

LESSON 02

NAVKAR MANTRA PART 02

In last lesson we learned the details about Arihant and Siddha and now we will learn about Acharya, Upadhyaya, and Sadhu and Sadhvi.

ACHARYAS

The message of Jina, Lord Mahavira the last Tirthankara, is carried on by the Acharyas. They are our spiritual leaders. The responsibility of the spiritual welfare, but not social or economical welfare of the entire Jain congregation, rests on the shoulders of the Acharyas. Before reaching this state, one has to do in-depth study and achieve mastery of the Jain scriptures (Agamas). In addition to acquiring a high level of spiritual excellence, they have the ability to lead the monks and nuns. They know various languages with a sound knowledge of other philosophies and religions of the area and the world. Acharya is the leader of all the monks. There are 36 attributes. 18 attributes to get rid off 18 impurities and other 18 attributes to enhance 18 purer activities.

18 impurities to get rid off are as follows:

5 Impurities of sense activities

- 1) Touch,
- 2) Taste,
- 3) Smell,
- 4) See, and
- 5) Hear.

9 Situations to be avoided to observe celibacy

- 1) Not to live where householders lives
- 2) Not to sit alone with the person of the opposite sex
- 3) Not to talk with a person of the opposite sex.
- 4) Not to see the women's body
- 5) Not to eat the spiced or tasty food.
- 6) To avoid the food which produces impurity of thought
- 7) Does not spend time for improving the body shape.
- 8) Does not remember past sensual happiness and
- 9) Does not listens to the conversations or pay attention to what could be happening in neighboring room

4 types of passions to be avoided

- 1) Anger ,
- 2) Pride ,
- 3) Deceit,
- 4) Greed.

18 Attributes to enhance 18 purer activities

5 Great Vows related

- 1) Nonviolence,
- 2) Truthfulness,
- 3) Non stealing,
- 4) Celibacy,

5) Non possessiveness.

5 conducts related

- 1) Knowledge,
- 2) Perception,
- 3) Bliss,
- 4) Penance and
- 5) Energy.

5 Restraints related

- 1) Walking,
- 2) Talking,
- 3) Taking alms,
- 4) Cleaning places of seating and
- 5) Cleaning places of the disposition of urine or stools.

3 Controls related

- 1) Actions of Body,
- 2) Actions of Speech and
- 3) Actions of mind.

UPADHYAYAS

This title is given to those Monks who have acquired a special knowledge of the Religious scriptures and philosophical systems. They teach Jain scriptures to monks and nuns.

25 attributes related to studying of scriptures.

- 1) 12 Jain canonical text related,
- 2) 11 Jain sub-canonical text related,
- 3) 1 Proper code of conduct related, and
- 4) 1 Proper practice related.

MONKS AND NUNS

When householders become detached from the worldly aspects of life and get the desire for spiritual uplift (and not worldly uplift), they give up their worldly lives and become monks and nuns. A male person is called monk (sadhu), and a female person is called nun (sadhvi). Before becoming monk or nun, a lay person must observe monks or Nuns to understand their life style and doing religious studies. When they feel confident that they will be able to live the life of a monk or a nun, then they inform the Acharya that they are ready for initiation (diksha). If the Acharya is convinced that they are ready and are capable of following the vows of monks and nuns, then he prepares for initiation (diksha). Initiation ceremony is when a householder changes to a monk or a nun. Monks/nuns have 27 attributes. They are as follows.

5 Great Vows Observation

- 1) Commitment of Total Non-violence (Ahimsa) -not to commit any type of violence.
- 2) Commitment of Total Truth (Satya) -not to indulge in any type of lie or falsehood.

- 3) Commitment of Total Non-stealing (Astya) -not to take anything unless it is given.
- 4) Commitment of Total Celibacy (Brahmacharya) -not to indulge in any sensual pleasures.
- 5) Commitment of Total Non-possessiveness (Aparigraha) -not to acquire more than what is needed to maintain day to day life.

6 types of lives he protects.

5 one sensed living beings

- 1) Water,
- 2) Fire,
- 3) Earth,
- 4) Air, and
- 5) Vegetable.

1 moving living beings (includes two sensed to five sensed living beings)

5 sensual objects to avoid

- 1) Touch related,
- 2) Taste related,
- 3) Smell related,
- 4) Vision related and
- 5) Hearing related.

11 observations during life time

- 1) Do not eat before sunrise or after sunset;
- 2) Forgiveness
- 3) Avoidance of greed.
- 4) Non possessives.
- 5) Equanimity.
- 6) Stopping bad thoughts.
- 7) Not to speak bad language.
- 8) Behave properly
- 9) Acceptance of adverse situations without any reservation.
- 10) Accepting the idea of voluntary death.
- 11) To keep mind clear.

That is why Jain monks and nuns are unique. Their activities are directed towards the uplift of their souls to the state of liberation.

Thus total attributes from all five supreme beings adds up to be 108.

- 1) 8 attributes of Arihanta.
- 2) 12 attributes of Siddha
- 3) 36 attributes of Acharya
- 4) 25 attributes of Upadhyaya and
- 5) 27 attributes of Monks and Nuns.

108 total

We use rosary (mala) to recite Navkara Mantra. This rosary has 108 beads to reflect 108 attributes of five supreme beings (Panch Parmesthi).