

LESSON 22

CHANDARUDRACHARYA

In the evening time, some youths who had set out for fun and frolic, arrived at the upashraya (a place for Jain monks and nuns to stay) of Muni Chandraudracharya. Old and angry Shri Chandraudracharya was staying at the upashraya. These youths, out of mischief, wanted to play some joke on this elderly saint. One of the mischievous youths was to be married tonight. Pointing at this young boy, the other youths said in a joking tone to the monk, "Oh monk! Save this boy. The poor fellow is compelled to marry though he has the least desire to get married. You are merciful. If you be kind enough to him and grant him initiation. It shall end all his miseries and it shall be your great obligation."

Initially the elderly monk ignored the joke. But his silence provoked the youths further. They again requested the monk to redeem the youth from the worldly ties. True to his name, Shri Chandraudracharya was known for his extremely angry temperament. As a result of excessive joking, the old monk lost his temper and addressed the about-to-be-married youth, "So you want to have initiation? OK, I shall grant you that; only then you would realize what it is to live as an initiated." The youth was still in a jocular mood. He said, "Yes, please grant me initiation. At any cost, I want to leave the worldly way of life and accept the path of penance."

Shri Chandraudracharya temper burst out. He caught hold of the youth and seizing his head he soon began to pluck his hair (loch). On seeing this, the other youths ran away; but that youth did not budge an inch. He said to Shri Chandraudracharya, "Muniraj, soon my relatives would arrive here. It would be better if we start on a journey (vihar) before they all arrive."

Due to his old-age, Chandraudracharya had already entrusted all the responsibilities of the congregation (gachchha, a chapter of monks) to his disciple. He had confined himself to self-attainment only. How could such a monk undertake a journey (vihar) without permission? But because of a situation, he agreed to start journey.

The youth carried the old monk on his shoulders and started the journey. It was already dark and a very difficult and uneven path filled with thorns around. Whenever the disciple's foot would stumble giving the old monk a jerk, the old Guru's temper would soon burst out. The disciple's feet were bruised with blisters and stained with blood but he continued his journey. The Guru, (spiritual teacher) riding on his shoulder, scolded him constantly. During these times a new disciple was contemplating that ungrateful he is that he is causing suffering to Guru who would show him the path to liberation. While walking suddenly the disciple's feet slipped in a deep ditch and the Guru lost his balance. That was enough! Guru thought he was being careless to what happens to Guru. As the volcano of Guru's anger erupted, he gave a heavy blow with his thick stick on the disciple's head. The disciple was in an extreme pain even than he contemplated that it was his fault that the Guru had to undergo all such hardships and harassment. Consequent upon his deep repentance, disciple's soul was purified and he attained pure and absolute knowledge while walking. Now he could see the road and he could avoid ditch or uneven

surface and walk well. Now Guru was not getting jerks. The Guru said, "Previously you did not walk properly but now you walk so smoothly and steadily so you deserved the blow." The disciple said, "With your blessing, I can see the road now. I have attained Kevaljnan and Kevaldarshan."

As soon as Guru heard these, he jumped off the disciple's shoulder. He apologized to the disciple who had now attained Kevaljnan. Guru repented on his merciless treatment of him. Guru also attained Kevaljnan.