

## LESSON 11

## HOUSEHOLDERS

We all are called Householders. Householders include 1) shrawakas and 2) Shrawikas. Shrawakas and Shrawikas are part of Jain Sangh. We all do different things in different ways and that is why we will not find two people similar. Depending upon what we do and how we do householders are grouped into 3 categories. They are:

- 1) **Great Householders (Uttamatma)**
- 2) **Good Householders (Madhyamatma)**
- 3) **Worst Householders (Adhamatma)**

### 1) **Great Householders (Stamata)**

Great householders are pious and religious people. They live very straightforward and simple life. They are very compassionate and have love and sympathy for every soul. They live content and detached life and have great desire to attain Moksha. These people are obviously different from many of us because their interest in the life is not to enhance the materialistic life but the spiritual life. They understand that though during this time cycle and on this part of universe there is no possibility for Moksha but by following 12 vows of Householders or taking diksha and becoming sadhu or sadhvi one can reduce cycle of rebirth (up to only one more life).

### 2) **Good Householders (Madhyamatma)**

Good householders live simple life which is coherent with others. They are helpful people and they do not disturb other people around them. They are engrossed in socio-economical life. They may get involved in public and charity work. They do what is considered good for society, city, state and nation. They help building hospitals, medical dispensaries/clinics, and schools. They help in building animal and bird sanctuaries (panjarapols). They help poor and needy people. They also care what will happen to them in future lives and therefore, they avoid any bad activities and stay involved in good activities. They observe ahimsa and carry out the work which involves less hinsa. They participate in religious activities and also encourage others to do such activities. They believe in Moksha but spend the little time for spiritual life.

### 3) **Worst Householders (Adhamatma)**

Worst householders are cruel and wicked and do not care what could be good for others. They only care what is for themselves. They may get involved in activities which are harmful to the society and involve lots of hinsa. They are just interested in what happens in this life and carry out activities which would makes them happier now. In doing so they might hurt or harm other people. Sometime, on the surface their activities may look as if they are doing social activities like opening schools, medical clinic/dispensaries and hospital but they are doing these to hide their image in the public. In short their activities are geared to make them happier irrespective of happiness or the sufferings of the others. They are not concerned about what will happen to them in their next life but care about getting luxurious or comfortable life now. They hardly have interest in religious activities. Naturally, they do not care for Moksha.