

## LESSON 06

## ILAKUMAR (ILAYACHI KUMAR)

There was a wealthy merchant named Dhanadatta who was very happy except he had no sons. He practiced many religious activities and finally received a son. He named his son Ilakumar after the goddess Ila. Ilakumar grew up very happily. One day a band of rope dancers came to town and Ilakumar fell in love with the daughter of the head dancer. His parents tried to dissuade him, but Ilakumar wanted to marry her. His parents told the head dancer they would give him money so the children could be married. The head dancer said that Ilakumar could marry his daughter on one condition: Ilakumar had to join the dancers and learn to dance and please the king. Then he could marry his daughter. Ilakumar's parents thought the idea was ridiculous, but Ilakumar decided to try. After a while Ilakumar became an excellent dancer, and went to perform for the king. He danced on a rope with seven pots on his head and while juggling four knives. The whole audience was amazed by Ilakumar's performance. However the king also fell in love with the girl, and did not want Ilakumar to marry her. He showed no signs of pleasure at Ilakumar's work. Ilakumar went up to dance a third and fourth time, but the king was not pleased. The audience did not understand the king's discontent. Even the queen could not figure it out. Soon she realized the king was attracted to the head dancer's daughter.

While Ilakumar was dancing for the fifth time, he looked out the window and saw a Jain monk and a beautiful lady. She was offering the monk food; the monk kindly refused her and did not even look at her face. Right then and there he realized his faults. He realized that worldly pleasures are only temporary, and we should not be infatuated with them. He then received omniscience knowledge, and all of his past karmas were erased. The rope he was on turned into a royal throne and angels came from heaven to hail him.

The queen realized that her worldly life was also useless, and she also attained omniscience knowledge. The king saw his error and repented for his indulgences, and also received omniscience knowledge. The dancing girl thought, "I am the root of all this evil. I will become a nun." All four soon became liberated souls.

### MORAL:

Knowledge dispels ignorance and overpowers infatuation. When we realize the hopelessness of our worldly life, we can attain omniscience also.