

## LESSON 07      VOW OF LIMITED TRUTHFULNESS (STHOOL MRISAVADA VIRAMANAVRATA)

The second vow is not to commit gross lie. It means tell the truth. In householder's life situations happen where it will be very harder; though wrong, to fully observe the truthfulness in life. So householders take a following vow; "I shall refrain from telling lie about any person, animal, or thing, knowingly, and with the intention of injury to some one." Or, " I shall not with predetermination tell a lie when I am conscious of the injury it will do." Or, simply, "I shall refrain from telling gross lies." Lies are considered gross when there is an evil intention and a knowing that the statements you make are going to be or are false and will hurt or injure someone. The vow may be taken in several combinations: for instance to observe it only in the form of speech, or only mentally, or only bodily and to be observed by self only or asking some else to do for self or encourage someone else to do it. This way they can be observed up to nine different ways.

There are various kinds of lies for examples related to people, animals, goods, land and houses, business, etc. Some other kinds of lies are when we give false evidences, committing forgery, or denying on money someone might have given us, etc.

Still there are some other kind of lies like denial of a fact; the confirmation of that which does not exist; calling a thing something other than what it is.

Then there are some statements may not be lie per say but they are going to hurt the feelings of someone or injurious to others for instance, "Well, Mr. Blind man, how are you?"

We lie or make false or degrading statements because we are taken over by our passions like being mad or greedy or want to deceive someone or if our ego is hurt. We also lie while we are laughing or joking; out of fear, want to be polite with someone, in sorrow or grief or we want to blame someone else. On top of our passions these all happen because we are careless to think whether we are doing is right or wrong.

Any lie bigger or smaller or even a white lie accumulates bad karmas to the soul.

For whatever reasons, lapses may happen to observe this vow. The following are common examples:

- 1) Making false accusations against anyone or giving evidence without proof
- 2) Throwing blame on others
- 3) Divulging the secrets of one's spouse or of those who are intimate
- 4) Giving wrong suggestions and opinions
- 5) Preparing a false and forged document or maintaining false accounts

These vows are undertakings to exercise self-control and kindness so as to refrain from injuring others; and when such lapses happen one should repent as soon they are realized or at least in the evening or the morning Pratikraman whatever the situation may be.

The results of observing this vow are that people trust you, you are liked you accumulate good karmas for future time (even though this should be an intention).

In any situations if we are careful and we are awakened and determined not to lie and ready to accept all the consequences then we can stop that lie. Even though it is hard that should be our goal.