

In previous lesson we discussed Feeling-producing and Body-determining Karma and we will discuss other now.

Gotra (Status determining) Karma

Gotra Karma determines your social and economical status. There are two sub-types of Gotra Karma:

Nichcha (Lower status determining) Gotra Karma

Uchcha (Higher status determining) Gotra Karma

Nichcha Gotra Karma causes us to be low and poor in society. Uchcha Gotra Karma causes us to be high, well respected and wealthy in society.

Nichcha Gotra Karma is built by disrespecting people, being egoistic and proud, and making fun of others. Uchcha Gotra Karma is built by having devotion and faith in the Jain Sangh, not looking down upon anyone, being free from pride, respecting and honoring all, and treating everyone with love.

Gotra Karma can be shed off by being respectful towards those who have status and also towards those who do not.

Once our Gotra Karma is shed off completely, our souls become Agurulaghu.

Ayushya (Age Determining) Karma

Ayushya Karma decides our life span. Ayushya karma may be shortened, but can not be prolonged. The Ayushya karma for the next life is decided only once in each life time; specifically, when two thirds of our current life has passed. If it is not decided during the first two thirds then it is decided during two-thirds of remaining time. If it is still not decided yet then again at the two thirds of remaining time and so on or at the time of death. Ayushya Karma may be shortened but can not be prolonged. Ayushya karma will not be acquired if the soul is going to be liberated in the current life. There are four sub-types of Ayushya Karma:

Naraki (Infernal) Ayushya Karma

Tiryancha (Animal) Ayushya Karma

Manushya (Human) Ayushya Karma

Dev (Celestial) Ayushya Karma

Depending upon its effects, some may live short or others may live longer.

Ayushya Karma is built by engaging in violent activities and taking the lives of others.

Ayushya Karma can be shed off by showing compassion towards everybody.

Once all of our Ayushya Karma has been shed off completely, our souls attain Akshaystithi. In this state the soul becomes immortal and is never reborn.