

## LESSON 10

## VOW OF LIMITED NON-POSSESSIVENESS PARIGRAHA VIRAMANAVRATA

The vow is to set limit by self to how much one will possess. In actual concept possession without attachment is not considered possessions. So person can have too much of possessions but if he or she does not have attachment to it then that is not considered possessions. But in actual life usually that does not happen so first we work to limit possessions and simultaneously decrease the desires for those possessions. If the desire is not controlled, it will be limitless and person will be running after more and more. The desire to possess is the expression of acquisitive (parigraha) instinct which needs to be curbed or else it feeds in what it gets. Possessions could be in the form of open land like fields or farms, etc., or enclosed space like house, buildings or shop, etc., or household items, or precious metal and stones like silver, gold, diamond, ruby, sapphire, emerald, etc., or Cash in bank, investments or currency, etc., or possessing large quantities of grains, or having many servants, or animals either as pet or for commercial purpose, etc. Therefore, layperson is asked to set limits to how much he wants of everything. The desire to possess is curbed by being content and staying steadfast with it.

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

- 1) Keeping more money than set limit
- 2) Possessing more lands, grounds, houses, etc., than set limits
- 3) Possessing more gold, silver, ornaments, etc., than set limits
- 4) Keeping excess of domestic articles and provisions than set limits
- 5) Keeping more servants, workers and domestic animals and birds than set limits

This vow may be manipulated by passing over the limit to children or relatives or hold under different names. This will be considered as lapse in vow. But if surplus is given in charity like building schools, hospital, panjarapol, temples, etc., then that will not break and will be good use of wealth. Main thing to remember here is that by transferring to relatives of other people your attachment for it is not gone while giving away to charity you have enhanced the vow.