

LESSON 15

GOING TO JAIN STUDY CENTER (JAIN PATHSHALA)

Ami: Shila, most of the other Jain centers have religious classes once a week but your center has it twice a week and you never miss it. Do you really like learning? Or do you just go for the fun and food!

Shila: I don't care about the food. I really like the religious classes.

Ami: What's so great about it?

Shila: Everything. It tells me how to be a better person. I learn how to gain true happiness.

Ami: What do they teach you there?

Shila: Quite a lot! They teach us how to share things with others, how to be kind to others, how to respect your parents and teachers, how to control your temper, how to stay happy and content, and many more things that help us with our life.

Ami: You don't have to ruin your whole weekend to learn all of that! Don't we learn that stuff in school?

Shila: No. They teach grammar, math, science, history and social studies in school. They don't have time to teach us the moral values the way they teach in our Jain classes.

Ami: I think you are right. They must be teaching you good lessons there. I noticed other day when Manisha blamed you for something you did not do and you still did not get upset at her. You didn't even tell your mother about it. When I told Manisha's mother about this she was really proud of you. I bet you learned how to control your temper in Jain pathshala!

Shila: Yes. That is right! Our Jain teachers are so wonderful. You should come there and see for yourself.

Ami: I shall go home and ask my mamma right now. Oh, wait a minute! I forgot to ask you whether there were any rules that I should know.

Shila: There are some rules that we must follow. Many of them are the same rules we follow in school. But some others rules are used only in Jain Pathshalas. The general rules are:

- 1) Come to class pathshala classes regularly
- 2) Bring your books to the class
- 3) Be on time

- 4) Wear clean and simple clothes.
- 5) Do not chew gum or eat candy in class
- 6) Take off your shoes before entering the pathshala/center
- 7) Say "Jai-Jinendra" to the teachers and to other students
- 8) Be nice to everyone in the class
- 9) No fighting and shouting
- 10) Be polite to everybody and do not use any bad language
- 11) Do not show off in class
- 12) Pay attention during class
- 13) Keep books in their proper place
- 14) Do not throw them around
- 15) Do not wear any leather products
- 16) Do not wear silk material
- 17) Participate in the discussion
- 18) Finish your homework before the next class
- 19) Tell your friends about the Pathshala

Ami: I can follow these rules easily. I'll see you at the next Pathshala class.

Shila: I'll be glad to see you there. "Jai Jinendra."

Ami: "Jai Jinendra."