

LESSON 23

EIGHTEEN SOURCES OF SINS PART 03

- 1) Quarreling (Kalah): Most of the time, if we do not agree with others, the first thing we do is to fight. Many people fight even for a trivial matter. We should remember that even if we win in fighting, we lose in the long run. We should not forget that fighting breaks up even a good friendship. Frustration, anger or ego, etc., is the cause for fighting. Therefore, we should learn to let go and believe in forgiveness.
- 2) False accusation (Abhyakhyan): Some persons cannot accept their losses and blame others for it even when the others are not at fault. When people find out the truth, they lose trust in that person. Therefore, before accusing anyone we should ask ourselves, “What is the truth and why am I looking for the short term gain?” No wise person will do this. Therefore, accept the truth and live by that even though sometime it may not be in our favor.
- 3) Gossip (Paishunya): Talking behind someone’s back or spreading rumors are all known as paishunya. Many people try to look smart by spreading rumors about others. This is a wrong habit which leads to the unnecessary friction and the quarrels. This takes time away from constructive activities. Instead of indulging in the gossip, we should form the habit of appreciating others.
- 4) Criticism (Parparivada): It is formed of two words. a) Par means the other person and b) Parivada means to criticize. Many people do nothing but criticize others. Instead of admiring others, they always find faults instead. If criticism is done with good intention to improve, then it is as considered positive or constructive criticism, and that is welcome. But if the criticism is done to put down others, then it is considered negative criticism and it should be avoided. It creates unnecessary friction, cultivates anger in the people, and can lead to unfortunate events.
- 5) Likes and dislikes (Rati-Arati): Rati means liking, while arati means disliking. When a friend comes to our house, we like him, but on the other side if a funny looking stranger comes to our door we dislike him. This liking or disliking seems to be a natural response but we should not forget that they can bring the feeling of attachment or hatred in our minds. Therefore, even though our expressions may look innocent, we should be careful about them and try to balance them.
- 6) Selfish lying / malice (Maya-mrushavada) -As such any lie is bad, but when it is done with the malice it is even worst. Malicious behavior causes nothing but quarrel and friction. Not only should we avoid such habits, but we should stay away from those who have such habits. Instead of being vicious, we should be kind to the others.
- 7) Wrong-belief (Mithya-Darshan-Shalya): This word is combination of three words. a) Mithya means false, b) Darshan means the faith, and c) Shalya means a thorn. This means to believe in a false faith is a thorn. We know thorn never gives pleasure, but rather they always hurt. In the same way, keeping faith in a false belief will lead us to nothing but sufferings. False beliefs can start from believing in false teachers, false

religions and false gods. False teachers are those who do not believe in the five major vows as prescribed by the Jinas. They promote violence, lying, stealing, immoral sensual activities, and possessiveness. They also have passions like anger, ego, deceit and greed. Believing and following such teachers will bring our downfall and therefore, we should stay away from them. In the same way, false religions are one which promotes teaching opposite of what the Jinas have taught. False religions would promote violence, anger, ego, deceit, and greed. They will nourish attachment and hatred. Therefore, that will be bad for us and we should stay away from them. In the same way we should avoid false God, who is tainted with attachment, hatred, anger, etc or bears arms symbol of violence. When someone is biased he cannot give right advice, so how can we trust them. However Jinas do not have any attachment or hatred; therefore, they are not tainted. There is no reason for them to give us any advice that will hurt us. They reached the highest state of being detached and they have shown us the same path of detachment to worldly things. They have taught us that we would have to our own saviors and only we can save ourselves. Thus, we should have faith in the right teachers, the right religion, and the right God.

So, from the discussion in the last three lessons, we can realize that any of these 18 types of sinful activities are harmful. As long as we are living, we are bound to undertake some kind of activities, but we should be careful and replace the sinful activities with good activities to minimize harm to our souls. If we have to get involved in any sinful activity due to the unavoidable circumstances, then we should not be engrossed into it but do it with regret, and repent for doing such acts but never enjoy doing it.

CONCLUSION

Out of all 18 sins, the most important sin is wrong belief. Only after removing the wrong belief, one can have right faith, and thereafter only the real religion starts.