ENGAGE- EDUCATE- EMPOWER- ENLIGHTEN

Vachanas authored by Guru Basava

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ಕರಿ ಘನ: ಅಂಕುಶ ಕಿರಿದೆನ್ನ ಬಹುದೆ? ಬಾರದಯ್ಯಾ.
ಗಿರಿ ಘನ: ವಜ್ರ ಕಿರಿದೆನ್ನ ಬಹುದೆ? ಬಾರದಯ್ಯಾ.
ತಮಂಧ ಘನ: ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಕಿರಿದೆನ್ನ ಬಹುದೆ?
ಬಾರದಯ್ಯಾ.
ಮರಹು ಘನ: ನಿಮ್ಮ ನೆನೆವ ಮನ ಕಿರಿದೆನ್ನ ಬಹುದೆ?
ಬಾರದಯ್ಯಾ,
ಕೂಡಲ ಸಂಗಮದೇವಾ.

Strong is the elephant, but can you say:
Weak is the goad of Mahout? No Sir,
Strong is the mountain, but can you say:
Weak is the thunderbolt of Indra Who hit
them to fall down to the Earth? No Sir,
Strong is the Darkness, but can you say:
Weak is the Light? No Sir, Strong is the
ignorance, but can you say: Weak is the
mind meditating on You? Not at all, O Lord
Kūḍala Saṅgama!

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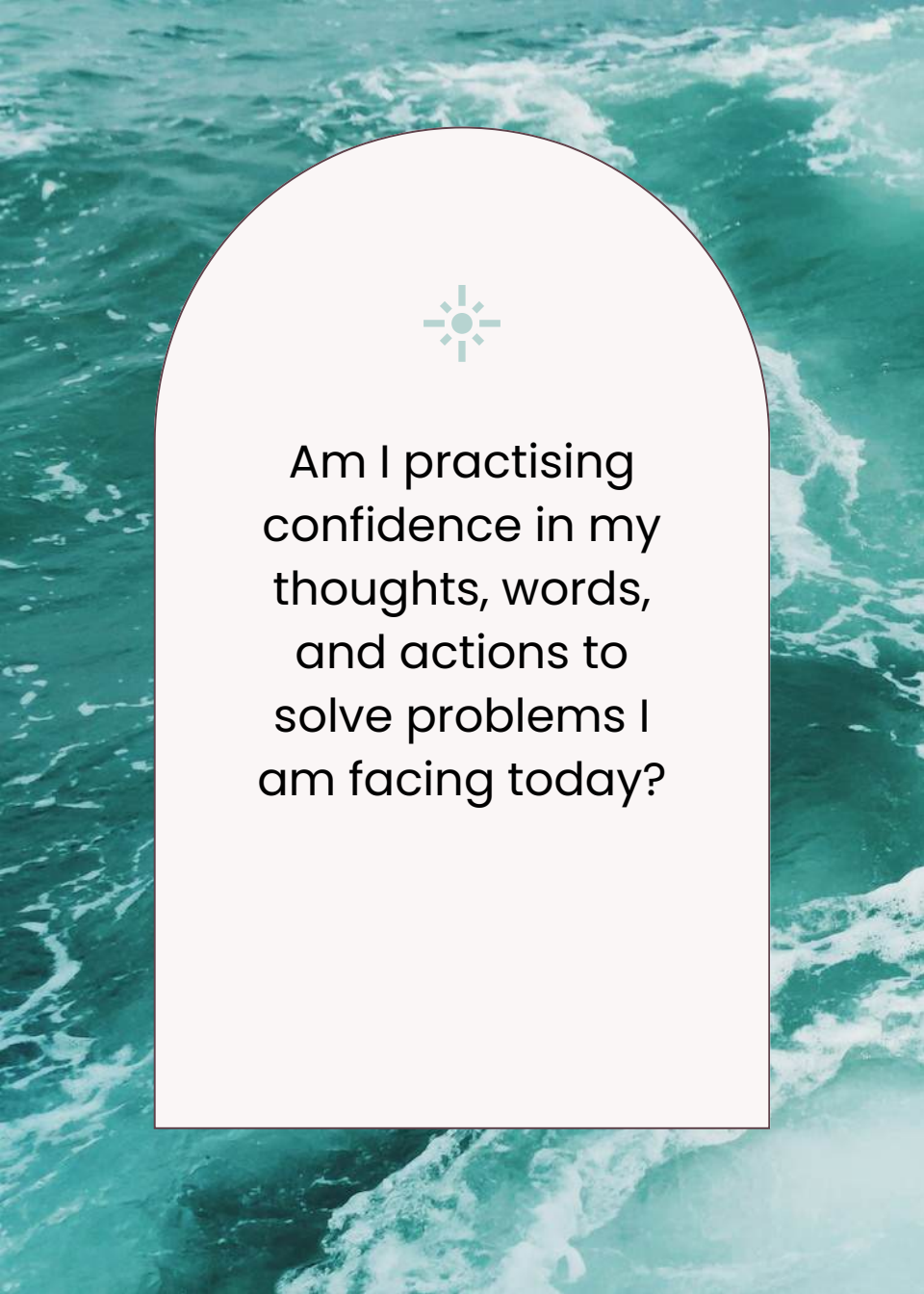

Am I practising confidence in my thoughts, words, and actions to solve problems I am facing today?

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ಗುರು ಬಸವಲಿಂಗಾಯ ನಮಃ

ಇಂದಿಗೆಂತು ನಾಳಿಗೆಂತು ಎಂದು ಬೆಂದ ಒಡಲ
ಹೊರೆಯ ಹೋಯಿತ್ತೆನ್ನ ಸಂಸಾರ!
ಹಿಂದೆ ನಾನಾಯೋನಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಂದೆನೆಂಬ
ಹೇಯವಿಲ್ಲಾ;
ಮುಂದೆ ಮುಕ್ತಿಯಾಗಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಯುಕ್ತಿಯಿಲ್ಲಾ;
ಎಂದೆಂದೂ ಸದಾಶಿವನ ಕುಂದದೆ
ನೆನೆಯಲೀಯದೆ ಕೊಂದುದಯ್ಯಾ ಈ ಮಾಯೆ,
ಕೂಡಲಸಂಗಮದೇವಾ.

Day in and day out,
My life is spent just trying
To fill this burning belly—
Never once ashamed of being born
Through countless wombs in the past,
Never once pondering over
How to gain liberation ahead!
This Māyā won't let me
Think of You without fail, It is killing me,
O Lord Kūḍala Saṅgama!

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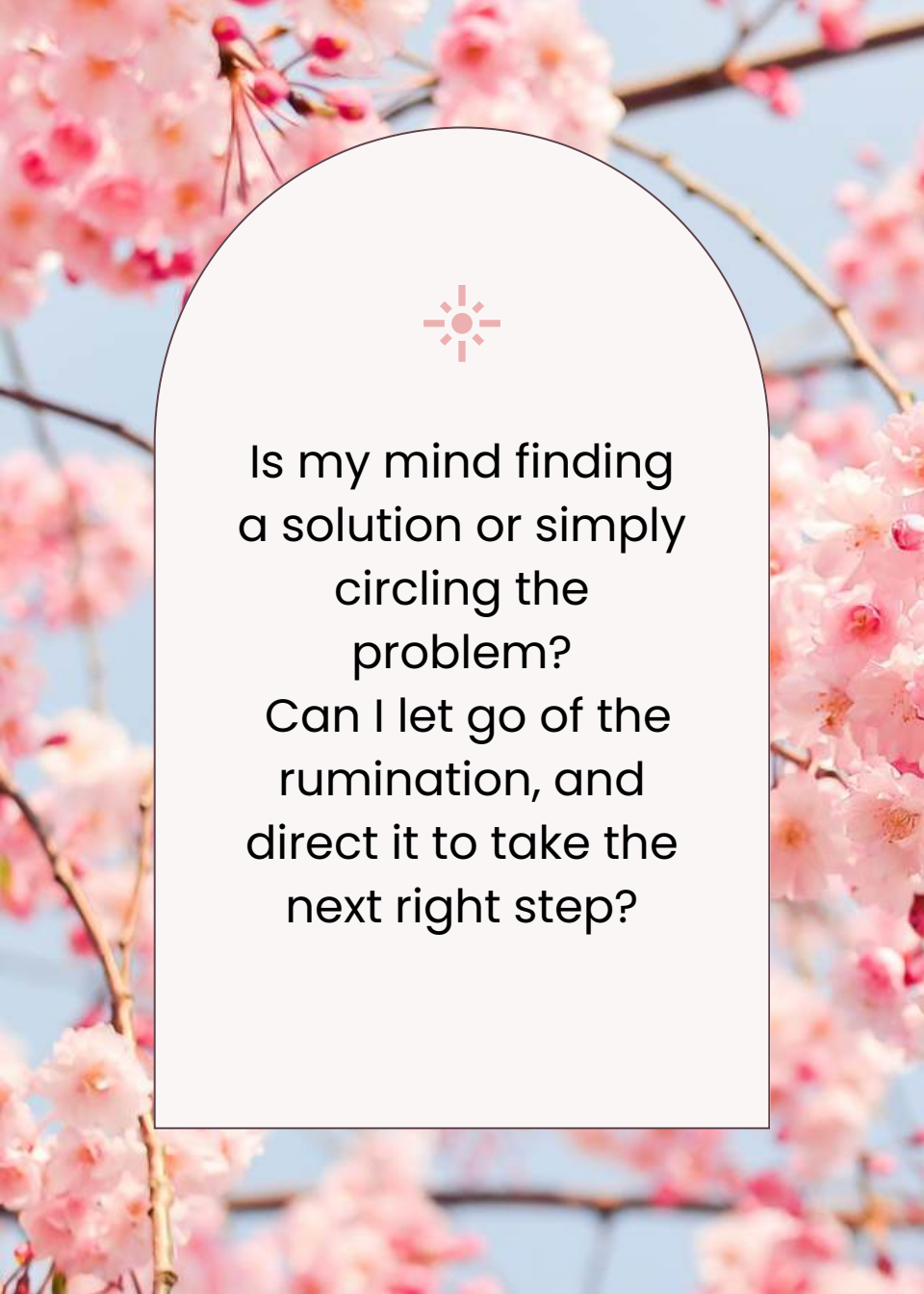
Is my mind finding
a solution or simply
circling the
problem?
Can I let go of the
rumination, and
direct it to take the
next right step?

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ಗುರು ಬಸವಲಿಂಗಾಯ ನಮಃ

ಲೇಸ ಕಂಡು ಮನ ಬಯಸಿ ಬಯಸಿ
ಆಸೆ ಮಾಡಿದೊಡಿಲ್ಲ ಕಂಡಯ್ಯಾ!
ತಾಳಮರಕ್ಕೆ ಕೈಯ ನೀಡಿ ಮೇಲೆ ನೋಡಿ
ಗೋಣು ನೊಂದುದಯ್ಯಾ!
ಕೂಡಲಸಂಗಮದೇವ, ಕೇಳಯ್ಯಾ,
ನೀನೀವ ಕಾಲಕ್ಕಲ್ಲದಿಲ್ಲ ಕಂಡಯ್ಯಾ!

If your mind is fascinated by something
and longs for it,
It would be like reaching out to a palm tree
And looking up—
Only to strain the neck in vain!
Listen, O Lord KūḍalaSaṅgama,
Nothing can be acquired
Until You bestow it!

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Today, can I release
my longing to what
I desire,
knowing that what
is meant for me will
find its way to me?

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ಗುರು ಬಸವಲಿಂಗಾಯ ನಮಃ

ಚಂದ್ರೋದಯಕ್ಕೆ ಅಂಬುಧಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವುದಯ್ಯಾ;
ಚಂದ್ರ ಕುಂದೆ ಕುಂದುವುದಯ್ಯಾ.
ಚಂದ್ರಂಗೆ ರಾಹು ಅಡ್ಡಬಂದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂಬುಧಿ ಬೊಬ್ಬಿಟ್ಟಿತ್ತೆ?
ಅಂಬುಧಿಯ ಮುನಿಯಾಪೋಷಣವ ಕೊಂಬಲ್ಲಿ
ಚಂದ್ರಮನಡ್ಡ ಬಂದನೆ?
ಆರಿಗಾರೂ ಇಲ್ಲ; ಕೆಟ್ಟವಂಗೆ ಕೆಳೆಯಿಲ್ಲಾ!
ಜಗದನಂಟ ನೀನೇ, ಅಯ್ಯಾ, ಕೂಡಲಸಂಗಮದೇವಾ.

As the moon grows
The ocean rises to the skies,
As the moon wanes, it subsides!
When the moon was caught by Rāhu,
Did the ocean cry
And come to the rescue of the moon?
When the furious Sage Agastya
Drank and emptied the ocean,
Did the moon come
To the rescue of the ocean?
Nobody is for anybody,
One who is in difficulties
Has no friends!
You are the true friend
And savior of this world!
O Lord Kūḍala Saṅgama!

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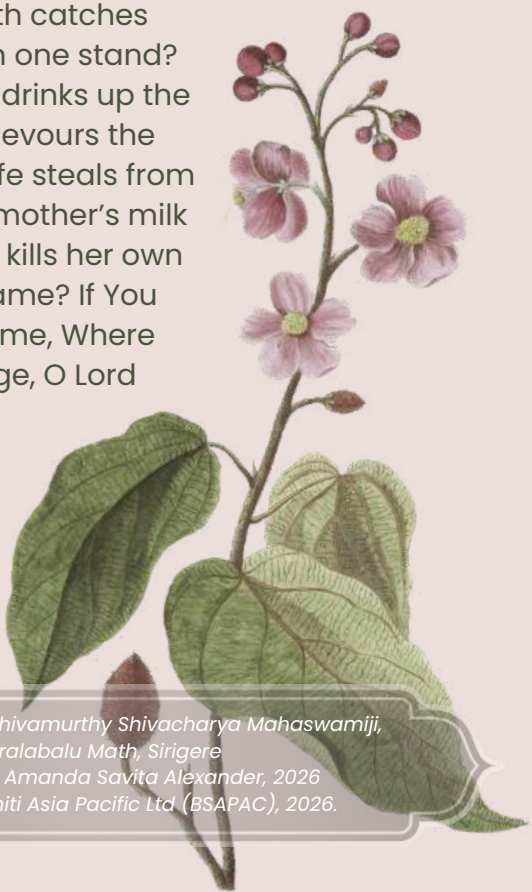
In my toughest moments, can I stop searching outside myself for reassurance and turn towards the Supreme, trusting that I am never alone?

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ಗುರು ಬಸವಲಿಂಗಾಯ ನಮಃ

ಒಲೆ ಹತ್ತಿಯುರಿದೊಡೆ ನಿಲಬಹುದಲ್ಲದೆ,
ಧರೆ ಹತ್ತಿಯುರಿದೊಡೆ ನಿಲಬಾರದು.
ಏರಿ ನೀರುಂಬೊಡೆ, ಬೇಲಿ ಕೆಯ್ಯಮೇವೊಡೆ,
ನಾರಿತನ್ನ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಳುವೊಡೆ,
ತಾಯ ಮೊಲೆವಾಲು ನಂಜಾಗಿ ಕೊಲುವೊಡೆ,
ಇನ್ನಾರಿಗೆ ದೂರುವೆ,
ಕೂಡಲಸಂಗಮದೇವಾ?

One can stand near a fireplace, But if the whole earth catches fire, Where then can one stand? If the embankment drinks up the water, If the fence devours the crop, If the housewife steals from her own home, If a mother's milk turns to poison And kills her own child— Whom to blame? If You do not take care of me, Where else can I seek refuge, O Lord Kūḍala Saṅgama!



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Today, can I stop blaming others when I have deceived myself in my own thoughts, actions and words?

ಮರನನೇರಿದ ಮರ್ಕಟನಂತೆ ಹಲವು ಕೊಂಬೆಗೆ
ಹಾಯುತಲಿದೆ;
ಬೆಂದ ಮನವ ನಾನೆಂತು ನಂಬುವೆನಯ್ಯಾ? ಎಂತು
ನಚ್ಚುವೆನಯ್ಯಾ?
ಎನ್ನ ತಂದೆ ಕೂಡಲ ಸಂಗಮದೇವನಲ್ಲಿಗೆ
ಹೋಗಲೀಯದಯ್ಯಾ!

A monkey that has climbed a tree,
It leaps and bounds among the boughs:
How can I trust this feverish mind ?
How can I, thus, approve of it ? For, every
time I try to go
To my Father, Lord Kūḍala Saṅgama,
It bars my way !

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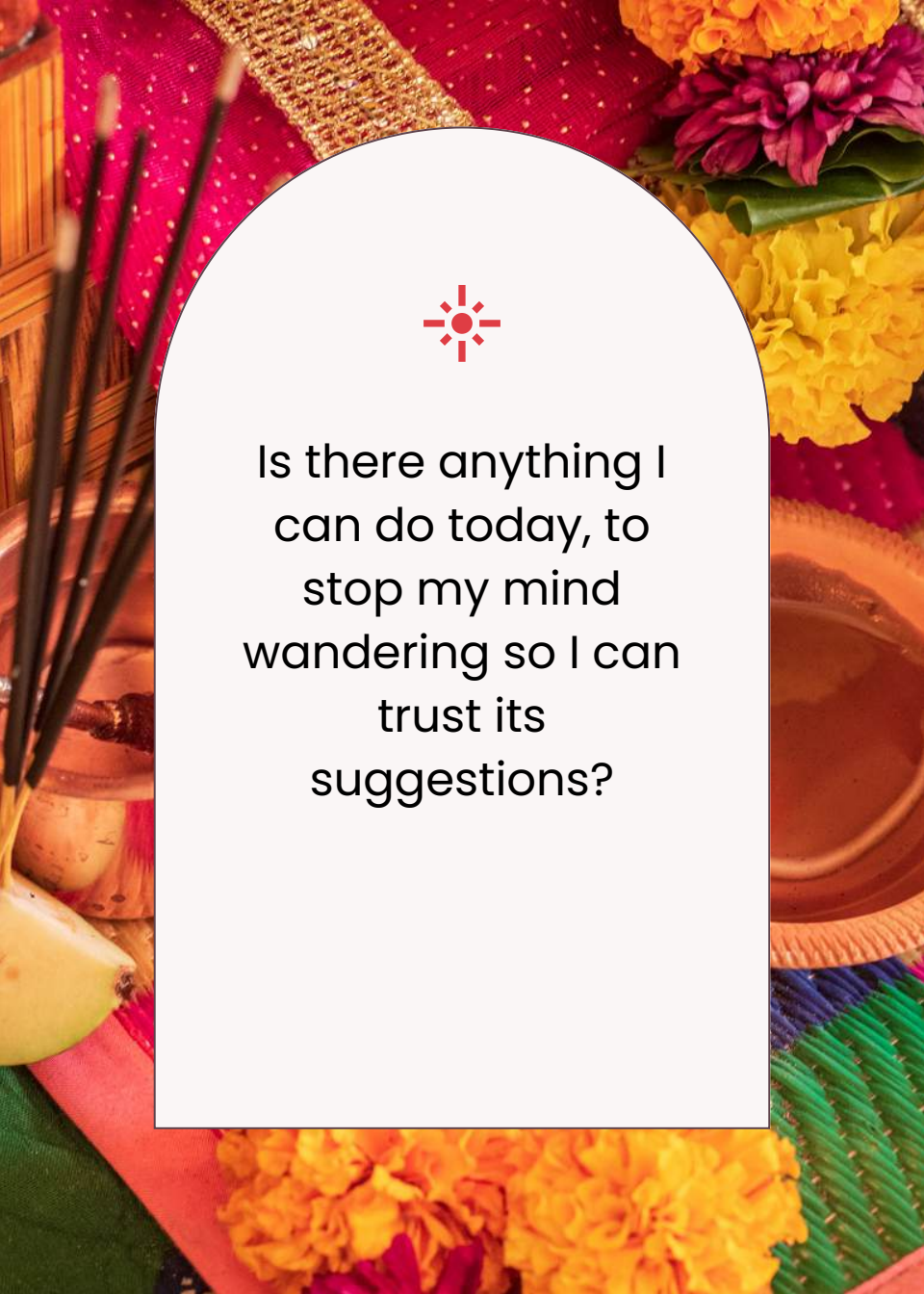

Is there anything I can do today, to stop my mind wandering so I can trust its suggestions?

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ಗುರು ಬಸವಲಿಂಗಾಯ ನಮಃ

ತುಪ್ಪದ ಸವಿಗೆ ಅಲಗ ನೆಕ್ಕುವ ಸೊಣಗನಂತೆನ್ನ ಬಾಳುವೆ!
ಸಂಸಾರಸಂಗವ ಬಿಡದು ನೋಡೆನ್ನ ಮನವು
ಈ ನಾಯಿತನವ ಮಾಣಿಸು,
ಕೂಡಲಸಂಗಮದೇವಾ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಧರ್ಮ!

My life is like a street dog,
Licking the sharp edge of a sword
Smeared with blood,
Enticed by the taste,
Unaware that it cuts its tongue.
Alas! My mind does not allow me
To overcome worldly enticements.
O Lord Kūḍala Saṅgama!
Have mercy on me,
Free me from this disgraceful dog-like nature!

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Today, can I stop blaming others when I have deceived myself in my own thoughts, actions and words?

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ಗುರು ಬಸವಲಿಂಗಾಯ ನಮಃ

ಕಾಯವಿಕಾರ ಕಾಡಿಹುದಯ್ಯಾ
ಮನೋವಿಕಾರ ಕೂಡಿಹುದಯ್ಯಾ.
ಇಂದ್ರಿಯವಿಕಾರ ಸುಳಿವುದಯ್ಯಾ !
ಸುಳಿವಿನೊಳಗೆ ಸುಳಿಯುತ್ತಲಿದ್ದೇನೆ,
ಸಿಲುಕಿಸದಿರಯ್ಯಾ ಅನ್ಯ
ಚಿತ್ತವಿರಿಸದಿರಯ್ಯಾ; ನಿಮ್ಮ
ಚಿತ್ತವಿರಿಸಯ್ಯಾ. ಅನುಪಮಸುಖಸಾರಾಯ
ಶರಣರಲ್ಲಿ ಕೂಡಲ ಸಂಗಮದೇವಯ್ಯಾ,
ಇದನೆ ಬೇಡುವೆನಯ್ಯಾ.

The temptations of my body
torment me!
The desires of my mind trouble me!
The cravings of my senses entangle
me!
I am caught in this endless
whirlpool of cravings,
Let me not get trapped, O Lord!
Let my mind not go astray,
Let it be fully absorbed in You!
I seek nothing but this—
Amidst the matchless, blissful
company of Your devotees,
O Lord Kūḍala Saṅgama!

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What can I do to control the thoughts, words and actions that disturb my peace today?

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ಗುರು ಬಸವಲಿಂಗಾಯ ನಮಃ

ಎನ್ನ ವಾಮ-ಕ್ಷೇಮ ನಿಮ್ಮದಯ್ಯಾ;
ಎನ್ನ ಹಾನಿ-ವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಮ್ಮದಯ್ಯಾ;
ಎನ್ನ ಮಾನಾಪಮಾನ ನಿಮ್ಮದಯ್ಯಾ;
ಬಳ್ಳಿಗೆ ಕಾಯಿ ದಿಮ್ಮಿತ್ತೆ,
ಕೂಡಲಸಂಗಮದೇವಾ.

My joy and sorrow—
Are Yours, O Lord!
My rise and fall—
Are Yours, O Lord! My honour and
dishonour—
Are Yours, O Lord!
Can the fruit
Be a burden to its creeper?
O Lord Kūḍala Saṅgama!

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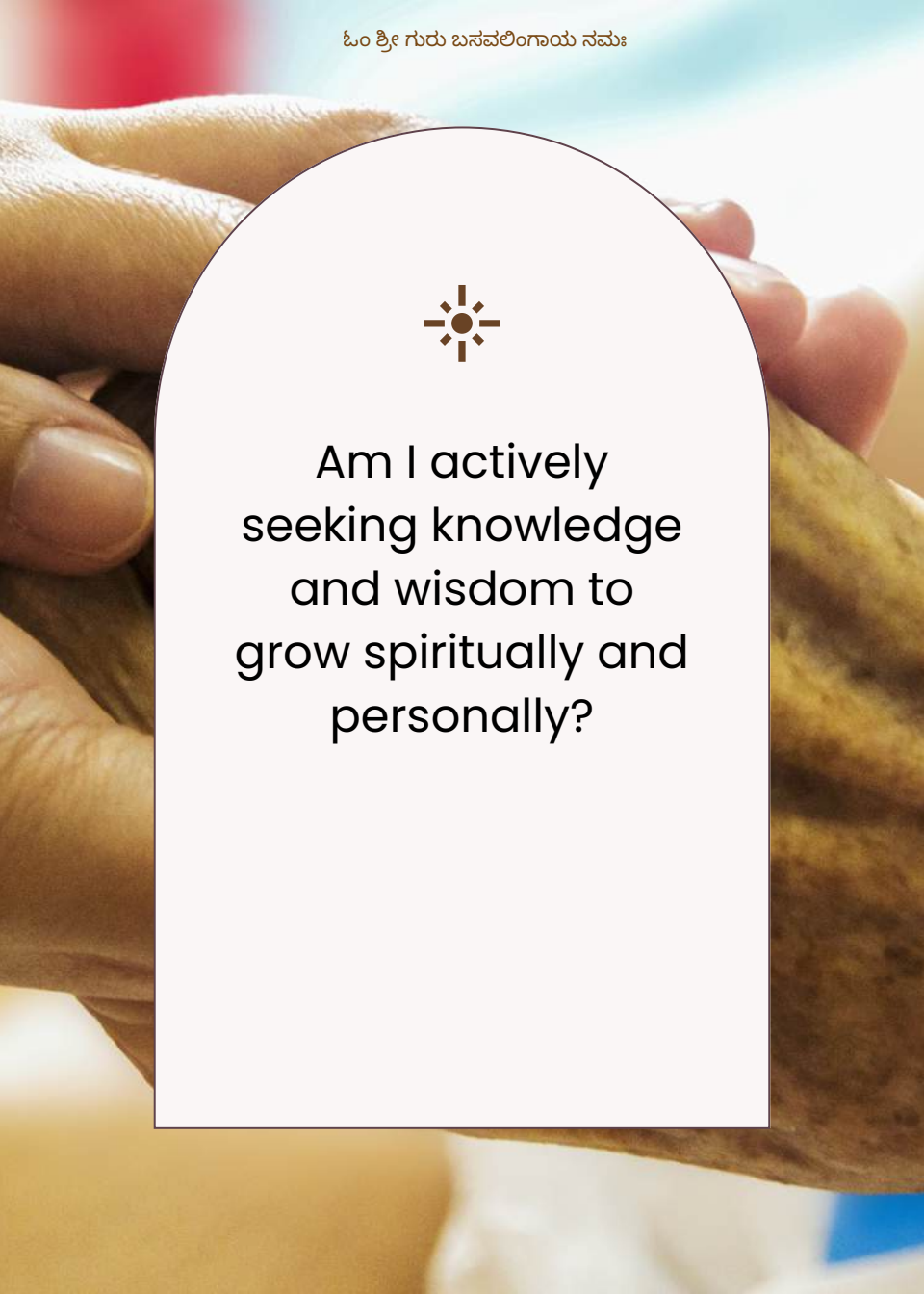

Am I actively seeking knowledge and wisdom to grow spiritually and personally?

ಇವನಾರವ, ಇವನಾರವ, ಇವನಾರವ
ನೆಂದೆನಿಸದಿರಯ್ಯಾ?
ಇವ ನಮ್ಮವ, ಇವ ನಮ್ಮವ, ಇವ ನಮ್ಮವ
ನೆಂದೆನಿಸಯ್ಯಾ. ಕೂಡಲಸಂಗಮದೇವಾ
ನಿಮ್ಮ ಮನೆಯ ಮಗನೆನಿಸಯ್ಯಾ.

Let them not think of me as a stranger!
And say “Who is he? Who is he? Who is he?”
Say instead, “He is ours! He is ours! He is ours!”
O Lord KūḍalaSaṅgama,
Let them see me as
Your own dear son!

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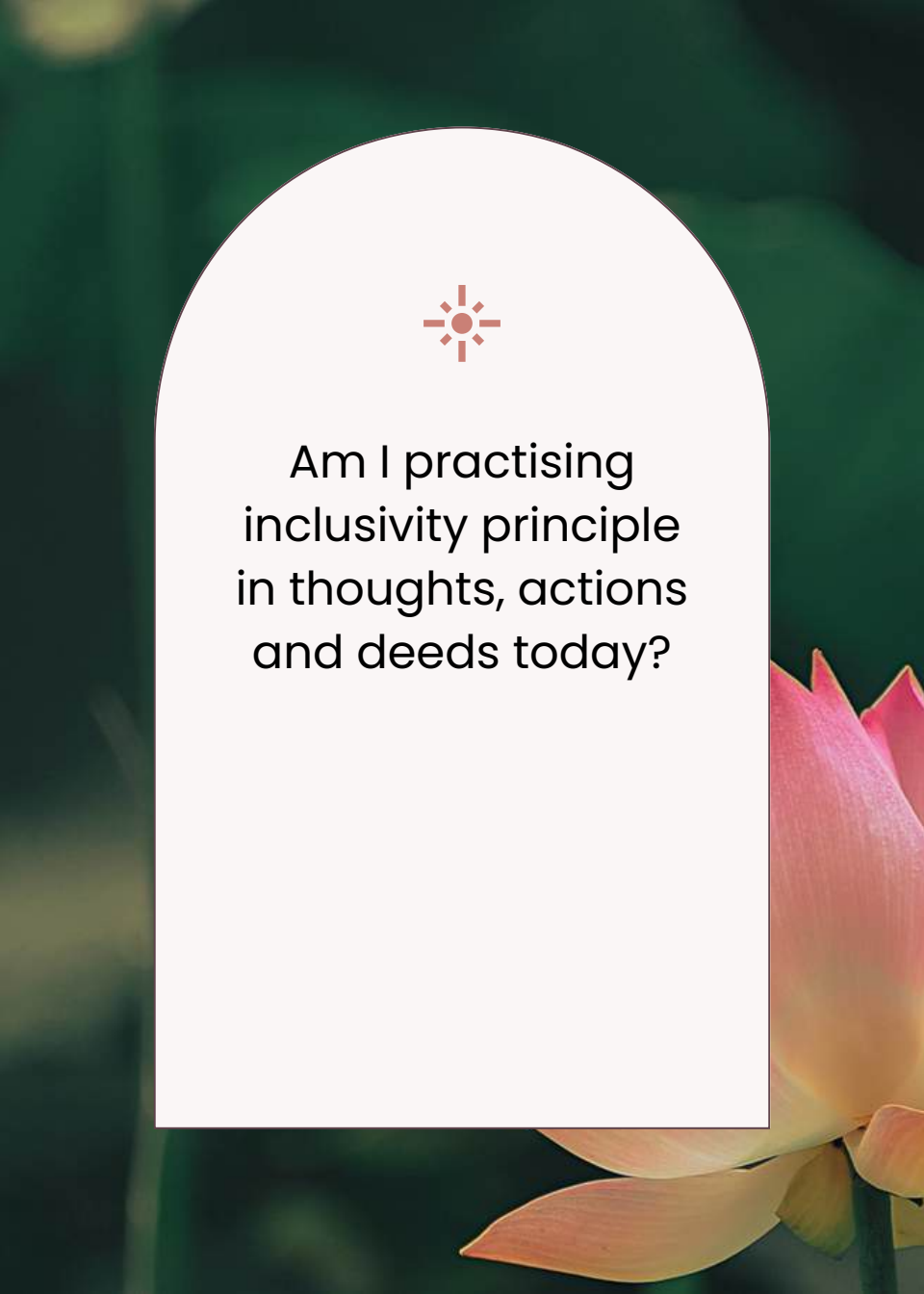
Am I practising inclusivity principle in thoughts, actions and deeds today?



ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ಗುರು ಬಸವಲಿಂಗಾಯ ನಮಃ

ಮಡಕೆಯ ಮಾಡುವರೆ ಮಣ್ಣೇ ಮೊದಲು;
ತೊಡಿಗೆಯ ಮಾಡುವರೆ ಹೊನ್ನೇ ಮೊದಲು;
ಶಿವಪಥವನರಿವರೆ ಗುರುಪಥವೇ ಮೊದಲು;
ಕೂಡಲಸಂಗಮದೇವರ ನರಿವರೆ
ಶರಣರ ಸಂಗವೇ ಮೊದಲು.

To make a pot, Clay is essential.
To make an ornament, Gold is essential.
To understand the path to Śiva,
Treading the path,
Shown by the Guru is essential.
To reach Lord Kūḍala Saṅgama,
Remaining in the midst of
His devotees is truly essential.

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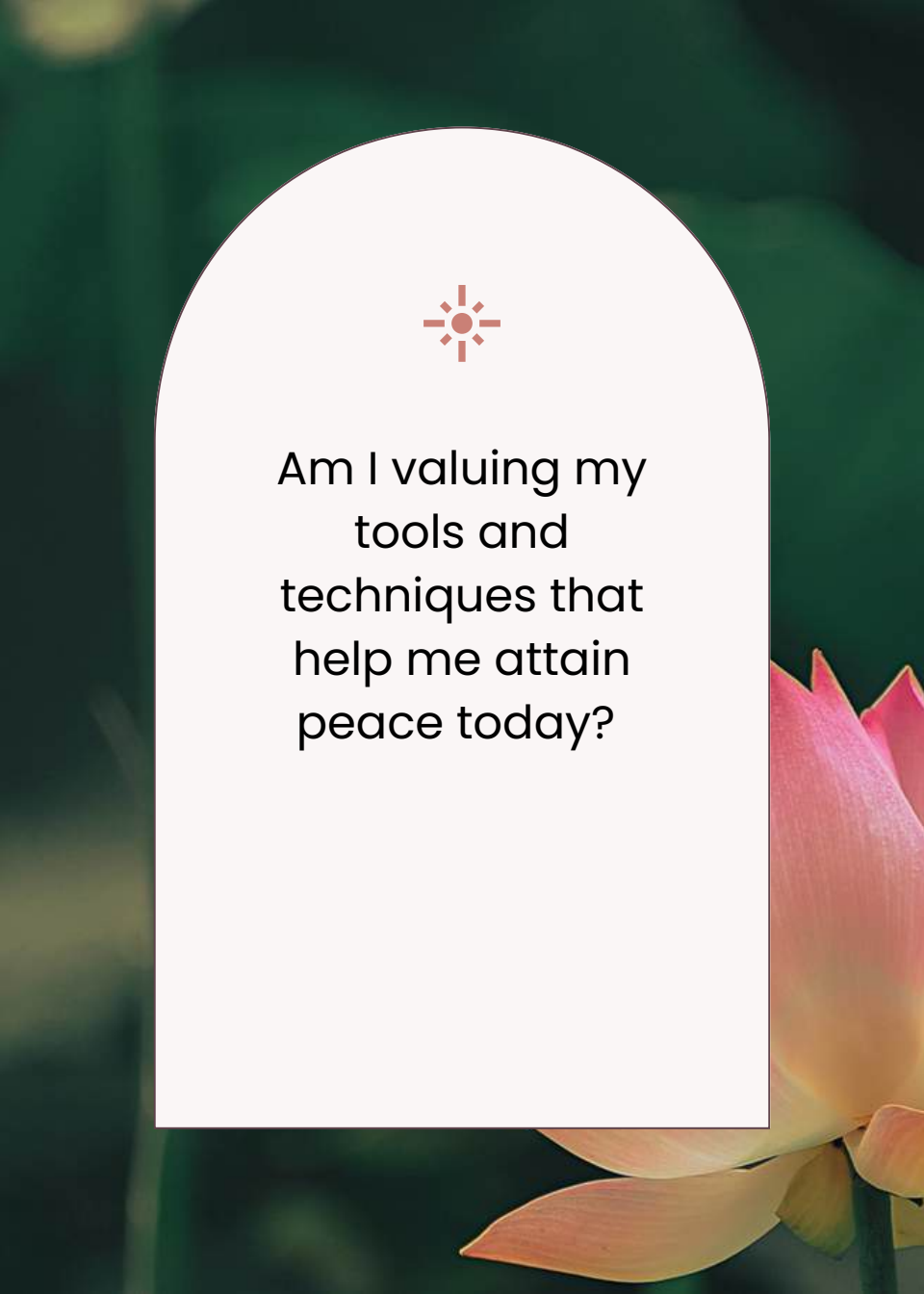
Am I valuing my tools and techniques that help me attain peace today?

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ಗುರು ಬಸವಲಿಂಗಾಯ ನಮಃ

ಮನೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಮನೆಯೊಡೆಯನಿದ್ದಾನೋ ಇಲ್ಲವೋ?
ಹೊಸ್ತಿಲಲ್ಲಿ ಹುಲ್ಲು ಹುಟ್ಟಿ, ಮನೆಯೊಳಗೆ ರಜ ತುಂಬಿ,
ಮನೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಮನೆಯೊಡೆಯನಿದ್ದಾನೋ ಇಲ್ಲವೋ?
ತನುವಿನೊಳಗೆ ಹುಸಿ ತುಂಬಿ, ಮನದೊಳಗೆ ವಿಷಯ ತುಂಬಿ,
ಮನೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಮನೆಯೊಡೆಯನಿಲ್ಲಾ
ಕೂಡಲಸಂಗಮದೇವಾ!

Is the master of the house at home?
Seems not,
Grass on the threshold,
Full of dust and dirt inside.
Is the master of the house at home?
Seems not—
The tongue is filled with all lies,
And the mind, full of lust—
Alas! The Master of the house
Surely dwells not in this house,
O Lord Kūḍala Saṅgama!

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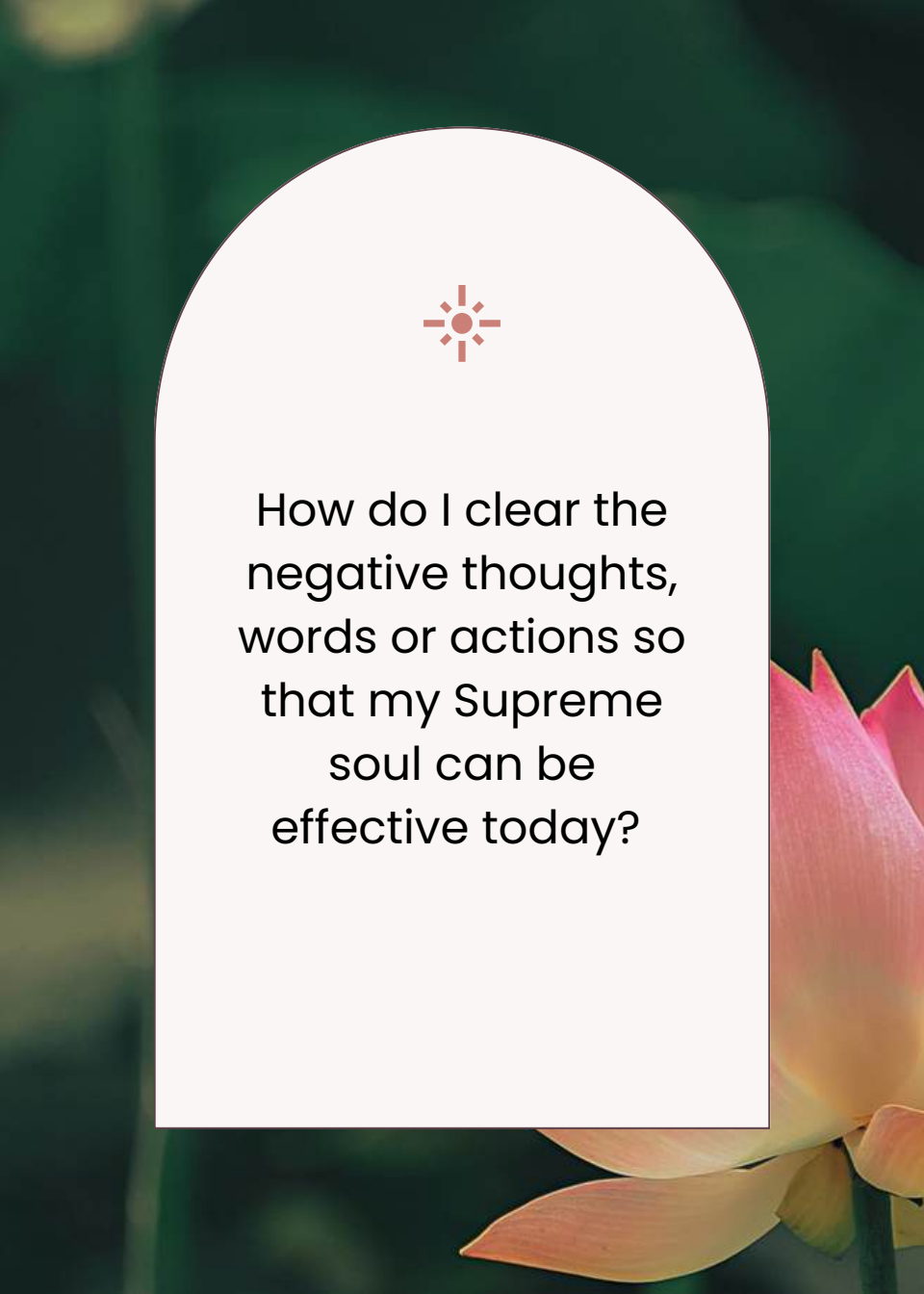

How do I clear the negative thoughts, words or actions so that my Supreme soul can be effective today?

ಹುತ್ತವ ಬಡಿದೊಡೆ ಹಾವು ಸಾಯಬಲ್ಲುದೆ, ಅಯ್ಯಾ?
ಅಘೋರ ತಪವ ಮಾಡಿದೊಡೇನು?
ಅಂತರಂಗ-ಆತ್ಮಶುದ್ಧಿಯಿಲ್ಲದವರನೆಂತು
ನಂಬುವನಯ್ಯಾ ಕೂಡಲಸಂಗಮದೇವ?

Can a snake be killed
By just striking at its anthill, Sir?
What is the use of practicing
Severe austerities,
Without cleansing the heart within?
How can the Lord Kūḍala Saṅgama
Trust those with no inner purity?

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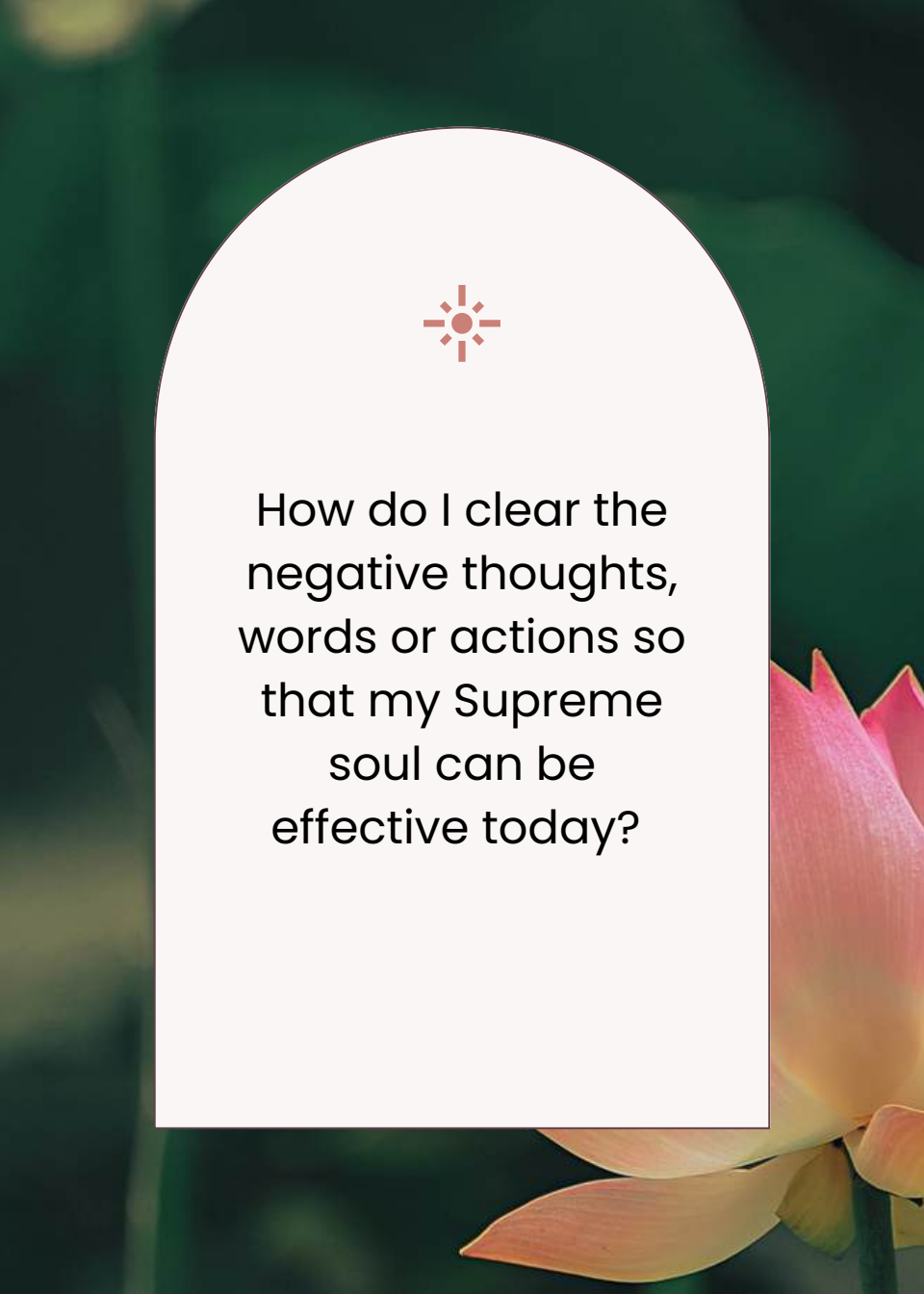

How do I clear the negative thoughts, words or actions so that my Supreme soul can be effective today?

ಸಾರ, ಸಜ್ಜನರ ಸಂಗವ ಮಾಡುವುದು: ದೂರ,
ದುರ್ಜನರ ಸಂಗ ಬೇಡವಯ್ಯಾ! ಆವ
ಹಾವಾದರೇನು? ವಿಷವೊಂದೆ; ಅಂತವರ ಸಂಗ
ಬೇಡವಯ್ಯಾ.
ಅಂತರಂಗ ಶುದ್ಧವಿಲ್ಲದವರ ಸಂಗ ಸಿಂಗಿ,
ಕಾಳಕೂಟ ವಿಷವೋ, ಕೂಡಲಸಂಗಮದೇವಾ!

Move forward,
To be in the company of the gentle,
Retreat back,
To stay far away from the wicked!
Whatever snake it may be,
A snake is a snake—
Poison is poison;
Beware of their friendship!
The company of those
Who have no inner purity Is a deadly
venom— Worse than a cobra's bite,
O Lord Kūḍala Saṅgama!

Translated by: Dr Shivamurthy Shivacharya Mahaswamiji,
Taralabalu Math, Sirigere
Designed by Amanda Savita Alexander, 2026
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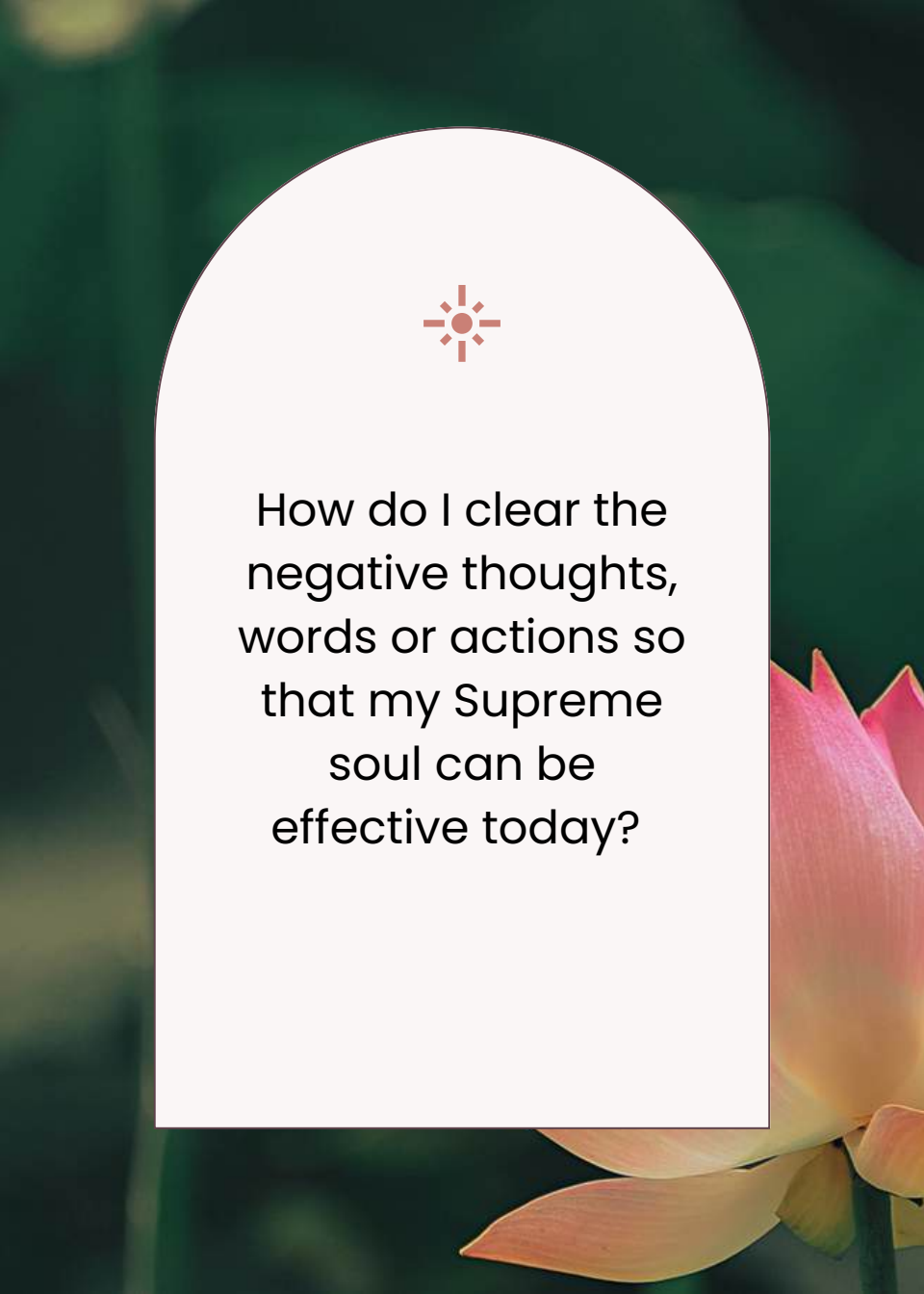

How do I clear the negative thoughts, words or actions so that my Supreme soul can be effective today?