

*DEVOTION TO A BABY ELEPHANT*

By Eknath Easwaran



*Eknath Easwaran was born in a matrilineal family in a village in Kerala, India. He grew up learning about the unity of life from his Granny, his spiritual teacher, who told him the Lord lives in each of person and creature. In this little vignette, “Saved at Dawn,” we are reminded of this unifying kinship.*

### **Saved at Dawn**

There is a pretty pond in front of our family temple where Granny and Mother used to have their bath when dawn was breaking.

Granny was a fine swimmer, but Mother did not swim at all. One morning, as Granny turned her back to go up the steps to get the sandalwood soap, Mother slipped into deep water. “Help! Help!” she cried.

Before Granny could reach her, a strong black arm pulled Mother out of danger. Granny shed tears of devotion because it was a baby elephant that had come to the rescue—a baby elephant that was having its bath at the same time.

“Ganesha be praised! The Lord has saved my daughter,” said Granny.

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