

# Samudrapal



Champapuri was the capital of Ang State in India. In Champapuri lived a famous merchant named Palit, who was a devoted disciple of Tirthankara Mahavira. He was a Shravak and knew the principles of the Jain faith very well.



Palit was trading with foreign countries and once went on a large boat to Pahund, a famous town. He established his business there, and many traders became his friends. One of them liked Palit very much and got his daughter to marry him. They were leading a comfortable life. Palit was fair in his trade and was helpful to the people. His supplies were in time and of good quality, so his trade expanded in many countries.



After some time, his wife became pregnant, so Palit wanted his child to be born in Champapuri. He decided to leave for Champapuri with his wife in a large boat. While traveling, the child was born, so they named the child Samudrapal. When they reached Champapuri, they celebrated his birth.



Samudrapal was very handsome and intelligent and was brought up with great care. He had a nice atmosphere at home and good teachers in school.



Soon, he became an expert in seventy-two arts meant for boys. He learned the export and import business and got married to a beautiful girl, Roopini. He was spending his life like an angel, and the pleasures of worldly life were available to him. He was living in a beautiful palace.



Once, Samudrapal was sitting near a window at his palace and enjoying the grandeur of the town. He suddenly saw a man sentenced to death and was shocked. The man was wearing red clothes, and there was a garland of flowers around his neck. He was being led to the place of execution, to be hanged. A proclamation about his heinous crime was made for the public to see. Several policemen were escorting him.



Samudrapal realized that the criminal had got the death sentence for his bad deeds and started contemplating over it. He was absorbed in his thoughts and realized wicked actions produce bad results, and good actions produce good results. Nothing goes unrewarded. Samudrapal felt that he was collecting bad karmas by enjoying sensual pleasures. The pleasures increase attachment and passions, which are momentary and end in pain. They make a person physically and spiritually weak. He knew that the only way to get out from the mud of sensual pleasures was to become a monk. One should follow the law of Tirthankars, accept the vows and observe austerities.



Samudrapal came to his parents and told them he no longer had any interest in sensual pleasures. He had found they ended in misery and asked permission to become a monk. The parents told him the difficulties in the ascetic life, but Samudrapal stated that they were insignificant compared to the death sentence. His parents then allowed him to become a monk.



He shattered his connections with his family and relatives and accepted the five vows of non-violence, truth, non-stealing, celibacy, and non-possession. He had compassion for all beings and complete control over his senses. Monk Samudrapal avoided possessions which lead to misery and attachment. He started enduring tragedies faced in monkhood and decided to move around different places.



A monk should not be afraid of anything and should move like a lion. In case one utters a bad word, he should not give any response and should bear everything pleasant or unpleasant. A monk may come across many dangerous and dreadful situations caused by angels, men, or animals, which can easily discourage ordinary men. But a monk faces them like a royal elephant as the head of the battle.



Cold and heat, mosquitoes and bugs, unpleasant feelings, and many diseases attack the body, so a monk should endure them with courage. He should not recall the comforts of worldly life he had once enjoyed and should not be insulted by bad behavior. At the same time, one should not feel happy by respectful treatment. Monk Samudrapal strictly followed all the rules of conduct and was shining in ascetic life like the sun in the sky.



This way, he completely wiped out all the karmas and obtained perfect knowledge, Kevalgnan. He crossed the ocean of worldly existence, and his soul was liberated from the cycle of birth and death.

