas**

From among the many *sadhanas* performed on the pilgrimage, add one or more that had special significance to you to your daily *sadhana* routine. In this way you are keeping a part of the pilgrimage as a permanent addition to your spiritual life.



## Self-Evaluation Sheets

### Practice

If you completed part four during your pilgrimage, we suggest that you complete the “Monthly Self-Evaluation of “My Spiritual Progress” worksheets for three or more months. This will help you create new habit patterns to strengthen performance in these twelve points.

### Part One: Finding Opportunities To Serve

#### SEEING GOD IN THOSE WE GREET

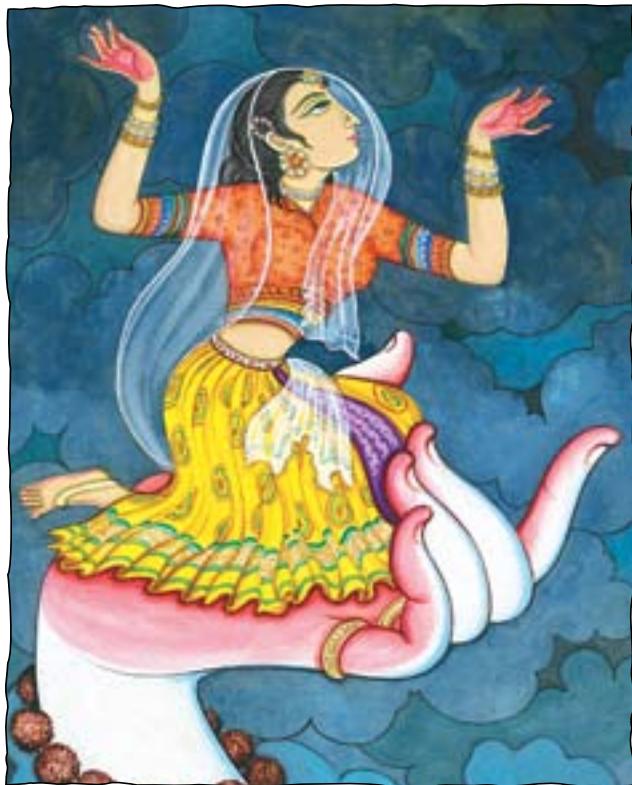
When greeting people, I looked deeply enough into them to see God, to see them as a divine being evolving through experience into oneness with God...

Always  Usually  Sometimes  Rarely  Never

#### VOLUNTEERING

When opportunities presented themselves to offer to help in ways that are beyond what is required, I stepped forward and volunteered...

Always  Usually  Sometimes  Rarely  Never



### **EXPRESSING APPRECIATION**

I expressed appreciation to each individual who recently provided me with significant help or support...

Always  Usually  Sometimes  Rarely  Never

### **HELPING NEWCOMERS**

I stepped forward to welcome and help all the newcomers I encountered at work, school, in the neighborhood or at the temple...

Always  Usually  Sometimes  Rarely  Never

### **OFFERING HOSPITALITY**

I found creative ways to provide hospitality each week in the home, at school or at work...

Always  Usually  Sometimes  Rarely  Never

### **ENCOURAGING AND COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS**

I said something encouraging and complimentary to everyone I met...

Always  Usually  Sometimes  Rarely  Never

## **PART TWO: FACING LIFE'S CHALLENGES**

### **MISTREATMENT BY OTHERS**

When mistreated by others, I responded with forgiveness and kindness without retaliating or even holding resentment...

Always  Usually  Sometimes  Rarely  Never

### **OUR OWN MISTAKES**

Whenever I made a mistake, I determined a way to not repeat it and avoided wallowing in self-doubt and self-deprecation...

Always  Usually  Sometimes  Rarely  Never

### **DIFFICULT PROJECTS**

When performing tasks that were difficult, I did not do the minimal to just get by but utilized my full concentration, willpower and steadfastness to do the best I possibly could...

Always  Usually  Sometimes  Rarely  Never

### **DISTURBED EMOTIONS**

When upset emotionally by life's experiences, I pulled myself out of it as quickly as possible...

Always  Usually  Sometimes  Rarely  Never



### **INTERPERSONAL CONFLICTS**

When disagreements, quarrels or arguments occurred, I strived to resolve matters and keep the relationship harmonious...

Always  Usually  Sometimes  Rarely  Never

### **GOSSIP AND BACKBITING**

When those around me indulged in gossip, rumors, backbiting and intrigue, I chose not to participate...

Always  Usually  Sometimes  Rarely  Never

### **GRADING YOUR PROGRESS**

**Answers have the following values:**

Always, 8; Usually, 6; Sometimes, 4; Rarely, 2; Never, 0

Additionally, if you answer the “Seeing God in Those We Greet” with an *Always* or *Usually*, you receive four bonus points.

The total number of possible points is 100.

The purpose of grading yourself each month is to quantitatively compare how you are doing now with how you did a month ago, not to achieve a perfect score of 100. Comparing your evaluation scores is of

particular value over a longer period of time, such as a year, when enough time has passed to allow you to significantly improve your habits. Comparing your score to that of another person is not the idea nor recommended.

**TOTAL SCORE THIS MONTH:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE COMPLETED:** \_\_\_\_\_

