

## LESSON 18

## MANISH TAKES A STAND

**MANISH:** I am sure in a mess. I don't know what I should do.

**RITA:** What's wrong? Are you in trouble?

**MANISH:** I have a terrible, horrible and gigantic problem. I wish I could crawl into a hole and never come out.

**RITA:** What happened? It can't be that bad.

**MANISH:** My friends were studying for the math test we have to take tomorrow in school and they all have decided to cheat on the test.

**RITA:** That's wrong! We are Jains. We learned in Pathshala that we should not cheat. Anyway, why are you worried, you always pass the math tests with a hundred?

**MANISH:** My mother helps me study and I study a lot, that's why I have been passing all the tests.

**RITA:** Well, I still do not understand why are you so upset?

**MANISH:** The boys at school want to use my paper to cheat from.

**RITA:** Oh, no! You didn't agree to that, did you?

**MANISH:** No, but I didn't say they couldn't either.

**RITA:** Why not?

**MANISH:** I did not want them to be mad at me. They would call me names and I just hate to be called names, like sissy. I'm not a sissy!

**RITA:** Well, if you help in cheating, you will be in bigger trouble too.

**MANISH:** I wouldn't be cheating; the others would be cheating from me.

**RITA:** You need to be honest. Helping them to cheat makes you a cheater too. That would be being dishonest to you too and you will get bad karmas. It is papa you know!

**MANISH:** What should I do?

**RITA:** You know what is right. You need to stand up for what you believe in.

**MANISH:** Even if they call me all kinds of names that I don't like?

**RITA:** They will do that for a little while but soon they will forget it.

**MANISH:** Thank you. I will. I will also ask my mother if they can come to my house to study. That way they won't have to cheat. They can get good marks honestly!

**RITA:** That's a good idea. See, you answered your own question. Great!

**MANISH:** Now, I don't have to be upset or feel worried.

**RITA:** Now you know that worrying does not solve problems.

**MANISH:** No it doesn't! The best answer is to stand up for what is right and always follow the Jain principles we have learned.

**RITA:** I agree to that.

**MANISH:** I have made up a song. Want to sing it!

I will stand up for what is right  
Then things will look bright!  
If you think someone is doing something wrong,  
Don't wait for too long,  
Stand up for what is right!

Yes, you must,  
**STAND UP FOR WHAT IS RIGHT!**