

# Sadhu Kulguru



Long ago, there lived a rich merchant. One day he took his son to listen to the sermons of Dharmaghoshsuri, Jain Acharya. The boy was so amazed by what he heard that he decided to renounce worldly relationships. He took on a spiritual discipline and was named Kulguru, but became popular as Kurgadu.



Kulguru studied well and understood the real meaning of whatever he learned. Everybody thought that he was a very bright student, but even then he had one problem, he could not fast. He couldn't go without food. He had to eat at least once a day.



In one rainy season, all the Jain monks stopped moving around and camped in one place for chaturmas. Paryushan time was coming, and many monks began their fasting. Some even fasted for a whole month. Samavtāsri day came when usually all sadhus fast. Kulguru also tried to fast, but it was impossible for him. So, he went to the Acharya and begged that he be allowed to ask for alms.



The Acharya was quite upset that Kulguru could not keep a fast when the other sadhus were fasting for one whole month. Seeing his teacher's distress, Kulguru got very sad. He told his teacher how he wanted to fast, but somehow his body would not let him. Listening to what he said, the Acharya finally let him go to ask for alms.



Kulguru sorrowfully went for the alms and came back. Then he asked the Acharya's permission to eat. In all this, he felt very sad about himself. What made him feel worse was that all the other monks kept looking at him as if they were disgusted with his inability to keep a fast.



The other monks were very proud that they could keep up with such long fasts. Kulguru knew that whatever he was doing was wrong, and it must be because of his bad karmas from his past deeds.



He kept repenting about his bad karmas and felt sorry for his actions in the present and past births. He got so engrossed in repentance that he burned all his karmas and attained Kevalgnan omniscience in the same position.



Angels came to bow to him. The other monks thought they were coming to them because they had fasted for a long time, but they saw them going to Kulguru.

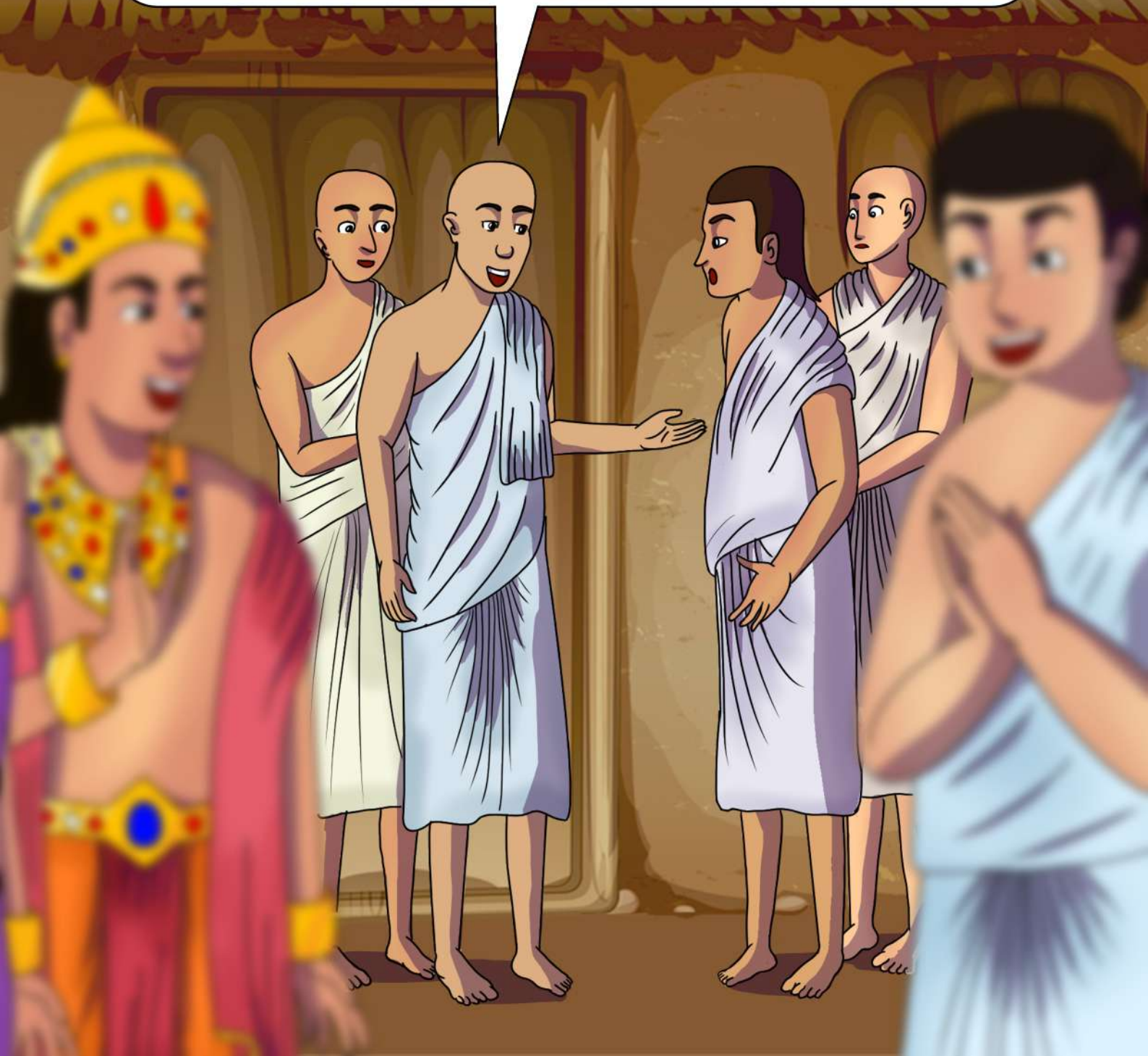
"How is this possible?"

they asked their Acharya.



The Acharya replied humbly,

"You were too proud of yourselves, so you could not see beyond yourself, while Kulguru felt sad for all the bad karmas of his past births. He knew his need for food was because of those bad karmas. He repented on it and burnt all of them."



The monks gave up their pride and bowed to Kulguru.



We must be able to  
look within ourselves  
and improve.

