

LESSON 13

FIFTEEN BUSINESSES TO AVOID (UPABHOGA PARIBHOGA PARIMÁNA PART 01)

As a householder to support family we might carry out some kind of businesses but Jainism says that we should be careful about what kind of business we run. We all know that when we run any business there will be some kind of violence but Jainism says be careful because in some businesses there might be slight or less violence while in others there might be more. Here Jainism teaches us that if you have to run business then run which has less violence. Jain scripture mentions that avoid following fifteen type of businesses where there is much more violence of some kind or other or there is provocation of passions. Let us learn more about these fifteen businesses.

1. Charcoal Related Work or Business (Ingal Kamme)

Charcoal Related Work: Making, buying, and selling of charcoal. Acquiring charcoal involves lots of digging and disturbing earth beings. But that is not the end of story because even after acquiring the burning of charcoal in various industries like melting of iron, the firing of pottery, the refining of gold or silver, the making of bricks and tiles, the construction of ovens, and in general anybody working in metals such as tin, copper, brass, or lead will also cause violence to air beings while using charcoal.

2. Destruction of plants and trees Related Work (Vana Kamme)

Destruction of plants and trees Related Work: The selling of lumber (timber) involves cutting of the leaves, shoots and fruits and stem of trees. It also applies to grain mills to make flour.

3. Construction and sale of carts (Sadi Kamme)

Construction and sale of carts to be pulled by animals, will involve the harnessing and beating of the oxen (beasts), and the crushing of living organisms under the wheels.

4. Transportation Business (Bhadi Kamme)

Transportation Business where the vehicles are pulled by horses, oxen, buffaloes, camels, mules, etc.

5. Cultivation of the soil (Fodi Kamme)

The cultivation of the soil with a plough or digging-stick, digging of artificial pools, tanks, and wells, the plowing of fields, the mining of rocks, and the shaping of stone. It also includes mining businesses and **making and selling of fire work.**

6. Trade in animal by-products (Danta Vanijje)

The trading of ivory, conch-shells, tail-hairs of yaks, claws of owls, pelts of antelopes or down of geese and the scent glands of musk deer. This also includes fishery business. This may include pearl industry.

7. Trade in lac (red dye) and similar substances (Lakkh Vanijje)
Trade in lac extracted from the female insects which involves their killing. It is used in the trade of red arsenic, indigo, borax, etc., which could be used for dyestuff or colorant, etc.
8. Manufacturing and selling of alcohol and forbidden foodstuffs (Rasa Vanijje)
We should avoid manufacturing and selling of alcohol, honey, fat (obtained from meat), and butter, meat, milk, curds, and ghee, etc.
9. Trading animals which have hairs (Kesa Vanijje)
We should avoid trading of animals which have hairs for their hairs or fur, etc.
10. Trade which involves poisonous or toxic substances (Visa Vanijje)
We should not do trade of poisons chemical materials like opium, pesticides, etc. We should also not develop or trade weapons of individual injury to massive destructions.
11. Work involving milling (Jant Pilankamme)
Work involving milling: We should not trade mills and press machines to crush sugar-cane and for expressing oil from sesame seed, mustard seed, and castor-oil beans, etc. The trading of grindstones, pestles, and short or long range missiles also fall in this.
12. Work involving mutilation (Nilanchana Kamme)
Work involving mutilation: This involves trades where there are neutering of bulls or other animals and or branding, docking, nose-piercing, and cutting off of the ears and dewlaps of livestock or other animals.
13. Work involving the use of fire (Davaggidavaniya)
Work involving the use of fire: This involve setting fire to the fields, woodland, and forests, etc.
14. Work involving the water (Saradah Talag Parisosanaya)
Work involving the water: This involves drawing off the water from lakes, ponds, water tanks, wells, and water channels, etc.
15. Work involving the breeding and rearing (Asijana Posanya)
Work involving the breeding and rearing: This involves the rearing of girls for prostitution and eunuchs, and the breeding of animals and birds such as parrots, peacocks, cocks, cats, dogs, and monkeys, mynahs, circus animals, etc.

You can see everyone of above activities have lots of violence or increase our passions so we should plan our life in such a way that we do not have to select those businesses to do. Our whole purpose is to reduce violence in our life. By not going into these businesses we will be supporting first vow as well as fourth vow.