

LESSON 10

SIXTY-THREE GREAT PERSONALITIS

In Jain history there were great heroic personality and among them 63 great personalities stand out for their good and bad. Many of them attained Moksha during their lifetime and the rest of them might attain Moksha in due time. These great people are grouped in five groups. These groups are:

1. Tirthankaras
2. Chakravarties
3. Vasudevas
4. Baldevas
5. Prativasudevas

TIRTHANKARAS

Tirthankaras are the top most people in Jainism. They are best of best. They followed the path of restraint, meditation, and self-introspection themselves and are liberated and they had shown same path to us to be liberated. When they are in mother's womb their Mothers get 14* dreams and that is how mother and others know that there will be a great soul born who will lead us to spiritual path. Jains believe that every time-cycle is divided into rising as well as declining half cycles. In both half cycles there happens to be 24 Tirthankaras. We are in declining cycle and we had following 24 Tirthankaras. All of them attained liberation after following the righteous path. They also showed us the same path to attain same liberation for us. The names of 24 Tirthankaras are:

1. Shri Rushabhadev Swami,
2. Shri Ajitnath Swami,
3. Shri Sambhavnath Swami,
4. Shri Abhinandan Swami,
5. Shri Sumatinah Swami,
6. Shri Padmaprabhu Swami,
7. Shri Suparshvanath Swami,
8. Shri Chandraprabhu Swami,
9. Shri Suvidhinath Swami,
10. Shri Shitalnath Swami,
11. Shri Shreyansanath Swami,
12. Shri Vasupujya Swami,
13. Shri Vimalnath Swami,
14. Shri Anantanath Swami,
15. Shri Dharmanath Swami,
16. Shri Shantinath Swami,
17. Shri Kuntunath Swami,
18. Shri Aranath Swami,
19. Shri Mallinath Swami,
20. Shri Munisuvrat Swami,
21. Shri Naminath Swami,
22. Shri Neminath Swami,
23. Shri Parshvanath Swami,
24. Shri Mahavir Swami.

(* Digambara believes that mother of Tirthankaras get 16 dreams.)

CHAKRAVARTIES

Next great persons after Tirthankaras are Chakravarties. There are 12 in each half cycle. Their mothers also saw the same dreams as those of Tirthankaras but they were hazy and not so clear. They conquer six nations (khandas) and become great emperors. Some of them followed the righteous path and got liberated in the same life while others ended up in heaven and hell. The names of 12 Chakravarties from this cycle are:

1. Bharata	attained Moksha
2. Sagara	attained Moksha
3. Madhava	went to Heaven
4. Sanatkumara	went to Heaven
5. Shantinatha	attained Moksha
6. Kunthunatha	attained Moksha
7. Aranath	attained Moksha
8. Subhum	went to seventh Hell
9. Padma	attained Moksha
10. Harishen	attained Moksha
11. Jaya	attained Moksha
12. Brahmadata	went to seventh Hell

VASUDEVAS

Next great persons after Chakravarties are Vasudevas . There are 9 in each half cycle. Their mothers see 3 dreams. They conquer three nations and become great kings. They can not follow the righteous path because they in their previous life wished (niyana) to be vasudev and practically used up all good karmas. They get involved in very furious war and end up being in the hell. The name of nine Vasudevas of this half time cycle are:

1. Triprushtha	went to seventh Hell
2. Dviprushtha	went to sixth Hell
3. Svayanbhu	went to sixth Hell
4. Purushotama	went to sixth Hell
5. Purushsinha	went to sixth Hell
6. Pundarika	went to sixth Hell
7. Datta	went to fifth Hell
8. Lakshamana	went to fourth Hell
9. Krishna	went to Third Hell

BALDEVAS

Next great persons after Vasudevas are Baldevas. There are also 9 in each half cycle. **Their mothers see 1 dream.** They are brother to vasudevas and support them in their life time. They usually follow the righteous path and most all of this time cycle went to Moksha except one. The name of 9 Baldevas of this half time cycle are:

1. Achal	attained Moksha
2. Vijay	attained Moksha
3. Bhadra	attained Moksha
4. Suprabha	attained Moksha
5. Sudarshan	attained Moksha
6. Anand	attained Moksha
7. Nandan	attained Moksha
8. Ramchandra	attained Moksha
9. Balbhadra	went to fifth Heaven

PRATIVASUDEVAS

Next great persons after Baldevas are Prativasudevas. There are also 9 in each half cycle. They are also kings and usually end up in war with vasudevas and get killed by them. The name of 9 Prativasudevas of this half time cycle are:

1. Haygriva	went to Hell
2. Tarak	went to Hell
3. Merak	went to Hell
4. Madhu	went to Hell
5. Nishkumbh	went to Hell
6. Bali	went to Hell
7. Prahlada	went to Hell
8. Ravan	went to Hell
9. Jarasnagha	went to Hell