

## LESSON 23

## WHO CAN BE SIDDHA?

Jains feel that every soul has a potential to be liberated and it does not have any boundary of the religion, country, or cast. Jains believe that as long as there are chances for the bondage of karmas to happen, the soul's liberation will be hampered. Therefore, what is the critical to be liberated is the total win over the passions so one's activities are not motivated by any of the passions this will lead to stoppage of bondage future new karma and whatever karmas there should be removed by austerities. One should keep in the mind that before attaining the salvation, a person first becomes totally detached and then omniscient where the destructive (Ghati) karmas are eliminated first and then the rest four non-destructive (Aghati) karmas are eliminated by the end of life span.

Jain philosophy describes that the process of liberation can happen in various different ways just as we can reach to New York from the different directions. There are fifteen different ways one can attain liberation, salvation.

- 1) **Jin Siddha:** In this process an individual builds Tirthankara karma which is a part of the body making karma (Nam karma) in the third life from the last and becomes Tirthankara in the last life and reestablishes the Jain congregation and then goes to the salvation. Examples: All the Tirthankaras, to name a few, Rushabhdev, Ajitanatha, Shantinath, Neminath, Parshvanath, and Mahavira, etc.
- 2) **Ajin Siddha:** In this way a person does not gain the Tirthankara karma but becomes Arihant and goes to the salvation. Example: Gautamswami.
- 3) **Tirth Siddha:** In this category, the individual attains the salvation after taking the shelter under Jain congregation established by the Tirthankara.
- 4) **Atirth Siddha:** In this one becomes Arihant even before the Jain congregation is established by a Tirthankara and goes to the salvation after the Jain congregation is established. Example: Marudevamata.
- 5) **Gruhasthaling Siddha:** These are the people who from the outside may live the life of a regular social person (householder) but from within they are totally detached. They do not have any attachment or hatred for the things happening around them and as their level of spiritual attitude improves they eliminate destructive karmas and become Arihants. If their life span is short then they go to the salvation in about in one intra Indian hour (antarmuhurt) or if the life span is longer, then they take up the monkhood and oblige the world to bring the awareness until their nirvana. Example: Chakravarti king Bharat.
- 6) **Anyaling Siddha:** Any saintly person observing the right code of conduct, has the right faith and the right knowledge, and puts them to practice can get the salvation. Example: Vallakchiri who was the ascetic of the other religious group.

- 7) **Svaling Siddha:** Jain monk goes to the salvation. He is an enlightened monk and with the right faith, right knowledge and right conduct attains salvation. Example: Muni Shri Prasanchandra.
- 8) **Purushling Siddha:** This is when a man attains salvation. Example: Sudharmaswami.
- 9) **Striling Siddha:** A woman can attain salvation too. (Digambara sect does not believe that woman can get salvation) Example: Chandanbala, Mrugavatiji, etc.
- 10) **Napusankling Siddha:** Jains also believe that even a person with neutral gender can attain salvation: Example. Gangeyamuni.
- 11) **Pratyek Siddha:** In this case person by self-awareness eliminates the destructive karmas triggered by the reason of the surrounding or old age and becomes Arihant and ultimately becomes Siddha. Example: Karkandu Muni.
- 12) **Svayambuddha Siddha:** In this case a person by the self-inspiration eliminates the destructive karmas and becomes Arihant (Kevali) and ultimately becomes Siddha. Example: Kapil Kevali.
- 13) **Buddha Bodhit Siddha:** When some one gets enlightened by a spiritual teacher, and renounces the world, and then one follows flawless life to become a siddha. Example: Gautamswami, Vayubhuti etc.
- 14) **Ek Siddha:** Here one soul (person) goes to the salvation at a time among the group of the monks and nuns. Example: Lord Mahavirswami.
- 15) **Anek Siddha:** When many monks go to the salvation together at the same time. This means that it so happens that lives of many monks ended at the same time as others. Example: Lord Rushabhdev and other monks with him.

Thus it will be noticed that anyone can get liberation regardless what religion they may follow or where they live and is not limited to only Jains. Only requirements are one should get rid off all attachment and hatred which is taught by Jina.