

CHILDREN'S STORIES



**Author:- P. Muni Shree
Nirvaanbhooshanvijay M.**



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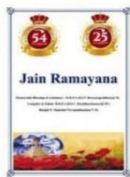
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This book is a collection of small stories on different characters of the era of Lord Ram, from the perspective of Jainism. Reading this book will inculcate high moral and cultural values among the present generation.

Edited / translated / written books by

P. Muni. S. Nirvaanbhooshan. V. M.–

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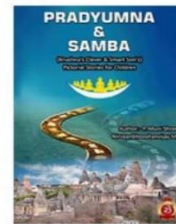
Publisher: Golden Path for Nirvaan Charitable Trust

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26. Life changer
- * 27. Children stories

Blessings & Aagnaa

H.H.P.A.D.S.V. Purnachandra S.M.

H.H.P.A.D.S.V. Mooktiprabh S.M.



Pradyumna & Shamba

This book is all about Krishna's clever sons - Pradyumna & Shamba. Read this book to know more.

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‘Golden Blessings for Nirvaan’

Religious stories – Relieve the pain of Karma

Benevolence is such a great element whose glories have been sung freely by virtuous writers to philosophical theologians. Sanskrit litterateurs write that “Paropkaraya *satam Vibhutayah*”, which means that all the powers and wealth of the good people are used in benevolence, just as the milk of the cow, the water of the river and the fruit of the tree are beneficial to others. Theologians, in the prayer [*jayviyaraya*] *sutra* says through the '*parathkaranam cha*' rule, and in the disciple's duty [*bhannah jinanam*] *sutra* says through the '*parovarayo aa*' rule, that benevolence is the best prayer to god and it is a special duty for the religious householders. A Hindi Shayari also says that:-

“*Sirf apna hi khyal karke jiye to hum kya jiye?*

Jindadili ka takaja hai, kuchh auron ke liye bhi jiye.”

[“What is in the life, if we live only by taking care of ourselves? Liveliness demands that one should live for others as well.”]

The question is, what is the best benevolence? Its answer is relative to the matter, field, etc. However, it can generally be said that a good deed is different from what appears to be a good deed on the surface. For example, if someone lovingly feeds a starving poor person for two to four to five days, it may seem like a great beneficence at first glance. But if a far-sighted person secures his life by making a permanent arrangement of livelihood for that poor person, then undoubtedly it is better than ever. The only difference in worldly level beneficence is that the indirect beneficence of livelihood is better than the directly seen benefit of food. The same thing should be understood between mundane and transcendental beneficence.

The best of transcendental level beneficence is welfare of the people through sermon. After attaining *Kevalgyan*, the supreme lord Shri Tirthankar Bhagavant himself performs the highest spiritual benevolence by giving six hours of sermon in both parts of the day. The scriptures have given it the adjective '*Lokhitaya*'. In the preaching of Guru Bhagvant, it is included that “*samayikstha dharmopdesha guruomatah*”, which means that one whose character is righteous is dedicated to the guru.

One of the arts of giving sermon is to incorporate relevant stories that reinforce the topic. While Sri Tirthankar Bhagvant himself uses stories in the sermons, *Gyata Dharma Katha* etc. *Agams* (jain sacred texts) are also full of stories. These stories make the sermon more effective and also more interesting. Because the impact of the stories is reflected in the heart, and the concentration in listening to the stories remains very high. A skilled preacher, Guru Bhagvant, combines the story with the sermon and weaves the sermon into the story.

In this book of stories, we will find this art spread everywhere. These stories have been presented in the preaching by *Vyakhyanvachspati* P. Acharyadev Shri Vijay Ramchandra-Surishwarji Maharaj. His style of discourse is famous as it can be easily understood by common people also.

Among the illustrations included, the illustrations of Sri Dhannasarthvah, Ilachiputra, Shalibhadra, Pethadshah, etc., are the illustrations from ancient moral books, whereas Mohini

Patni, Karaksar, Pahelo Prahar, etc., are illustrations that are popular among folks. The purpose of the presentation of each illustration is to make life refined – religious and detached from *vishaya-kashaya*. To accomplish this purpose let us have a glimpse of how the sermon is woven in essence with the details of the illustrations:

* Paramatma Sri Adinathdada's first human birth is Dhannasarthvah. The incident of his attainment of *Samyaktva* is presented here in detail. Here comes a context that in various worries of Vishal Sarth, Dhannasarthvah forgot to take care of Jainacharya Shri Dharmaghoshsoorishwarji Maharaj for some time. Suddenly realizing his mistake, he comes before Acharyabhagwant and repents for the unintentional negligence. On the other side, calm and serious Acharyabhagwant did not talk about any trouble. Rather, whatever arrangements were made by Sarth, he put forward. The essence of this incident is nicely presented by Acharyashri: "Stop complaining about the trouble caused to you. Appreciating the virtues of the one by whom the trouble has been caused will shame the troubler himself. Excellent souls in this way make the other person acquire the virtues." What a great guidance here.

* Sangam Gowal was the previous birth of Shalibhadra. The incident of how that child from a very poor family got *kheer*(pudding) in a difficult situation and how he donated with special feeling this *kheer* to a fasting sage is a famous context. When the mother came from outside, she watched the child licking the plate after donating the entire pudding. she asks. "You consumed all that pudding in such a short time?" The child just laughs on hearing this and does not flatter himself that I have donated the pudding to a right person. Mentioning this incident, Acharyashri nicely says that: "His tongue was not long because his world was not large. Today, after giving donations, the tongue remains long. It is an indicator of the large world of the people. After doing good deed, the tongue should be kept short." One should not praise his own good deeds, what a nice guidance is given.

Such obscure excellent extracts from many famous stories have been mentioned here and there. This is a very useful feature of stories.

Munivar Shri Nirvanbhooshanvijayji has converted these stories into English. Observing the different abilities, different levels, etc., of each sage. the Gurus entrust them with those tasks. The scriptures call this quality of Gurus '*Anuvartan*'. Based on this quality of *Anuvartan*, Gurujan asked Munivar to focus on writing books in English. So far, he has published fifteen pictorial English books. Among these, all the books are stories except 'Chikago Prashnottar'. On this occasion we express our best wishes for him that authoring and editing English books useful in the attainment of religion and moral values should continue in abundance from his hands, so that the devotees of 'new generation', who are not familiar with Gujarati- Hindi, can also get '*dharm-labh*'.

At the end, I wish for the readers that may reading and contemplating these religious stories relieve their pain of *karma*.

– Vijayrajratna Suri

[Yugdivakarasamuday]

V.S. 2080. Jeth Vadi - 9.

Dated 30-6-2024. Shri Siddhakshetra – Palitana.

‘Golden Blessings for Nirvaan’

Mayanasundari

Publisher: Smritimandir Prakashan Trust, Ghanshyam Park, Anandnagar, Bhatta-Paldi, Ahmedabad-7

Mobile: Dineshbhai - 9426382003,

Page-44. Price Rs. 25/-

Since P. Muniraj Shri Nirvanbhooshan Vijayji has a good command over English language, even before this book, the English books written by him have been welcomed. In the same style and words, Mayanasundari's life events have been illustrated in English language. The pictures are stunning. English speaking readers will find such English publications useful.

(Kalyan Magazine – Top magazine of Jainism) Yr.- 79. Volume -12

Guide: H.H.P.A.D.S.V. Purnachandra S.M.

This is the experience of years that the children learning in English medium don't have full understanding of Gujarati language. Gujarati discourses pass over their heads; even they feel Gujarati books boring. This is the condition of whole new generation. The age of cultivating moral values is being wasted in education and entertainment. This is the great matter of concern for the well-wishers of Shri Jain Sangh. All of them are concerned about how to make children virtuous, cultured, pious and afraid of sin .

Among many solutions, one solution, perhaps most simple and successful, is : tell the children the stories of Tirthankars, ascetics, great men and great women of virtue. All like stories; children like the most. In addition, it is a matter of experience that an inspiring life-character is more effective example than an inspiring preaching. The horrible results of sins and the sweet fruits of *dharma* can be explained in a simple way through stories.

The learned Muniraj Shri Nirvanbhooshan Vijay understood this thing years ago and started right efforts in this direction. As a result, today 15 stories penned by him have been published. As these stories of Jain history is reaching to people, their demand is ever increasing. New editions of many books are being published.

It is a matter of delight that Munishri is making his contributions in this great *yagna* for familiarizing lakhs of children of Jain families with the best conduct, thinking, philosophy and history of Jain religion. May Munipravarshri continue to get more and more success in this challenging task – this is my heartfelt greetings!

Vijay Mokshrati Suri

V.S.2081 Mahasud 10, Akota, Vadodara

Thanks for Appreciable Letters / Opinions/ Guidance
which will give us the most potent force.

• H.H.P.A.D.S.V Latitshekhar S.M.	• H.H.P.A.D.S.V Punyapaal S.M.
• H.H.P.A.D.S.V Purnachandra S.M.	• H.H.P.A.D.S.V Mooktiprabh S.M.
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We have published names of few Jain Acharyas – Monks – Sanghs & libraries. We are thankful to other well - wishers also. We will publish their names in future.

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• Los Angeles Jain Centre	

1. When the duty calls

When the duty calls

With the construction of the Jain temple, King Vimalvahan and his family and subjects also had become devotees of the Lord. It was as if Shri Punyapal and Gunasundari were lost in God. The citizens never forget the celebrated *Pratistha Mahotsav*.

It's about a day talking to the clouds. Buddhinidhi Shrimati Gunasundari says to her husband: Swami! People say that by attaining the *Dharma* of God and getting the best opportunity of devotion to God, we have made our birth, life and wealth successful. Then a saying was revolving in my mind. If I have your permission, I will tell you.

Punyapal Shresthi says, "Dear! Why do you hesitate? Say whatever needs to be said." Gunasundari says, "What is the meaning of that wealth which cannot give satisfaction to the loved ones after acquiring it? I knew like this. If you think it is right, then with the permission of our king we can go to the kingdom of my father King Arikeshari, so that if my father recognizes us, sees our wealth and knows the unimaginable effect of *Dharma*, then we can become the reason for his satisfaction and he too can become inclined to *Dharma*."

Devout Punyapal liked this very much. Why not like it? This is the characteristic of a virtuous man, who has no regrets for anyone in his heart. If King Arikeshari attains *Dharma*, then *Dharma* will be established throughout the family and also in the city. Wouldn't a religious person would like this?

There came some difficulty in getting permission from King Vimalvahan to go. The king and the people were not ready to leave this religious couple. That's why when they prepared in a month to leave, the city came to standstill. As the Shresthi couple moved towards Baddilpur along with their huge family of servants and supporters, there were tears in the eyes of the people. But, when there comes a sense of duty, wise people do not miss the opportunity.

When the duty calls

An encampment was made on the border of Baddilpur. As if a new Baddilpur has been built. There was a huge pavilion, new decorations, shining lights... security team... soldiers from country and abroad, and a troupe of bards. Marching in royal style, Shresthivarya Shri Punyapal and Mahasati Gunasundari arrived with grandeur. Then this grand city came to life.

Shresthivarya Shri Punyapal along with Vishwasu family came to the royal assembly of King Arikeshari with gifts. After paying regards, the king was invited to visit with his family. The king was just waiting for this invitation as he had heard a lot about them. Also, he was astonished to see the Seth's glory and talent. So, he accepted the invitation without any argument.

By the order of Seth, wonderful decoration was done from the palace to the outside city, in order to welcome the king. People of the city also participated in the grand welcome procession. The king and the townspeople were just feeling surprised. "Who are all these people? What is this happening? And for what?" Such questions were roaming in their heart.

Entering the pavilion with this unimaginable welcome, the king might have found his own palace dull. The welcome was over. The king became relaxed. Unique preparations were made for taking bath. Punyapal got the king bathed by the men skilled in massaging and bathing. He himself got ready after taking bath etc. Puja clothes were presented. He entered his in-house temple with the king. Then the king also became emotional after seeing the wonderful sight of the Lord enduring 'Upashamaras'. At the time of meal, golden plates and bowls were laid out on the gem-studded tables. 32 dishes, 33 types of vegetables and the fragrant atmosphere all around took the king into a different mood.

The king and Punyapal were having dinner together. Women dressed in different clothes used to come from one door, serve food and go from the other door. The king was watching all this with wide eyes. The king thinks that along with the immense growth, it seems that Punyapal Sheth has a huge family of women also. Who wouldn't get attracted by seeing such abundant materials of wealth and lust?

Giving voice to the suffocating thoughts in his mind, the king asked...!

Father! This is the same woodcutter.

“Shresthivarya Punyapal! You are much virtuous. Your qualities are like your name. Your wealth and prosperity are visible like a rising ocean, but what is it like to have a huge family of women with a great man?” King Arikeshari asked this question to Shri Punyapal while having food.

Punyapal immediately said, “No Maharaj! I have only one wife who comes to serve in different clothes.” Gunasundari immediately takes the opportunity and appears before her father with an open face. She began feeling that her plan was succeeding. The king was surprised to see her wearing the same outfit she had worn when she married the woodcutter in the royal court in a fit of anger. He became worried. He felt immense pain. “Oh! Did Gunasundari bring shame to my family? Did she marry any other man after leaving the woodcutter?” He was hiding his sad face.

With the interest to connect the thread of conversation, Punyapal said, “Maharaj, what are you worried about? This is your daughter Gunasundari.” Gunasundari also immediately said, “Father, please take food without worry. There is no need to be sad. The woodcutter with whom you got me married in the royal court is the same woodcutter, the great man. The one whom *Karma* had transformed into a woodcutter is my beloved who receives and nurtures the same virtue. Father! You eat your meal with a calm mind. Later, we will discuss everything calmly, from the beginning.”

King Arikeshari was immersed in a mixed feeling of joy and sorrow. He started feeling guilty about himself. He thought, “At that time, out of anger I had desired to make my daughter sad. I married her with a stray woodcutter and later, till date, didn’t take information of her. Today, due to the influence of virtue, she has become the enjoyer of such a good fortune befitting a great king. Due to her virtues, her virtues have given her the fortune to enjoy. Her *Dharma* has given her humility and wisdom. I am that unfortunate father in this world who harms his children.” Nevertheless, the king felt happy after seeing his daughter's happiness and wisdom and ate the food.

When the duty calls

Gunasundari was looking forward to the opportunity when the truth would be exposed and her father would attain *Dharma*. When that opportunity came today, there was no limit to her joy. In the guest room, on one side of father's seat was Shri Punyapal and on the other side was Gunasundari. The king said, "Son! Although I did not believe in *Dharma-Karma*, but after listening to you even briefly, I am feeling ashamed of my caste. What did I do out of ego? Tell me son, what is the truth now?"

As soon as the news of Gunasundari was received, the maid recounted the past and said, "Vijaypal was the king of Vishakha city. In terms of restraint and generosity, Nagarshresth Shri Shrikant was like the incarnation of Dhankuber. He had only one child named Padmakant. After the death of Shrikant Sheth, in shock, Chandrakanta Shethani also took refuge in death. Becoming a victim of the conspiracy, Padmakant left everything and went away. The relatives sold the remaining property. Padmakant became a wanderer and destitute. When virtue ends, then who is a kin and who is a stranger?"

In search of food, wandering in only the clothes he was wearing, each day seemed like a year to Padmakant. He started earning his living by selling loads of wood. While roaming around, he came to the royal court and in anger you sent Gunasundari with him. That daughter of yours was a believer in the principle of *Karma*. She did not get discouraged. With patience, the couple went far away and settled in Vijayvardhan city. The pages of *Karma* turned, fortunes opened, and in a short time wealth started piling up.

This family of woodcutter gained the respect of Seth-Sethani. The reason was their generosity and modesty. Gunasundari made her husband devout. Gave him the understanding of *Jindharna*. He also became religious from being a small-time worker and gained fame as Punyapal. To overcome the lack of Lord's temple in the big city, he took the help of King Vimalvahan. With the introduction of Punyapal, the king became devout and came to his city today in the memory of his parents."

King Arikeshari was astonished at this. There was no limit to his joy. Hearing this tale which spread with the speed of wind, the queen and others also arrived. The entry into the city started amidst the joy of the people. Meanwhile, King Arikeshari gained fame upon getting the opportunity of religious sermon from a religious leader. He handed over the kingdom to Punyapal and accepted *Diksha* (initiation). Punyapal became the king and Gunasundari became the queen. In the end, after handing over the throne to his son Sulochan, he also became a *Dikshit* and reached to the stage of salvation.

2. Wealth and religion

Wealth and religion

The zodiac sign of *Dhan* (wealth) and *Dharma* (religion) is said to be the same. The effect of wealth is also equally visible everywhere in the world. The one who likes wealth does not like *Dharma* due to its form, this is what philosophers say. The one who likes *Dharma*, does he also like wealth? No, but it has been seen that the one who likes wealth does not like *Dharma*. Those who say they like *Dharma*, keep running after wealth.

The influence of wealth may seem widespread but it cannot be greater than the nature and influence of *Dharma*. In the end, wealth is also obtained only through the influence of *Dharma*, isn't it? Kuberdudd Shresthi was also one of the great people who swore to maintain the waving flag of *Dharma* amidst the splendour of wealth, which was a reminder of the prosperity of Kuber Bhandari.

Anhillpur Patan was once the capital of Gujarat. In this city, which had gained immense fame during the reign of Shri Siddharaj Jai Singh, the universal rule of Paramarhat Shri Kumarpal Maharaj was spreading like vast wealth and *Dharma*.

The state flag was flying on the Raj Bhavan, while the buildings of countless Shresthis (nobles) were adorned with class flags. Trade through waterways and land routes, session halls, guest houses, leisure gardens and elephant- horse stables were the beauty of the city. So, grand religious places, temples of various religions, Jain hermitages, worship halls and magnificent Jin palaces were spreading the fame of this city.

Kuberdudd Shresthi's business was extensive in the country and abroad. Actually, as a *shravak* (devotee), Shresthi was a follower of the vows and there was no dearth of wealth. Still, greed made him travel across the country and abroad, and virtue used to stand with him as his shadow.

The Shresthi having a huge palace in the middle of the city, innumerable properties, generations earning a lot, a grand palace made of ashlar stone decorated with jewelled Lord statues in the courtyard of the house, a family of parents, sons, etc., and the service of many maids and servants was like the pride of the city.

Once Shresthivarya himself with groceries in 500 vehicles had gone for business by sea route. He was returning after earning beyond his imagination in business and an accident occurred. As soon as the news of Seth's disappearance along with the vehicle was received, the family members started crying. The city became deserted. The politicians felt happy. They reached Maharaja Kumarpal. Maharaja got the news while contemplating after finishing the *Samayik*. Noble men want to meet, so the king comes out.

The king is the protector of the subjects

The Shresthi who was leading the noble men, after properly greeting Maharaja Kumarpal, expressed deep pain of heart and said, “Maharaj, it is shocking. The main Shresthi of our city, Shri Kuber Seth was just like the incarnation of Dhan Kuber. He was going to increase the prestige of the state by establishing big business in the country and abroad. News has been received today that the Seth has drowned in the sea along with 500 vehicles.” Sadness of such bad news was visible on the face of Maharaj Kumarpal. Those politicians who were the leaders of the society said, “Maharaj! You know that the wealth without a son becomes the property of state. This rule has been in practice here for a long time. Seth has as much immovable and movable property as the state's coffers would overflow.”

Interrupting them midway, King Kumarpal immediately said, “Listen!, such rules cannot be in my reign. Anything that is other’s right will not go to this state. If such rules are implemented when the family of that noble Seth is facing so much grief due to such news, then what will happen to the people? The king is the protector of his subjects, not the one who makes them cry! Got it!”

As soon as they saw their bet being reversed, the leaders who had come with evil thoughts in their minds said, “Maharaj, what you say is absolutely true. But this has been going on here since before. Will the ancestors do anything wrong? Wouldn’t you have to follow in the footsteps of your ancestors?” Shri Kumarpal Maharaj said, “If one of my ancestors is lying in a well, will I also have to fall in the well? It is wise to take all the beneficial things from the past and accepting such(evil) things is called unwise. Don't you understand this much?”

Those chaps who came as leaders with the idea of getting the work done like hoodlum were completely blown away. Still, they did not miss the opportunity to throw the last bet. They said, “Maharaj, your words are like hundred percent gold, but please visit his palace once and worship the Jin temple in the courtyard of his house. Then you will see that the Seth's house is full of Vaishraman- Kuber Bhandari’s wealth.”

Maharaj Shri Kumarpal observed that every person has a class. What does it mean to say more to those people? He decided to take this opportunity to give the religious message to the people by making important the matter of Lord’s darshan and worship. When the king along with the royal family stepped onto the highway, many types of discussions started in the city.

Bowing down from the heart

While moving ahead on the highway, seeing the flags waving on the royal palace of Shri Kuberdutt Shresthi from a distance, imagining him as Dhankuber, King Kumarpal, thinking about the fickleness of wealth in the sound of the waving flags, reached the courtyard of the palace. The sound of the crying of Seth's wife and mother reached the king's ears from the house. Despite welcoming, the sadness of this worldly wealth became stronger in their mind.

Consoling a lot to his (Seth's) mother and wife, he (the king) said, "you do not worry. I have come here to visit the Jin temple. I have not come to take this wealth and property." Just this sentence brought lightness in the atmosphere. After entering the grand palace full of great artwork, and experiencing the joy of seeing the beautiful images of Jin, the king entered the Seth's *pausadhshala*.

Before entering the palace, King Shri Kumarpal Maharaj had seen the accommodation of Seth's elephants, horses and chariots. As soon as he saw the *pausadhshala* of that great man, who had such a fortune befitting a small king, the king directly saw his religious conduct, loyalty and righteousness. In that too, when he (the king) got to read the writings of his (Seth's) fasting practice and read his *Sthulparigraha*, *Vir Mash Vrat* and *Bhog Upbhog Viratii Vrat*, then Rajaji bowed down to him with all his heart.

Six crore *mans* of gold, 10 pairs of precious stones, 800 *tola* pearls, 2000 *tola* ghee oil, 2000 *khandi* grains, 10,000 horses, 1000 elephants, 80,000 cows, 500 houses, the same number of shops, 500 vehicles and horse carts, each. "If there was more than this amount then used them for auspicious work." The king was shaken by these words, he felt like seeking the blessings of the rich and wealthy who had received the effects of *Prabhu shasan* and *Kalikaal sarvagya*.

Gave a lot of assurance to Mata Gunashree and said, "Mataji, do not worry. My heart accepts that Seth will return safely. Who gave you such bad news? Then, knowing the origin of this fact from the accountant named Vamdev, the king asked him, "what is the reality?" Vamdev was a little nervous while talking. After listening to the king, he lost confidence in himself.

Seth, along with Mata Gunashree and wife, the royal family and the king, were ready to listen Vamdev.

When the duty calls

The god of mercy, our Seth

Shri Kubershresthi's trusted accountant Vamdev was just like his right hand and indeed a true human being. But such a thing emerged in his imagination that a thunderbolt had struck Anhillpur Patan and the Seth's family.

In response to Maharaj Shri Kumarpal's question, the accountant said, "Maharaj! Along with Seth, we went to Ratnadweep with 500 vehicles. While returning by sea, our vehicle got stuck on the side of an unknown mountain along with countless wealth. There we saw that even before us, a big Seth had got stranded there many days ago with 500 vehicles.

Due to hunger and thirst, his companions were begging like destitute for food and water to our Seth. How can the Seth like a god of mercy forget human *Dharma*? Meanwhile, I came to know from some unknown gentleman that if someone dares to climb this mountain and plays the trumpet of the temple there loudly, then the huge herds of giant Bharand birds living there will fly away. Their flying will bring air and these stranded ships can sail. On hearing this, our brave Seth climbed up. We heard drums being played. Our and that Seth's vehicles moved away. We proceeded by sea route. We learned that there is a dense forest on the mountain. There is no scope for food and water. The route to descend is very difficult. So, how can our Seth survive?

Hearing this, Shri Kumarpal Maharaj says with joy, "Only this charity will keep such a good and gentle person alive. Does the saver of so many lives have to find his own saver? Mother, please remain calm. Seth will be alive and in some time we will get good news."

Everyone, including mother and wife, kept looking at the king and meanwhile a magnificent plane descended from the sky. Seth came out of the plane with a woman like *Devramani*. The king hugged him. Seth bowed before the king and bowed at his mother's feet. Mother also gave her heartfelt blessings to *Devramani* who was at her(mother's) feet.

In order to put an end to the eagerness of the huge crowd that had gathered, Shri Kumarpal Maharaj simply asked, "Tell us what happened after going to the temple on the mountain, which we have heard from Vamdev."

Seth Kuberdutt got confused

Everyone's eyes became fixed after seeing the face of Kuberdutt Seth. Seth's lips moved. Seth said, "Maharaj, due to the sound of the drum, the birds flew and the ships started sailing. Then I kept staring at the difficult path to descend. It seemed like a tough test. But I was happy with the relief received by the thousands of ships and the many people in them. While roaming in the mountain forest, I saw a grand Jin temple.

Thinking that life and death will happen only under the shelter of this temple, I started living there. Once while roaming around, I saw a deep pond. Before reaching deep water I saw an artistic window. When I opened it and went inside, I saw a very big city adorned with forests and groves. The city was huge but completely deserted. I was feeling surprise and fear. When I went a little further from my vision, I saw a big mansion with 7 floors. I climbed the floors one by one and reached the seventh floor and there I saw such a lively face as the *Devanganas* were blushing. In response to my question she said, “in this city named Tilkapuri, there was the kingdom of my father, King Patalketu, who was greedy of eating meat. When someone ate the meat prepared for the king, due to fear of the king the cook immediately brought the body of a dead child and prepared the food. The king developed a passion for eating human flesh. Theft of children started happening daily. There was an outcry. The people left the country. That is why this city has become a void city today.” That princess asked about my arrival, I told her the truth. She said “how will you be protected from a monster like my father?” Then I said, “I have come suddenly, you have to think how to save me.” The girl said, “if you accept me then I will be able to save you.” Knowing my consent, she hid me in a secret place. As soon as the demon like king arrived, the girl presented me to the king by using her intelligence and strength. The king drank the girl’s water along with me. Hearing my words, the king thought about the bitter consequences of violence and decided to renounce violence. Due to his strong virtue the people came back. The state system was restored. He bid farewell to us with countless wealth and prosperity, and here we are present before you.”

3. The secret of advice

The secret of advice

Jinadas Seth lived in a city. He had wealth and progeny, a lush life, and such respect and honour in the entire city that he was recognized as an influential person. Seth had only one son. Therefore, it is not surprising that he was beloved. The son was intelligent and obedient but was a little less intelligent. Seth was worried about this thing that someone might cheat his son and he might become bankrupt after losing his immense growth.

Slowly Seth started growing old. As Seth reached old age, Seth's worries increased. Seth was courteous and intelligent.

Now Seth's body started faltering, his cleverness started decreasing, Seth started feeling that his body will not last much longer. Seth thought, "If my son comes to me with the intention of asking or hearing something, then I should give him the last advice, which will be useful to him in difficult times."

This happened by chance. Knowing that his father's last moments had come, Madan went to his father and sat down. Father felt worthy so asked Madan, "Son Madan, now I am lying on my death bed, that is why I want to tell you something. You are very innocent, so I want to give you some advice at the end." On hearing this, Madan stood in front of his father with folded hands and started listening carefully.

"Son, I will give you 7 advices, treat it like spirit and make your life successful:

1. Tie a fence of ivory around the house.
2. Build a house in every village.
3. Always eat sweet food.
4. Give money in such a way that you don't have to go to recover it.
5. Tie up a woman and beat her.
6. If there is shortage of money then dig the banks of the Ganges.
7. Still if you feel sad then take advice from my friend Somdutt who lives in Patliputra."

Madan became very happy. Bowed at his father's feet and started serving. Sethji died within a few days. Madan drowned in grief. In fact, the value of a human being is understood more when he passes away.

After a few days passed, Madan came out of grief and first of all set his goal following his father's advice.

To fulfil the first advice, a fence of ivory was made around the house. In the second advice too, showing generosity like the first, he built house in every village. Believing that what could be more important in this world than his father's last wish, Madan did not lag behind in spending his money. For the third advice, he informed the cook to prepare new dishes at home every day. Regarding the fourth advice, he clearly told the customers that you can take as much money as you want but I will not come to take it back. You will have to come here and give it.

Following the fifth advice, he used to tie his wife once in eight days and beat her. This is how despite being firm in following orders and wishes of his father, he lost a lot of money in the first four because he was unaware of the secret of advice and did not have a long-term ideology. Within few days of following the fifth advice, the wife also went to her father's house.

Now Madan got confused. Became anxious. What to do? And what not to do? He was not able to understand. He started becoming a debtor. A crowd of people started gathering because who would pay for ivory fence, houses and dishes and not going to collect the money? Because of this there was less money in business. There seemed to be no end to the confusion. That's why he started digging the banks of the Ganges for wealth. Nothing was found, and on top of that, the cost of excavation also increased the loss of wealth. Now, remembering the last advice, he quickly went to his father's friend Somdutt Brahmin in Pataliputra and when he talked about his dilemma, the secret of his father's advice was revealed. The Brahmin became very happy after seeing Madan. The Brahmin said, "Son Madan, you came to my house. There is no limit to my joy. Son! Why did you have to come?" Madan said, "Grandfather! I have come for a special purpose." The Brahmin said, "what is it, son? Why do you look sad?"

On hearing this, Madan started crying and fell at grandfather's feet. Grandfather placed his loving hand on his head and Madan spoke in a low voice about his confusion in his father's advice and his determination to obey.

After thinking calmly for 5 minutes, Somdutt said, "Son, your father was intelligent. His advice cannot cause you any problem. Therefore, I have to say that you have not understood the secret of the advice. Son! Listen calmly!!!

1. Making a fence of ivory around the house, it means having sweet dealings with the neighbours.
2. Making a home in every village means giving such hospitality to the guests coming from the village or other villages that no matter where you go, you will not face any problem.
3. Always eat sweet food, which means speaking to everyone in sweet language.
4. Do not go to take money, that is, while giving money, give it only after keeping some deposit so that the person comes to give the money.
5. Tying a woman and beating her means giving love to the woman and also keeping her busy in work.
6. If money is less, then digging the bank of Ganges means to dig instead of tying your cow named Ganga.

Madan was surprised and after knowing the secret of the advice, he went home and dug at the place of Ganga cow and found a treasure of countless wealth. By paying off the debt and living life according to the advice, he started living a noble and worthy life with happiness, wealth and peace.

4. The result of a rule

The result of a rule

A poor man named Pravardev lives in the city Purimatal. The people of the city were talented and wealthy also. Still, it is not that they were not religious, but due to the rise of sin, Pravar had to beg.

This is fine, but Pravar's eating instincts increased day by day, filling his stomach by begging. Getting food for free and sleeping in the mosque. Just eating and sleeping. Who wouldn't like this? Creature makes a habit first but then that habit eventually degrades the creature.

Whenever you get, eat, eat and only eat. There is no problem in eating, but stomach is of whose father? It is yours, isn't it? But Pravar could not understand this. That is why now Pravar's stomach started getting upset every day.

'*Sarvairoga: malashraya*'

All diseases are caused by faeces (uncleanliness). Life also decreases due to having stomach problems repeatedly. Old age comes soon. The body becomes weak.

Pravar also started suffering from new diseases. Now he wanders here and there due to frequent stomach upsets. No one even looks at him. Forget about asking for a seat, no one even calls.

Now he feels lonely. Not only this, it seems that one is in a pitiful condition. One he is poor, on top of that he is a beggar and above all he is surrounded by many diseases. As it is said that if it is *Marwar* and there is drought, then only *Baval* arises. And what it will give finally? Nothing, in the end there are thorns, right?

Pravardev!!! Now he is frustrated with life and it seems that this life is worse than death!!!

It's just matter of one day. Pravar wanders to the garden outside the city. From some destiny of the past, he saw a Jain saint there.

He got surprised.

“O. yes.! Wouldn't these people be suffering from diseases? Any reason? This freshness itself shows healthiness. It's okay if I ask! But who will answer me? Hey, what about the answer, no one is ready to even look at me and these saints have never seen me. Then the question of talking to me is out of the context.

What a stunning body. How energetic one looks. It seems as if there is a confluence of simplicity-gentleness-dedication-tolerance-sociality-adventure- naturalness and beauty in them. I feel peace only after seeing these Mahatmas. It's okay if I go! If I see it, it's okay!

Is it really restraint or is it just an outward show? Pravar reached there making a *rangoli* with many such ideas. But whether this Jain monk is a giver or a beggar, rich or poor, small or big, young or old, stupid or wise?

Only the one who behaves like them and behaves like them is truly called a true saint.

When Pravar reached those Mahatmas, those Mahatmas came from the front and as soon as he looked in front of Pravar, he felt as if half of his mountain of sorrow was shattered and his mood changed easily.

Words came out of his mouth, “Maharaj! Diseases bother me”, then a Mahatma said, Brother! Keep some rules in eating. It will be fine. On hearing this, Pravar felt as if a new life has come to him, because till date he couldn't find anyone to speak with him with so much love. He became happy and prosperous. It seemed as if freshness came in every pore of his body. It seemed as if he had forgotten all his sorrow.

If love makes one forget the enmity of the enemy, then why not the sorrow of the unhappy? Pravar asked, what rules should I make?

Mahatma said, “one should not take more than one vegetable, one *vigai*, one *dal* and *achit* water. Make such a rule and follow it no matter whatever it be. Then see!

Who knows, due to some combination of providence, Pravar liked the idea and took it as a lifelong rule. Few days passed and Pravar's disease went away. Cleanliness started coming. The virtue of the rule started accumulating. People started calling him from the front. Now he got a job and started accumulating some money. Pravar got engaged in business. Within no time he became a businessman worth crores, but he kept remembering those beneficent sages every day. Despite many material pleasures, he continued to follow the rules in a pure manner and after completing his life, he became a common *Dev* in the *Saudharma Devlok*.

When he followed a small rule, he attained happiness not only in that life, but in the next life too, he was not stuck with the happiness of being a *Dev* only. However, due to the increasing influence of that rule, the situation that arose in the places where he was born as per the *Devgati* is also observable.

Kamalpur embracing Kamala and King Kamalsen enjoying Kamala were also happy. Dharmatma Kamalsen got worried due to such news that he would burn the bark of the king's happiness to ashes. Joshiraj of the city was a reliable person who gave the news of 12 years of drought, that is why there was no doubt.

But. Wonder! It rained heavily in the beginning of *Chaturmas* (rainy season).

Everyone was happy, but neither they could disbelieve Joshiraj nor could imagine the wonders of nature. The king, his subjects and everyone including Joshi remained in bliss. But when the wise Guru, who could remove the problem in their heart, arrived, they came to know that the *Guruchar* of the sky had changed. The reason for this was the arrival of Dharmdutt, born in the house of Shuddhbodh Seth. And that Dharmadutt is none other than our Pravardev!!!

The city along with the king came to know that Dharmdutt was the poor Pravardev of the previous life. Today, with the effect of a single small rule, he has become the protector of our entire city. Knowing this, everyone's heads bowed and they said, determination to follow a small but one rule. Be blessed! Be blessed!

King Kamalsen was happy to see Dharmdutt. The true servant of the city is not me; it is Dharmdutt. The king gives his umbrella to Dharmdutt and announces that from today onwards the true king of this city is Dharmdutt and not me.

5. Karma and Purusharth

Karma and purusharth

An unknown foreigner was surprised to see a large crowd on the highway of Ujjain.

Oh!! Why are so many citizens going towards the royal court? The foreigner, feeling confused, asked a townsman, "Why brother, why is there so much crowd in the royal court?"

He was also enthusiastic. He replied, "Don't you know that much? Today is the result of a discussion going on for many days!"

"What kind of discussion? Of destiny and *karma*!!! Hey! discussion of destiny or karma in Rajya Sabha!!! Such a thing does not sit in the mind."

"It doesn't sit in your mind so it doesn't happen, can it be like this? It seems you do not know our Vikramvanshi King Bhadrasen of Ujjain. He is a religious person! A religious person also knows how to convert Rajya Sabha into Dharma Sabha."

"Whom is the discussion going on between?"

"Prostitute Kamakala of Karnataka and Pandit Shivsharma of Ujjain."

"Who will decide?"

"Our King!!!"

The foreigner also quickly reached the royal court. The court was full of people. There was no place to put the feet. Still the stranger found a place and started listening to the case.

Kamakala said, "Panditji! Think, effort is the greatest. If a person relies on luck or *karma*, he will die of hunger." Panditji got furious... "What did you say, be careful. No matter how much effort one makes, if one's actions are crooked, one will not get even a single penny. Just understand. A hard-working person goes across the ocean for money, but if one's actions are crooked, he too will go to hell with it.

A farmer sows seeds, does farming and yet due to his actions the crop does not grow, doesn't this also happen?

Don't you know about Garuda of that Jodiwale village. He catches the snake by playing the flute beautifully. Once he brought a container full of snakes and kept them in the house. The snakes were hungry. But who will provide the food? But see, karma will give it to them. Now it happened that there were many rats in his house. The rats came out to eat at night. A rat entered inside the container by biting it from below. Now the snake has eaten the rat. Will a hungry snake keep anything left? Tore the rat into pieces. Coming out of the same hole, he reached through the forest. Now answer me why only one snake got food? Why was only one left among so many snakes? Why did only one mouse enter? Why only one got killed? What is the reason for this? I have to say that only and only karma. Whatever the karma will do that will happen, not the man who is strong."

In a single breath the Pandit shouted and there was silence in the Rajya Sabha. Everyone felt as if Kamakala had now lost, but she was not one to accept defeat. She also got angry.

“Oh!! Seen the great illustrators. Is it not visible to the eyes that both the king and the pauper all make efforts and acquire wealth? Would they just be doing the effort for free? I am not going to be defeated by such an example.

Don't you know about two Brahmin brothers of Mathura? The elder Narayan and the younger Narhari. Both scholars. The topic of discussion between them was the same. The elder one was in favour of Karma and the younger one was in favour of effort. Like us, their issue had also reached to the royal gate. To give justice, the king kept both of them in a house on the 4th floor. Both of them were blindfolded. Now food and water were kept at such a place that couldn't be traced. Days passed. Both of them started feeling hungry. A *Karmavadi* is one who believes in *Karma*! Why would he stand? He slept, but the *Purusharthvadi* was enterprising. The younger one kept on trying to get food and water and while doing so, one day the food and water lying in that house came into his hands. He satisfied his hunger by filling his stomach, but Panditji! Has he not made effort? Wasn't that *Karmavadi* was still lying hungry?

Tell me Panditji, now what became prime? Narayan went away with a small face. The one who believed in effort raised his head. The king made him victorious.

So Panditji!! If you give an example then you will definitely lose. Just think and speak later.”

Due to Kamakala's cleverness, silence prevailed in the meeting.

The king and the people became so engrossed in the spectacle of debate for hours that it seemed as if the one who speaks he wins. After listening to the discussion calmly, the king raised both his hands and said to the assembly. “So listen”, on hearing this, the people of the gathering, the Pandit and Kamkala, all raised their ears. The king said:

“Karma is in the world, it is not untrue and it is visible with the eyes, no one can deny it, but do you know?

Karma is the lock; effort is the key.

The fruits of action are obtained through efforts, karma is created through efforts.

Action alone is handicapped, while effort alone is blind.

Karma and effort are the two wings of the bird. Karma is created by working hard, the work is accomplished only when there is effort. If your karma is weak then work is accomplished by doing some labour. That is, among both the karma and effort one may be the main reason and the other secondary, but both are considered important.

Everyone was surprised to hear that the work of karma is only to provide material. In this way, the king made a beautiful solution to karma and effort. Everyone liked it. Pandit and Kamkala also liked it. The meeting was dissolved.

That foreigner also started on his way, seeing the new game of karma and effort in his thoughts.

6. Chakor Ko Takor

Chakor Ko Takor

There was a Seth. Just as the city was rich in happiness and wealth, the people in the city were also fine with respect and honour. The reputation of the virtuous and wise Seth was also good. This Seth was not only a devotee of religion but he was also a patron of poor and distressed people, and therefore regarded by the king also.

One day Seth remembered the fame of his ancestors and thought that he should also build a huge charity house and increase the fame of his ancestors.

Seth was certainly enthusiastic.

If it comes to mind, it should be implemented immediately. Seth reached the king. He took a huge plate full of gold coins in his hand ... and asked the king for a huge place.

The king also became happy.

Sethji was given the place he asked for. Within no time a huge charity house was built and the festival was also inaugurated in the presence of the king.

Gradually Seth's charity house became a guide for travellers, commuters, destitute, orphans and the distressed people. Seth's fame started spreading everywhere. Everyone praised Seth.

People started coming in large numbers to eat food. Expenses also started increasing significantly. Everything was good about Seth, like the saltiness of the ocean, like a spot on the moon, like heat in the sun.

Though virtuous, but Seth was of harsh nature. Seeing the huge expenditure, Seth informed the accountant that rotten millet is available cheaply, so use it, so that the earlier expenditure can be compensated.

Seth had a lot of property. Had only one son. Even if 7-7 generations eat, the property would not end; yet what doesn't the greed for money make good people do? Time was passing like the flow of water.

If a devotee is *Chakor* (smart) then even a small *Takor* (suggestion) can make an impact when the opportunity arises.

Same thing happens in the life of this Seth also. Seth's son grew up. Married to a girl from a rich family.

The marriage was completed with great pomp and grandeur. Daughter-in-law came home. Seth became the father-in-law. Now there was no limit to joy. Because who would not be happy to see a daughter-in-law rich in qualities like modesty, morality, humbleness, prudence, beauty, etc.?

The daughter-in-law also took over the care of the house within a few days she established such a place in everyone's hearts and no one could ignore her words.

Within a few months, the daughter-in-law came to know about the charity shop and the rotten millet used in it. She was surprised. She thought, "I must remove this fault of the prudent Seth."

And one day...

The daughter-in-law said to the cook, "Today, bring rotten millet from the charity shop and make roti for Sethji." He was stunned but... due to repeated requests from the daughter-in-law, he did the same.

Sethji came...

Food was served....

Seeing rotten millet's roti, Seth was shocked! and asked, "Why have you made millet's roti today?"

The cook remained silent.

Sethji asks again and again.

The cook says timidly

That dau... dau... daughter-in-law's saying... made this... for you.

Sethji became silent. Because he knew his daughter-in-law.

Then the daughter-in-law came.

Sethji! Sorry...this is what's in the future store for you.

That's why I started practicing from today.

Sethji understood the essence of the matter.

He was delighted with his daughter-in-law's intelligence, courage and wisdom. And he spoke..."

"Now rotten grain will never be cooked in the charity house."

Because...

One has to pay as he does.

One who does good works, gets good results. The one who does bad works gets the bad results. Seth was Chakor, that is why he understood Takor. If we become Chakor then we will be able to handle Takor.

7. Parastri Sahodar (Incident of an Indrajalik)

Parastri Sahodar (Incident of an Indrajalik)

There is a story from Parapurva, in which there is a great example of accepting another woman as a sibling. It is very easy to say, but it is the work of an extraordinary human being to control oneself at the right moment. Though this is Indrajalia's Indrajal, still it gives a good lesson. Therefore, it is presented here.

In this vast ocean and happy city of India, a wealthy and luxurious king used to take care of all the people along with his children.

The state was stable. The people were happy. There only the thieves, robbers and adulterers were unstable people. Because, there was no need for people to do their work. There were beggars; not for wealth, honour or position but for virtues. There were people who quarrelled, but there was discussion on fundamental elements like soul, virtue, sin, afterlife and God, not about material things. There, in every house and at every ghat, the attitude of greed was taking hold... for virtues and not of vices.

It is not surprising that the king of such a virtuous city should be happy. Then the people will be happy. Is there anything to ask about this?

It's just matter of one day. The royal court was full. After concerns about the state, the discussion on religion was going on as usual. Then suddenly the gatekeeper entered the royal court and said, "Your Majesty, some Indrajaliya foreign man wants to meet you."

"What is the use of Indrajaliya?" said the king. "There is the eternal enmity of the elusive and simple people." The king flatly refused for the entry.

After a long time, the restless man assumed the form of a god and came to the king through the sky as a swordsman accompanied by a woman like a goddess.

The king asked, "Who are you?" The man replied that I am Vidyadhar. This Vidyadhari is my wife. A wicked Vidyadhar had kidnapped my wife. That's why I have rescued my wife and brought her here because even an animal cannot bear the defeat of a woman.

That Vidyadhar is after me. You are ace in accepting another woman as a sibling. That's why I have come to you. I do not ask for an army, elephants, chariots, horses, weapons etc. I have come only after hearing about your worldwide fame of *Swastri santushti* (satisfied with own wife). Protect my wife. I will just come back after conquering that wicked." Saying this, he got ready to leave his wife there, then the king said, "Stop worrying. I will destroy your enemy right now. Tell me where he is. What do you want from me? Does anyone ask for a leaf from the *Kalpavriksha*. Does he ask for water from *Ratnakar*? Does he ask for milk near *Kamdhenu*? Which fool would ask for a stone near *Rohanachal*? That means he won't ask.

You demand only to keep your wife at my place? I wonder. You show your enemy right now. I will finish him and then you can live comfortably in my palace."

“Maharaj! I consider you extraordinary. All human beings of the world can handover their parents, sons, family, wealth, gems, house and lineage to others, but they can handover their wife only to a rare man like you.”

The king became silent. The man went away. The king also reached his residence. That Vidyadhar woman was sent to the harem. After a short time, body parts like hands with bracelets, necklace, earrings, legs, etc., started falling from the sky. Seeing this, that Vidyadhar woman came running with a heavy heart and crying “Oh Nath! Oh Swami! What happened to you? Who is that evil person who cut your body parts into pieces?” Everyone got surprised. The king asked “What happened?” “Maharaj, this is my husband's body parts which I used to clean till date.” Saying this, she again started crying so pitifully that even a non-living thing would cry.

Then again her husband's blood-soaked torso and head fell on the ground. Everyone was shocked to see this. Now Vidyadhari sat down with only one insistence... “Light the pyre, I will now observe the vow of *Pativrata*.”

The entire court stood still and watched. But the king with a long view explains to Vidyadhari that this is some Vidyadhar's illusion. You wait. Will know in some time. Hearing this, Vidyadhari says, “Now I don't like even a moment's delay.”

The king explains again. But Vidyadhari says, “When my husband's dead body is lying here, then why do I have to live? The sun rises and sets with the evening, so how can I live without my husband? Maharaj, you are knowledgeable about the religion of *Kulastri*, why don't you feel ashamed even after seeing me alive without my husband? Is there moonlight without the moon? Is there lightning without clouds? So how can I exist without my Lord?”

Hearing this, the king became sad and said again in a crying tone, “Don't die needlessly like a butterfly. Wait for a while.”

Hearing this, the woman became angry and said to the king in clear words, “Maharaj! If you stop me from now on, I will accept that you are not my father. On hearing this, the king said, “Enough, do whatever you want and sanctify the vow of Sati.” In the next moment the woman jumped on the pyre with her husband's body parts. Within 1-2 moments, the Vidyadhari burnt to death along with the body parts. The grief-stricken king went back with his family.

That man came and stood near the king sitting in the court and said, “Maharaj! Are you missing something?” By reminding the king like this, he told the king about the illusion he had created.

But in the sea of women, you are the best and senior. The king also said with surprise after knowing this, “The world is also an experiment of illusion.” Thinking this, after attaining renunciation, accepting restraint at the feet of Sadguru, he became a self-interested person.

8. A beggar enjoys greed for the wealth

A beggar enjoys greed for the wealth

There lived a beggar in a city. He had only one job... to wake up early in the morning and sleep late at night. Used to do only one thing... begging.

Days, months and years passed but he could not remove the beggary acquired from past deeds (*karma*).

When karma binds a creature, he does not realize it. When those karmas arise then even after begging one does not get alms. On top of that, one has to face abuses from people.

Hey... many days go by when philanthropists pour out donations in the city, yet this (begger) goes to sleep alone hungry.

This might have happened not once, not twice but many times. Now, fed up of poverty, he started thinking of ending his life by thinking something like 'May the earth give way to this beggar'. This great man could not even end his life. Just as no one has the power to increase the age (total lifetime), can anyone be capable of reducing it?

It's a matter of one day. The beggar begged all over the city but he did not get anything. At last, he got tired and went to the cowshed. There he was fed milk. The beggar became very happy. Then he went to his place.

After many days, a similar incident happened again. He couldn't get food from anywhere. So, finally went there. Today they gave him a pot full of milk there.

The beggar did not drink the milk there and took it to his home. He slept after keeping it at the top side of his bed. The beggar fell asleep as soon as he slept and the hunger in his mind entered his dreams also. His channel started running like this.

In the dream he thinks... I will freeze this milk and make curd.

- I will sell the curd and buy a chicken.
- The hen will lay eggs and I will sell them.
- I will sell the eggs and buy a goat.
- I will sell the goat and buy a cow.
- One cow will produce many bulls.
- I will earn a lot of money by selling the bull.
- I will build a shed with the interest on this money.
- Due to the influence of money, I will marry a noble and beautiful girl..
- I will live a happy life.
- My wife will be completely devoted to me.
- If my wife ever disobeys me because of pride of her clan, I will kick her out of my house.

In this way, the beggar walking in the dream channel gets so angry at his wife that he kicks her hard in the dream itself. But, that kick hits the milk pot hard and the milk falls on the ground.

Among the 8 Karmas, *Mohaniya Karma* is the most terrible. *Rasna* is terrible among the five senses. Similarly, greed is terrible among the four *Kashyas*. Just as the wise have described fire as an all-powerful weapon which kills from all sides, similarly the wise have described greed as the all-powerful weapon. Desire for any object or person is the root of greed. If desire is destroyed then greed will be destroyed. Greed is the name of the one who enjoys wealth. The poor beggar had gained but still lost it and started living in poverty.

9. The extremes of generosity

The extremes of generosity

A king who had established an authoritarian empire in his state was worried about who should he handover the throne in the future.

The king had three sons, but this king was not the one who believed in giving the kingdom only to the eldest. He never believed that only the eldest son should be the heir to my kingdom.

The only thing that was roaming in his mind was that the state should be given to the one who is worthy because the state makes the unworthy go to hell, the state makes the unworthy a free-spirited person, the state given to the unworthy will be unsafe and the people will also be unsafe. As the king advanced towards old age, the worries about the kingdom increased. Who knows, if something that should not be, happens suddenly then only the elder will get the kingdom. Although the king's three sons were humble, wise, knowledgeable and mighty, yet the king had a firm resolve in his mind that when the opportunity arises, he should test all three sons. I have to become engrossed in my own welfare by handing over the throne to the one who passes the examination and free myself from the burden of worries by handing over a worthy kingdom to the remaining two sons.

To implement this decision, one day he decided to test his three sons. All the three sons were given food in one room. All the three sat down to eat. The meal has started. All three were hungry. The food was also their favourite. Then three hunting dogs were released by the king's soldiers. Those dogs were also hungry. The dogs pounced as soon as they saw the plate of food. As soon as the three sons went near the plate of delicious food, the dogs came. Out of fear, the king's elder son left the food and ran away. The second son came near his plate with wood in his hand. Started killing the dog and also started eating food himself. The third son, who was the youngest, thought that it was not right for me to eat alone. But, it is better to eat after giving food to the others. Therefore, I should give food to the dog. Thinking this, he gave some food to the dog that came near his plate and started eating peacefully himself. He could eat without any hindrance.

The king's soldiers conveyed the attitudes of these three royal sons to the king. The king thought that only his younger son could be the worthy successor to his kingdom because the one who has the nature of giving is called generous. Such a human can take over any human. Generosity is a very important quality. Generosity covers all faults.

The king called the ministers. Told the reality and got a proclamation made in the state. Announced the decision to hand over the throne to the younger son. The coronation of the younger son took place at an auspicious time and auspicious hour. The king retired. Everyone became happy with the beauty and talent of the new king and as a result the kingdom and the people started living with peace and happiness.

10. Honesty

A true story

In spite of external poverty, the richness shines inside when a boy sees happiness in the bread of morality rather than the happiness of immorality. Read the small story of a big city of Gujarat,

A car was running full speed on the crossroads of a city. When the signal falls, the vehicles stop and when the signal rises, the vehicles start running. When the signal goes off, children from the surrounding slums stand clinging to the car with a brush to clean the car's windows. They clean the glass without asking. Once it is clean, that's it! With the desire of some money, the poor boys stand before the owners, and most of the people wink and avert their eyes with the car.

If a wise man feels pity and puts his hand in the pocket, a ray of hope is communicated in the children. A small gift brings a smile to their parched cheeks. How many such stray boys are seen in the society today. Who can be the guardian of these children who run their world even in the filth to remove the pain of hunger? And how many people contain divine essence.

Signal dropped. The car stopped and the boys started running. A boy with dishevelled hair, dry sunken cheeks, torn clothes, torn slippers on feet also ran with the group of boys. The light of emotions that he has to eat with effort could be read in his eyes. The boy started cleaning the glass of my car. With the hope of getting something, but when the signal goes off, the car runs away and once again the boys stand on the pavement cursing their fate. One day the boy came to a four-wheeler and started testing his luck. But the door of the car did not open even after the glass of the car was cleaned. A nearby scooterist was watching this scene. Seeing the boy's compassionate image, he was pained. He extended his hands to give some money in the hands of the boy. But this boy thanked with folded hands and concluded the conversation in one sentence saying, "Seth! Do not give me without labour, I am certainly poor, but not a beggar. I am a labourer not a hooligan." The scooter had no glass so that the boy could earn money by cleaning the glass. The scooterist smiled. The signal opened and he moved ahead.

The boy just stood there. Again, devoted himself to work and continued to be devoted.

Is this boy's disease in our life?

This boy is an example for those of us who are pressed down with so many problems.

The true story of this boy who relishes the dessert in the bread of morality than the 56 dishes of immorality is enough to change our nights.

11. Modesty

A true story

Let's read the unique story of a gentleman of an interior village of Maharashtra, who was immersed in the springs of philanthropy, gratitude and other virtues!!!

Why do you take the car in reverse? While driving, Raj's wife Rasila looked suspiciously at Raj. Just for remembering. Seeing Raj's serious face, Rasila was surprised and suddenly frowned at the serious speech. Why and what did you remember? Rasila asked in a trite voice, but Raj seemed to have reached somewhere in his own world. Rasila pulled his hand! Why exactly what happened today? Nothing. It's ok. But you! Raj suddenly opened the windows of the car and pointed and said, 'See how these children are playing and smiling like Nagapuga Bawaji.'

What is in this? Where not seen! They keep wandering. Don't fill your stomach if you eat! Did you take the car in reverse to see these puppies? Raj dismissed the matter with a smile and stopped somewhere and said affectionately to his wife, "Even though they may look like strays in your eyes, but these children are very dear to me, so put them in the car and keep them at home, Rasila said, listen to the talk, understand the pain. Understand now! Speak up. If this incident makes me remember my childhood, wow! Forgot to bring the bag four days ago, and remembered the childhood story, called Mr. Good. Rasila stop argument and listen to me, where have we planted flowers in the ears to hear the birth of the Bairas, yes, then your Ramayana continues.

There was a lot of love between we six sons of father. Mother was also loving. We all call Mummy as Mai. She was God for us. After working hard, Mai will do all this calmly, once we six brothers used to eat and play like this. Diwali was approaching. All the boys have gone out for shopping, but what should we do? We know Mai's pain. Where the turn to drink milk is bound, there Rasila dropped in between. O father! It's time to give milk, but it's time to drink! Yes! Mother... But anyone of us didn't want.

We want to do what Mai does! While we were playing, suddenly a car slowed down near us. A tall man in a tie stepped down. What an impressive personality. He began to ask in a childlike voice. Sons do you want to sit in the car? Who would miss such a beautiful opportunity! Six of us immediately sat down. The car moved forward. It stopped by a big clothes shop. What is happening. We did not like that. We went in and the gentleman ordered new clothes for six. We had to make a choice. Six bags filled with hat for open head and slippers for open foot. Our monkey army started to fuss, the gentleman asked again what else?

No, because there was great satisfaction. Came home, put everything in Mai's hands, showing childish gestures and went to bed praying that Diwali would come soon. This Diwali came and we got up dressed like bridegrooms in new clothes and Mai was very pleased. After Diwali was over, we started our studies. And went ahead and earned a lot of money. Today there was a light. With all those memories, tears started pouring down in Raj's eyes. It was

not stopping. Where did Rasila learn such childhood? Breaking the silence and consoling him, he said, 'Why are you crying? Talk...' and Raj said the day we got ready; Mai joined us in our Diwali happiness wearing a tattered saree like a daily dress. We could have asked that gentleman for a saree for Mai if we wanted. How to turn Mai's life upside down? This regret is spreading darkness before my eyes today. What do I have today? Everything is there but not Mai. Now to whom shall I give that saree to fulfil my desire. The stream of tears again... Then the corners of Rasila's eyes became wet and said as he left. 'Do you want to be like that gentleman?'

So, let us act like a gentleman by being the guardians of these children.

Raj pats Rasila's back and turning his hand, said good! Evergreen Idea... Put all the boys in the car.. got them good clothes and boots, also held a saree in the hands of the boys. When these sons become rich tomorrow, perhaps with the same feeling that these boys will not regret like me when they have honour... It is quite true...

12. God's grace

A true story

Near her feet the mighty lion was thrashing in front of the leopard. As if he was standing to protect Deepa and the leopard teased him. The leopard tried to move towards the prey, but the lion could not let the leopard go, so the leopard was ready to fight against the lion as if he was not ready to accept the position of king. Knowing that today it will be either this side or that side, he leapt on the lion. The forest, which was sleeping in the silence of the night, was resounded by the roar of these two beasts. Deepa was seeing all this with her own eyes. She got up, took her luggage on head. Shouting 'Jay Adinath', she started on her way. Where did she have to decide victory or defeat? Anyhow she reached home chanting Dada's prayers. The clock showed the time as twelve o'clock. All the members of the house were asleep. To keep the door of the house lighted, only one lamp was awake without closing its eyes, standing in her waiting.

Deepa came home and took a look at the mountain. After paying obeisance to Dada who was sitting above, she lit the lamp and lay down on the bed. Today there was happiness in mind, there was desire. By the grace of Dada, she was freed from the shackles of death today, so she wanted to hug that Dada soon and embrace the tears of happiness.

That's it, "It was a dark night, this was the truth of Deepa's devotion ..."

13. Real son

A true story

Whenever I see, why does grandmother put down the brother? Little Raju spoke to his mother like a child. What does mom say? And even she says how Raju would understand that before Raju was born, she had brought Mahesh from the orphanage. Grandmother had stopped her many times but grandmother didn't succeed in front of a mother's love... Mahesh was very intelligent and excellent in education; he could develop the ability to think through everything from his childhood. He was capable of creating new things. Even though he is so clever, he is always scolded at home, but Mahesh doesn't mind. "It's grandma! She will say." But, Raju did not like these at all. He didn't like this attitude of Grandmother. "Grandmother takes good care of me and why does this to my brother?" he thought. Sometimes Raju quarrelled with his grandmother. But Grandmother's sweet words used to soak Raju. "O my Raju! The flower of my heart! My little fingers!"

Grandmother would tap Raju on his chest and Raju would sleep in Grandmother's lap as if he had found the kingdom of heaven. Thus ended many years. But in Grandmother's eyes, Mahesh was stuck like a speck. He passed the exams with first division. Mahesh was praised all over the country. Raju, Mom and Dad were also very happy. Only grandmother was of such a nature that not even a pore of her body was moved. As if she is made of a different clay! Mahesh passed the exam with the first grade so it was like Diwali in the house, but grandmother lit such a fire that it did not take time to turn Diwali into Holi.

"A...! Raju's mother, what is the reason for all this? When Raju comes in first class, make such a noise. Amma Bai! Khamma!" Mahesh's mother used to speak. Mahesh was listening to everything. Sometimes his eyes would fill up, but grandmother's face was such that Mahesh's father could not utter a single letter against his mother. Once Raju was hit by a ball while playing and Grandmother beat Mahesh so much that he was about to die. Mahesh just kept putting up with it. Many friends used to tell him, "Maheshya! Who lives in such a house, run away! It is better to die than to live like this. Your sorrow is great. No longer seen from us, so you go to your place. . .". "You are right Sandeep! I have thought about it many times, but my foster mother comes in front of my eyes. Even though I am able, I will have to take many births to pay the debt of the affection that mother has given. Why should I worry this mother with tears in my eyes?"

"You are right, but your trouble has now crossed the limit. Think for a moment so that your future is not endangered."

The talk stopped but this thing gave a flash in Mahesh's heart. At night the eyelashes do not come together at all. Suddenly, thoughts swirled and floated. "If my friends go to study in some city, I should go too!" In the morning, when I showed my feelings in front of mother, the grandmother came in between. "Maheshya! Will your father spend? It's worthless, it's worth it to reduce the hassle and go there to become a doctor". "No Grandma! I called you grandma". In the middle, Mahesh said to mother, "I want to study, there are better schools than here. Accommodation is good and money is not a big reason. I will earn it by doing work in night shift."

Mother pressed Mahesh's mouth. Stop this matter. My heart broke into seven pieces.

“If I have not forgotten your love, I will not forget it either. I will come to meet you at the festival. Going away does not mean son is died.”

'How far away is the moon, does the love of the sea becomes less.' That's it! That's it! Grown up”, now mother is mute. If anyone was happy in the house today, it was grandmother.

The day of farewell came and my eyes filled with tears. He drank tears. He put his hand on heart and said goodbye. Raju was shocked. As if the heart had gone out. Little Raju's life became completely lonely. His brother's separation began to affect his body. And within a few days he became like a dry leaf. Grandmother felt sad because of Raju's condition, but her ego would not allow her to bury her under the mountain of pain. It's all right, seeing the grandmother walking around with such a happy face, mother used to get very angry. She used to spit hatred.

Thus, the year is over. Mahesh continued to study, studied a lot... He studied with his head turned upside down... Progressively he developed. In between, mother would call on the phone. Raju also kept sending sweet memories. Thus, Mahesh reached a foreign country. The world moved on. Here, the flower named Mahesh blossomed and faded, but there was eternal hope in my heart. The situation became dire, and Raju was exhausted. From body and mind. Could not remove the saddle. And one day life ended.

Grandmother's ornaments came down like snow in the house. The owner of the house was killed. No relatives came to that place. The lights of the house started to dim... who knows that a ray of hope was still shining amidst the dark cloud of a million disappointments. Just today, the same ray became dimly lighted. There was a knock on the door and Mahesh appeared in front dressed in a suit-boot. After all these years, no mother forgets her son. Grandmother became ashamed to see. The ground began to dig with feet. what say Mahesh fell to his knees and embraced him. The original reason for its progress was the grandmother! But... if the land gave way to the grandmother, it seemed like reaching the abyss. While Mahesh's eyes were full of respect-respect-love even for the annoying grandmother from childhood. Grandmother 's 60-year-old chest melted like wax today and Mahesh was hugged for the first time. The happiness that had been a beautiful farewell for many years was spreading again today. All his life, Mahesh worshiped his mother and grandmother more than the son.

Books



Bhadrabahu

(Multicolor Pictorial Story Book)

This book is a collection of pictorial stories on Acharya Bhadrabahu, to educate children on Jain values and practices for self-development and leading a better life.

No. of Pages: 16

Published: 2023

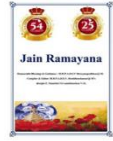


Golden Path Towards Nirvaan

This booklet explains many key terms like 'Dharma', 'Atma', 'Sin', 'Samyak Darshan', 'god', 'guru' etc., and their significance from the point of view of Jain religion.

No. of Pages: 56

Published: 2023



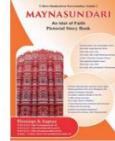
Jain Ramayana

(Multicolor Pictorial Story Book)

This book is a collection of small stories on different characters of the era of Lord Ram, from the perspective of Jainism. Reading this book will inculcate high moral and cultural values among the present generation.

No. of Pages: 200

Published: 2023



Maynasundari

(Multicolor Pictorial Story Book)

This story book gives knowledge of Jain values to children through interesting pictorial stories on a famous Jain character Mynasundari. Reading this book will cultivate and develop high moral values among kids and teenagers.

No. of Pages: 25

Published: 2023

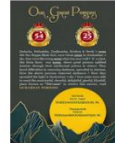


Chicago Prashnottar

This book includes Questions and Answers on Jainism for the Parliament of Religions held at Chicago U.S.A. in 1893. It will help readers know the eternal truths of Jainism.

No. of Pages: 214

Published: 2018



Our Great Persons

This book is a collection of small stories of great Jain persons in order to inspire new generation for adopting morality, human values, Jain religion and culture in their lives.

No. of Pages: 25

Published: 2023

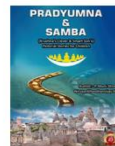


Jain Mahabharat

This book is a collection of small stories on different characters Kaurava and Pandavas, from the perspective of Jainism. Reading this book will inculcate high moral and cultural influencer for present generation.

No. of Pages: 165

Published : 2024

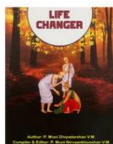


Pradyumna & Shamba

This book is all about Krishna's clever sons - Pradyumna & Shamba. Read this book to know more.

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Published : 2024

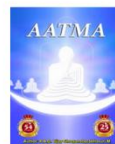


Life Changer

This book will change your life, how? To get this answer, read this book "Life Changer".

No. of Pages: 40

Coming Soon



Aatma

This book gives you knowledge in order to attain moksha (liberation), a human being must acquire self-knowledge (Atma Gyaan or Brahmajnana).

No. of Pages: 120

Coming Soon

About the Compiler/Editor

The editor pujya Munishri Nirvaanbhooshanvijayji maharaja, before monkhood was studying in Jai-Hind college, (Mumbai), one of the top most college of India. Though staying in Walkeshwar, one of the richest areas of India, left all the comforts & luxuries, to achieve high level of spirituality. When he was a teen-ager boy, influenced by the western culture started hating, not only Indian cultures & traditions but Jain religion also. He often went to Jain upashray, just to listen & read Jain stories. This also, helped him to give up his dream of going to abroad. Stories became a turning point in his life. After becoming monk, once he was suggested by his preacher, Guru **H.H.P.A.D. Shrimadvijay Hembhushansuriswaraji Maharaja**, to make his English powerful.

He was too obedient to follow each & every order of his Guru. Hence, he was given responsibility of giving 'pravachans' to children & teen-agers, during sanskar-shreni in just one year after attaining monkhood. Due to the grace of Guru-Bhagawants, he achieved mastery in English also. He gave many 'pravachans' created several poems e.t.c. in English also. He became able of compiling books & translating pravachan in English. He also helped his Guru M. in translating case papers of sammet-shikharji, Antarikshji e.t.c. He has a mastery of converting hearts of children, teen agers & young stars too. We have also experienced in our life. He brought us, near to Jainism.

We hope this story which is written in simple & lucid language, would help children, teen agers e.t.c. to study Jainism, who are facing language barriers.

Ketanbhai (C.A.), Hemang (C.A.)
Sagar (C.A.), Jinal (C.A.)
Arham. Aarya, Vinaybhai
Devangbhai

