

# JAIN PRIMER

(Jain Balpothi)

A book on jainism for children



: Author :

**Br. HARILAL JAIN,**  
Songadh - 364 250



: Translation :

**SUMANLAL R. DOSHI**  
M.S. (U.S.A.)

**Bombay**

(Price Rs. 5=00)

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જૈન પ્રાથમર(ઇંગ્લીશ)ના

\* સ્થાયી પ્રકાશન-પુસ્તકર્તા \*

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## INTRODUCTION

Presently there is a great demand for religious lessons in english language. The reason for the same is simple. Those of us who have migrated to foreign countries feel the need that their children remain in touch with Jainism. Children over there learn in english medium. The same is true for those children in India who study in english medium.

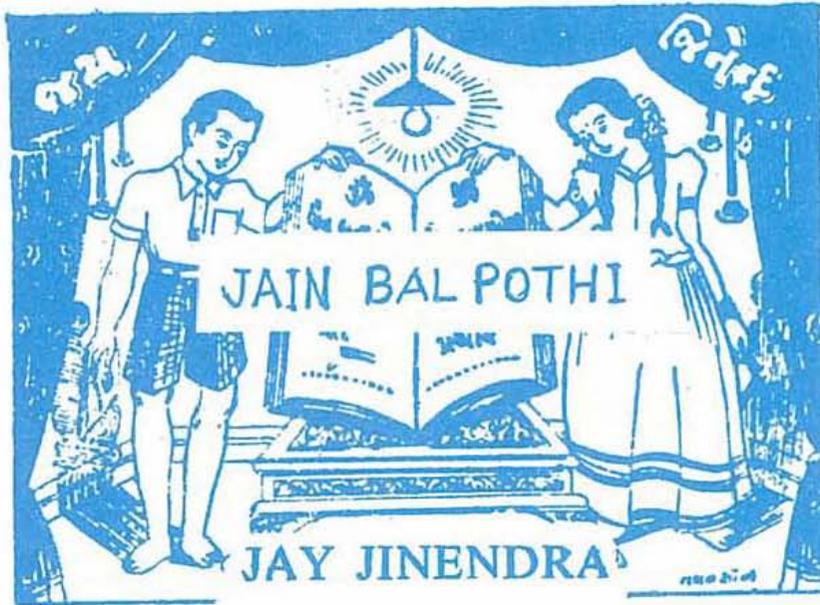
This booklet makes a preliminary effort in revealing the true nature of the soul. The basic difference between the soul and the body is also highlighted in such simple words as can be well understood by children. The nature and activities of both, soul and body are very divergent and can easily be understood. It is further made evident by suitable pictures. The fundamental principles of Jainism are simple and selfexplanatory. Hence even parents, without the help of proper teacher, can explain the same to their children. This preliminary basic introduction to Jainism should create inquisitiveness in young minds to have a more detailed study of the religion.

We are all very grateful to Sadgurudev Shree Kanjswami for whatever we know about Jainism. He has clearly laid down the fundamental principles of jainism with real emphasis on the true character and nature of Jiva-the soul. The right knowledge and correct belief about the eternal soul is the real path to eternal salvation and happiness.

For study of Jainism in real depth we have to study the Paramagams. For the study of such Paramagams knowledge of Sanskrit language or at least Gujarati or Hindi Language becomes essential as the inner meanings of the words used in these Paramagams cannot really and truly be translated into english.



TO THE CHILDREN



O ! Religious Children !

You are the children of Lord Mahavir.

You will be happy to read this primary book  
on Jainism.

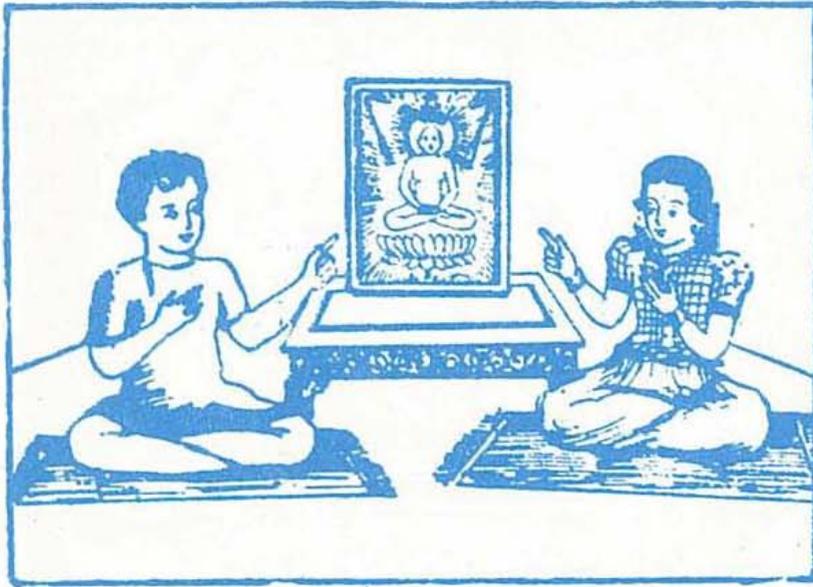
Study it with enthusiasm.

Go everyday to the religious school to study it.

Be like Mahavir by attaining true knowledge of  
the soul.



## CHILDREN OF LORD MAHAVIR



We are children of Lord Mahavir.

We want to learn principles of Jainism.

We like to learn and read.

We love our preacher of religion.....(1)

We shall keep on learning while advancing.

We shall attain the Knowledge of Soul.

We are thankful to our religious preacher.

We bow them often and often.....(2)





I am Jiva.

There is power of  
knowledge in myself.

I know by this  
power of knowledge.

( JIVA = Ever Living matter; soul. )

(2) BODY



The body has no soul.

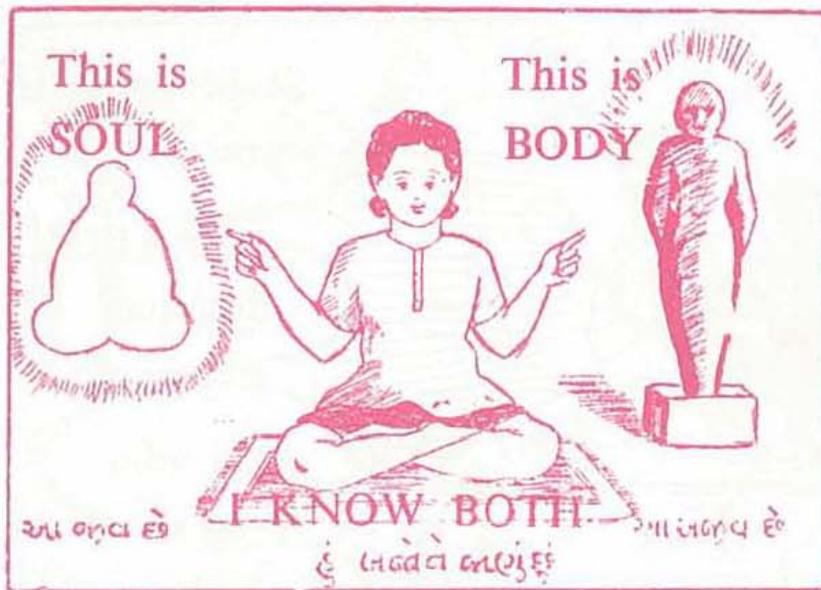
It is called Ajiva.

It does not have

power to know.

It knows nothing.

### (3) JIVA AND AJIVA



I am Jiva. The body is Ajiva.

The Jiva has power to know.

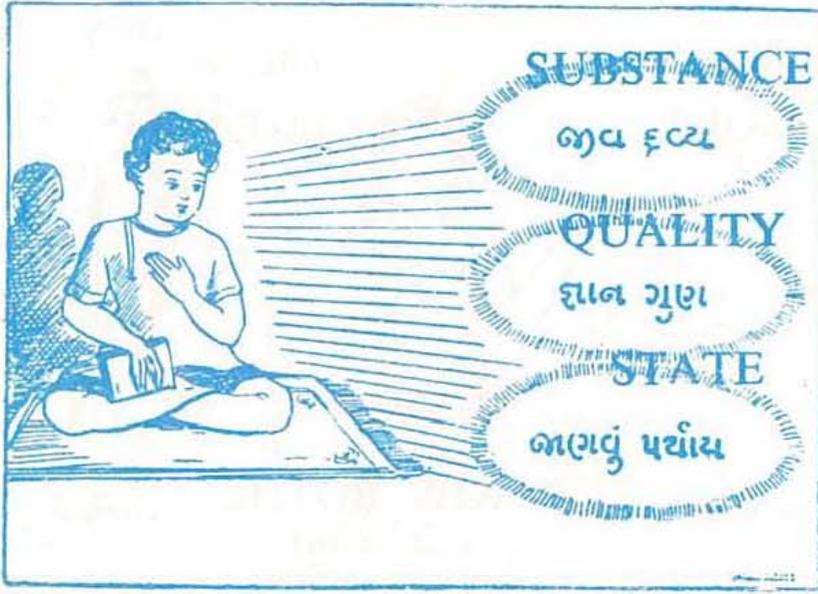
The body has no power to know.

I know everything by my power of knowledge.

The body does not know anything.

The Jiva and Body are two distinctly  
separate things.

( 4 ) DRAVYA—GUNA—PARYAYA  
( Substance )—( Quality )—( State )



I am Jiva Dravya ( soul substance ).

“ Power to know ” is my Guna ( Quality ).

To know is my paryaya ( State ).

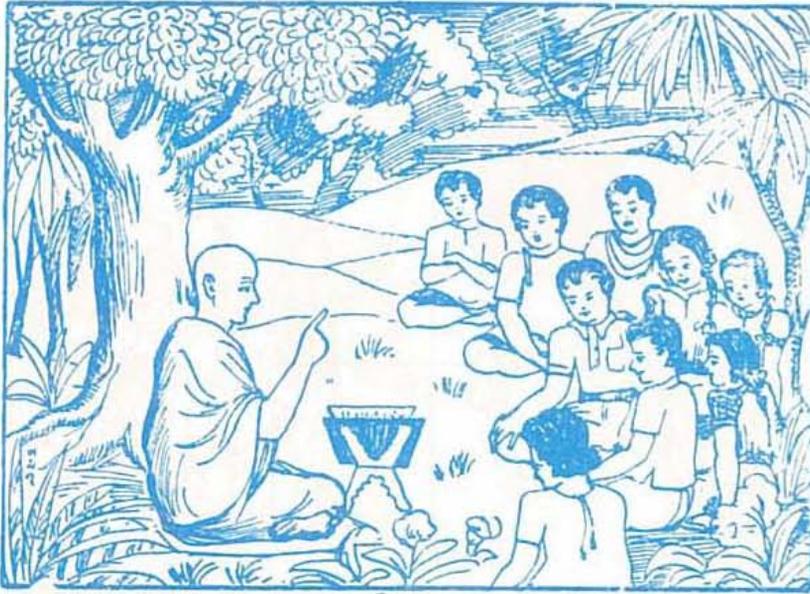
Jiva Dravya ( soul substance ) has a Guna  
( quality ) called “ power to know. ”

Ajiva Dravya ( non-soul substance ) does not  
have this Guna ( quality ) of “ power to know ”

Jiva Dravya or soul substance knows.

Ajiva Dravya or non-soul substance  
can not know anything.

## (5) EXAMINATION



Children, tell me, who are you? Jiva, Jiva. Jiva.

What do you have? Power to know, Power  
to know, Power to know.

What do you do? We do the work of  
knowing, knowing, knowing.

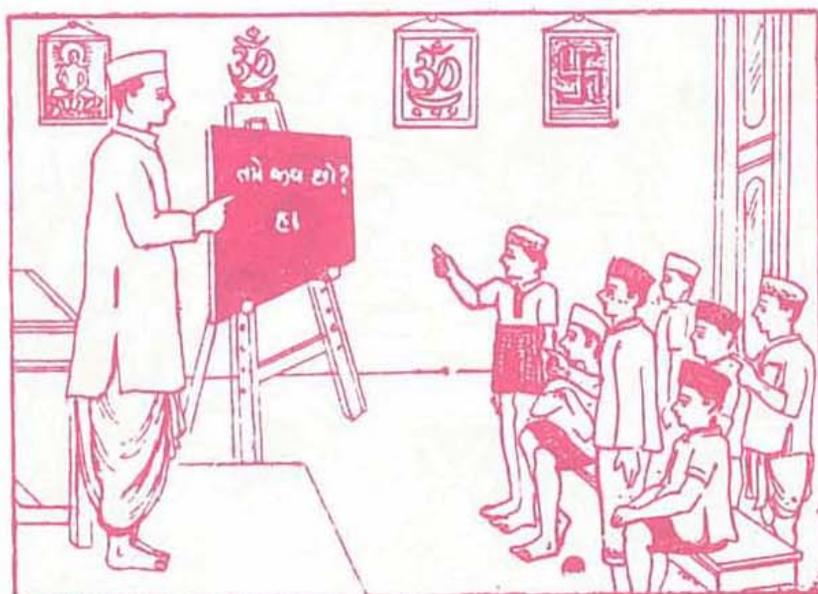
What is the Body? Ajiva, Ajiva, Ajiva.

Does it have knowledge?.....No, No, No.

Is Body yours?.....No, No, No.

Do you perform work of the Body? No, No, No.

(6) YES AND NO



Tell me :

Are you Jiva ?.....Yes, Yes, Yes.

Is Body a Jiva ?.....No, No, No.

Do you have Power to know ?...Yes, Yes, Yes.

Does Body have "Power to know?" No, No, No.

Do you know everything ?.....Yes, Yes, Yes.

Does Body know anything ?..... No, No, No.

Do you know the Body ?.....Yes, Yes, Yes.

Do you perform the work of the Body? No, No, No.

Do you want to be happy ?.....Yes, Yes, Yes.

Do you want to be unhappy ?...No, No, No.

Will you develop understanding  
of the soul ?.....Yes, Yes, Yes.

Will you keep wrong knowledge ? No, No, No.

## (7) RELIGION



I want to be happy.

Those who follow religion become happy.

Those who do not follow religion become unhappy.

I want to be religious.

Every Soul can follow religion.

Body cannot follow religion of soul.

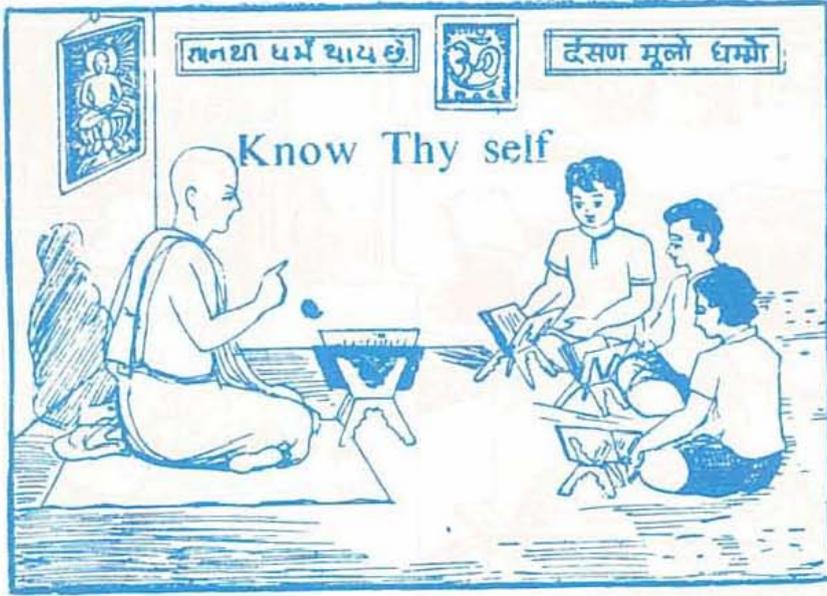
I am Jiva, and therefore can do religious work.

The Body is Ajiva and therefore cannot do  
religious work.

Jiva is Dravya (substance)

Religion is its Paryaya (State)

## (8) UNDERSTANDING



Religion is done through knowledge of soul.

Wrong knowledge leads to irreligion.

One who has power to know understands religion.

Jiva (soul) has power to know.

Jiva understands religion.

Body does not have power to know.

Body does not understand religion.

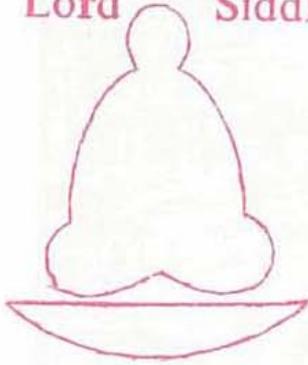
I am Jiva.

I have power to know.

I understand religion by knowledge.

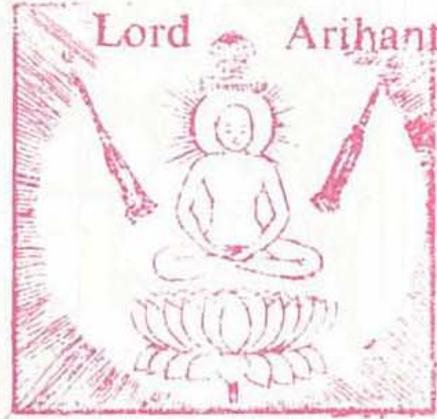
## (9) SUPREME BEING

Lord Siddha



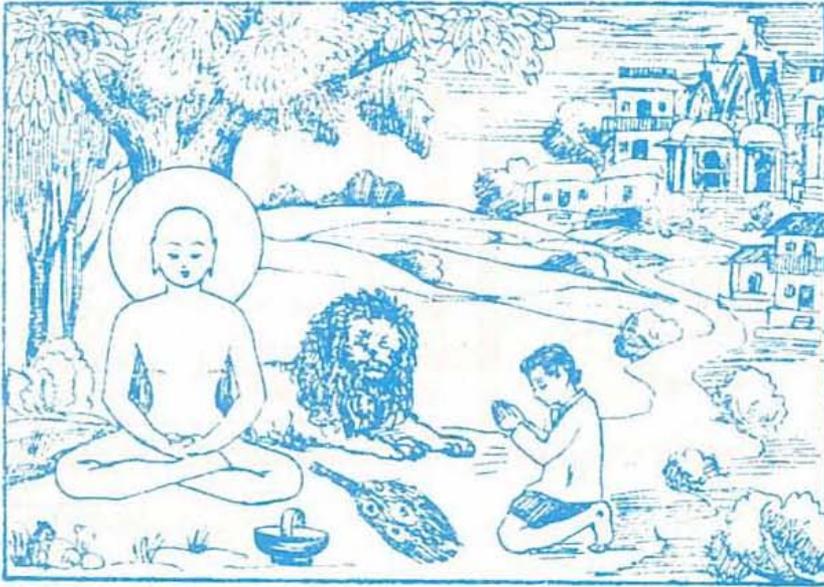
सिद्ध भगवान

Lord Arihant



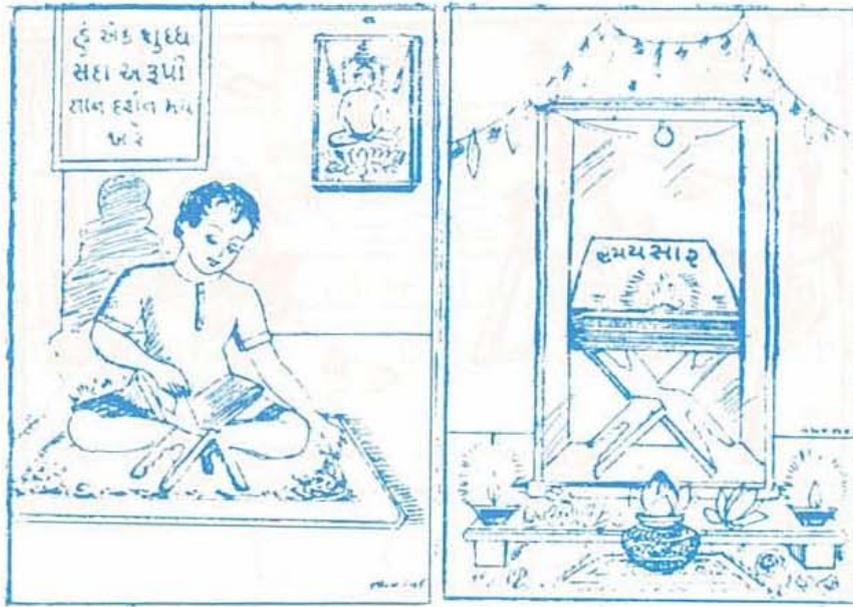
अरिहंत भगवान

Religion means understanding of the soul.  
He who understands the soul becomes  
supreme being.  
Supreme Being (God) has full and complete  
knowledge.  
Supreme Being (God) does not have desires—  
“likes and dislikes.”  
The Supreme Being knows all. He does not  
control the functions of others.  
The Supreme Being does not feel hungry.  
The Supreme Being does not take meals.  
श्री Arihant is a Supreme Being.  
श्री Siddha is a Supreme Being.  
Arihant Bhagwan has a body.  
Siddha Bhagwan does not have a body.  
Know Bhagwan and be God your ownself.



Here is a sage. The sage is our Guru.  
He is sitting in meditation of the self.  
Nearby, there is a kamandal and Pichehhi.  
The real sage has the true knowledge of self.  
Kundkundmuni was Acharya ( Head of sages ).  
Acharya is a sage.  
Upadhyay is also a sage.  
Sadhu is also a sage.  
All Jain sages are our gurus.  
The guru preaches religion to us.  
Always worship and respect the guru.

## ( 11 ) THE SCRIPTURE



This is "SAMAYASAR."

It is a scripture.

The scriptures show the intricacies of soul behaviour.

The scriptures are written by sages or by one who has correct understanding of the soul.

Untrue scriptures are composed by ignorant people. One cannot understand soul from untrue scriptures. The scripture itself has no knowledge.

It knows nothing.

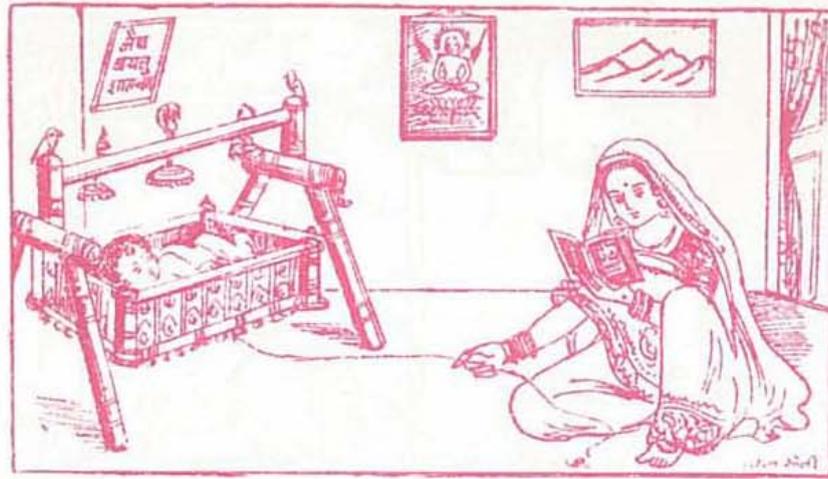
The soul has knowledge. He knows everything.

Samayasara is a very good scripture. One can understand functions of soul by studying it.

Kundkundmuni has composed it.

Study the scripture everyday.

(12) LULLABY OF A JAIN'S CHILD



[ Jinvani = Preachings of Lord Mahavir ]

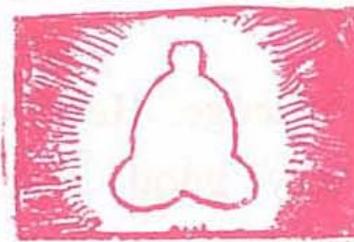
Arihant =



Supreme  
being  
with Body

Arihant is your Father, Jinvani is your mother.  
O my brother! It is easy to be Arihant.

Siddha =



Supreme  
being  
without Body

Lord Siddha is your father, Jinvani is your mother.  
O my brother! It is easy to be Lord Siddha.

Acharya



Head of  
Saints

Acharya is your father, Jinvani is your mother.  
O my brother! It is easy to be Acharya.

Upadhyay



Preacher  
of Saints

Upadhyay is your father, Jinvani is your mother  
O my brother! It is easy to be Upadhyay.

Muniraj



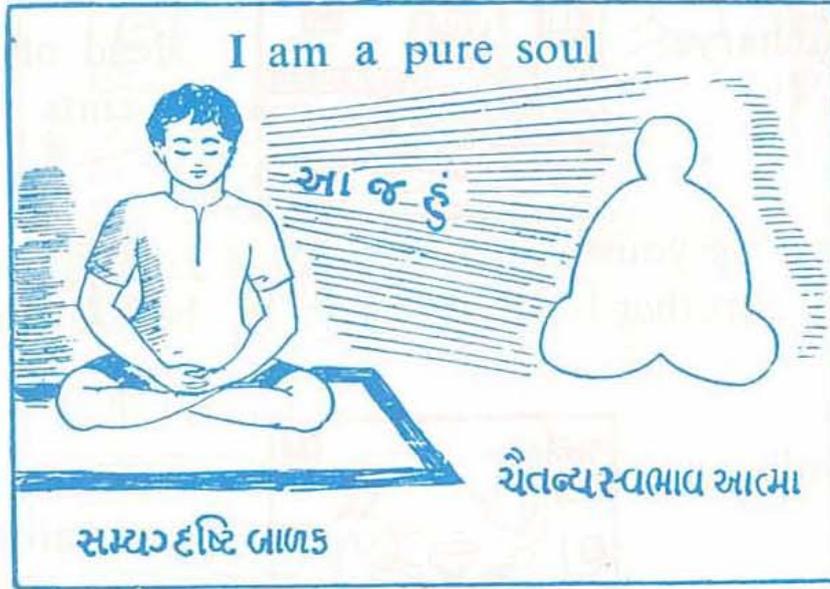
Jain  
Saint

Muniraj is your father, Jinvani is your mother,  
O my brother! It is easy to be Muniraj.



Jainism is your religion, It says 'know they self'  
O my brother! you try to know the soul.

## ( 13 ) SAMYAK DARSHAN ( Right Belief )



Samyak-Darshan means Right Belief.

Right Belief means confidence and faith in soul.

My own soul is complete in all respects.

My own soul is the Supreme Being.

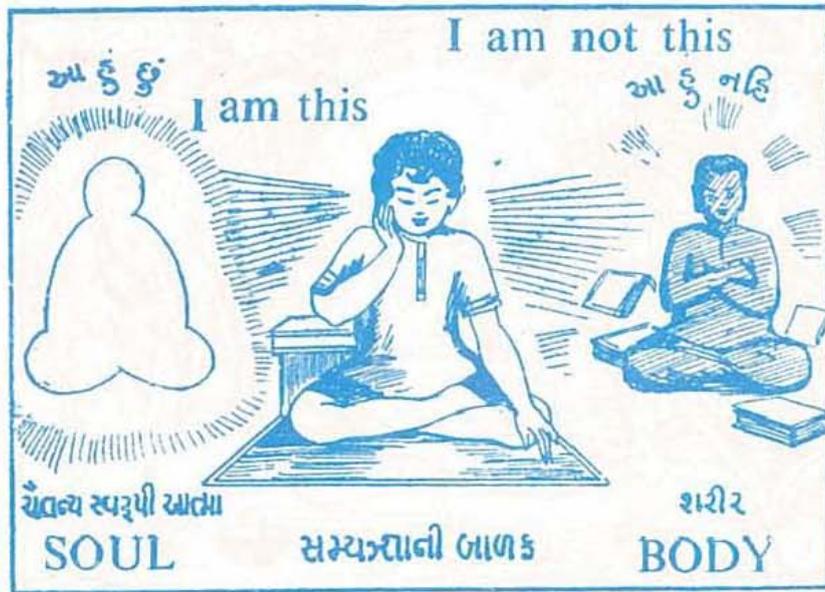
Samyak-Darshan can be attained by developing  
faith in soul.

Once Samyak-Darshan is attained, Moksha  
( complete liberation of soul ) will certainly be  
attained in due course.

Samyak-Darshan is the root of happiness. One  
cannot be happy without Samyak-Darshan.  
Right belief of soul is the first step in the  
path of Religion.

What would you do first ? —Samyak-Darshan.

( 14 ) SAMYAK-GYAN  
( Right-Knowledge )



Samyak Gyan means correct understanding.

Correct understanding means knowledge of soul.

“Soul has power to know; soul is distinctly different from the body; Soul’s feelings of ‘likes and dislikes’ are not its true virtues ” He who understands this, can attain the true knowledge.

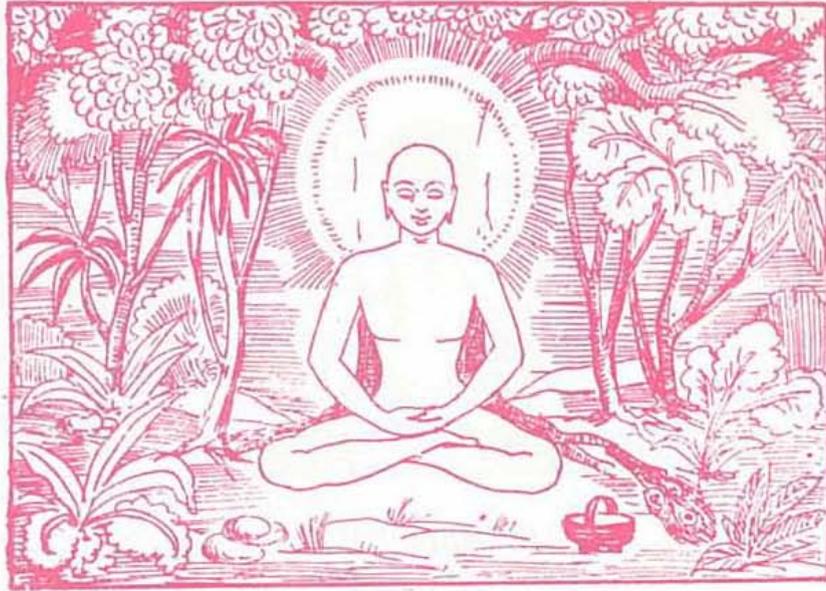
True knowledge brings with it happiness. The beginning of the true religion starts with the attainment of correct understanding of soul.

The wandering of soul in the universe ends once understanding of the soul is attained.

One becomes a supreme being when he attains correct understanding of soul.

What will you do ? “ Attain correct knowledge of soul, and remove ignorance.”

( 15 ) SAMYAK-CHARITRA  
( Right Conduct )



Samyak-Charitra means Right Conduct. Only he who attains correct understanding of soul can have the Right Conduct ( Samyak-Charitra ). soul cannot have the Right Conduct.

Samyak Charitra is Equanimity.

Samyak Charitra is Peace.

Samyak Charitra is the Religion.

He who has Samyak Charitra is called the sage.

One obtains Moksha swiftly by practising Samyak Charitra. We must attain Right belief and correct understanding of soul and then we can practice true conduct.

Children first attain the correct understanding of soul and have an aim for practising right conduct.



Jain means conqueror.

Jainism means understanding the nature of soul.  
One who understands the nature of soul  
correctly is called Jain.

One who does not understand the nature of soul  
cannot be called Jain.

One is called Jain who conquers ignorance by  
understanding correctly the nature of soul.

One is also called Jain who conquers the desires  
and "likes and dislikes" ( राग और द्वेष ) through  
the correct understanding of the nature of soul.

Jains never eat meat and honey. Jains also never  
drink wines and liquors. Jainism throws light  
on two diametrically opposite properties of  
soul and other substances, and hence Jainism  
is "Anekantvadi."

## (17) THE STORY OF A KING



Once there was a king. He went to hunt in the Jungle. He met a saint in the Jungle and bowed his head to him.

The saint said—"O king! To hunt is a sin. Such a sin will take you to hell where there is lot of pain and unhappiness."

The king cried by hearing this and asked the Saint 'My Lord! how can I wipe out my sins? And how can I be happy?'



The saint said,

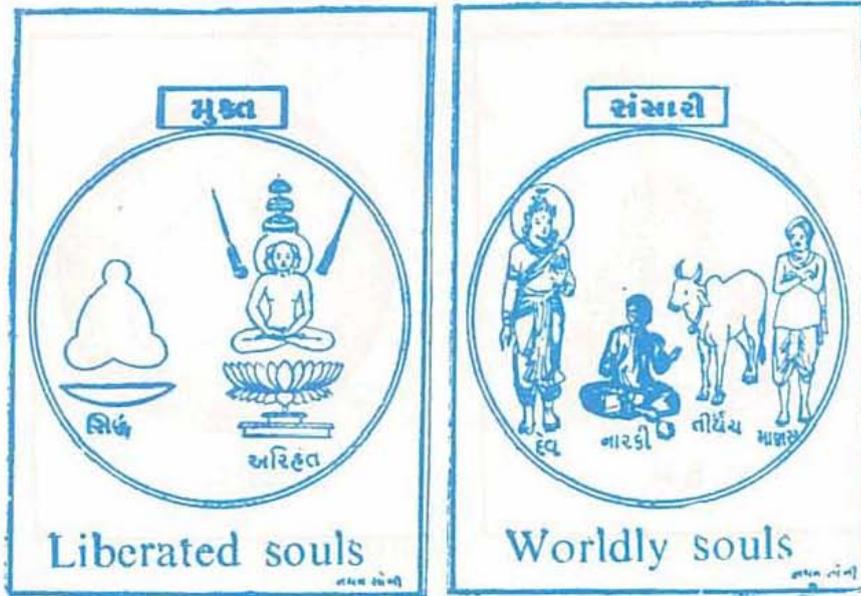
"O king! the happiness is within you. Give up huntin and learn true nature of your soul. It will give you happiness." The king then gave up hunting. He learnt the intricate

knowledge of the nature of soul from the saint and became very happy.

In the end he attained liberation of his soul from the world and attained "Moksha."

Give up sin, understand your soul and be happy.

## (18) LIBERATED AND WORLDLY SOULS



There are two types of souls-liberated and worldly. The liberated souls are pure and worldly souls are impure.

The liberated souls live in "Moksha" and have complete happiness.

They do not have desires, likes and dislikes.

They have no birth and death cycle.

They never come to the earth (World)

They do not do anything for the others.

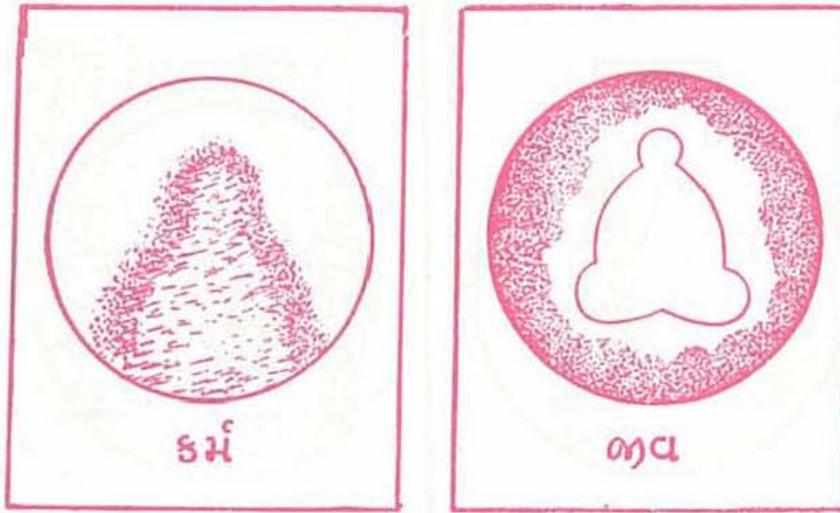
Siddha Bhagwan is a liberated soul.

Arihant Bhagwan is also a liberated soul.

The worldly souls go through cycle of births and deaths

The souls in heaven, in hell, in cow etc. and in human beings are worldly souls. They are unhappy; The liberated souls are happy.

## (19) JIVA AND KARMA



Karma is on innate (Ajiva) object.

It has no power to know.

Soul has power to know.

Karma and soul are distinctly different from  
each other.

Soul has no karma, and karma has no soul.

Soul becomes unhappy because of his ignorance  
and false thinking.

Karma cannot give troubles to soul.

Soul is harassed because of his own fault.

Karma does not harass soul.

Obtain true knowledge about soul.

Do not blame karma

Religion is to obtain true knowledge of soul.

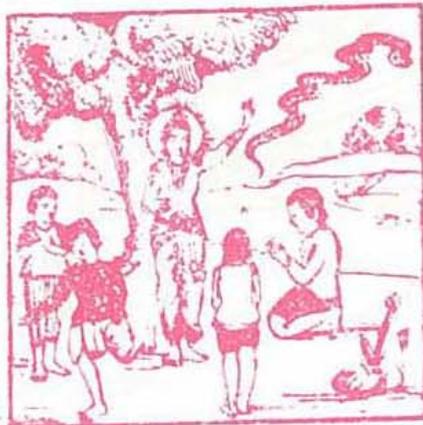
To accuse karma for harassing is against the  
principles of religion.



Do you know Mahavir Bhagwan ? Mahavir Bhagwan is also a soul similar to your soul. He attained true knowledge of soul, removed fully likes and dislikes and became Bhagwan. You will become Bhagwan if you do the same.

Mahavir's father was king Siddartha. His mother's name was Trishaladevi. He was born on the thirteenth day of increasing moon in the month of Chaitra in the city of Kundgram -Vaishali in India.

Right from his birth, he possessed the true knowledge of soul and was indifferent to the worldly pleasures. Angels ( Devas ) from heaven used to serve him and play with

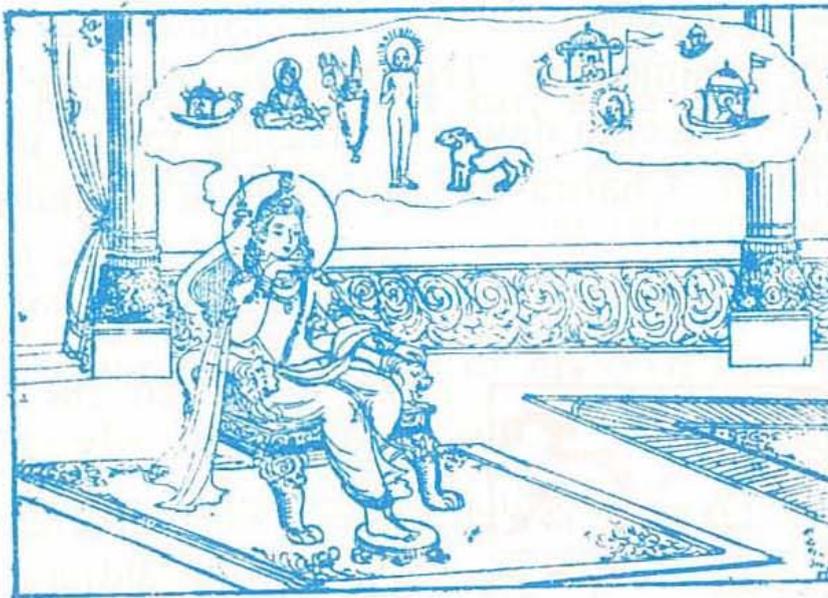


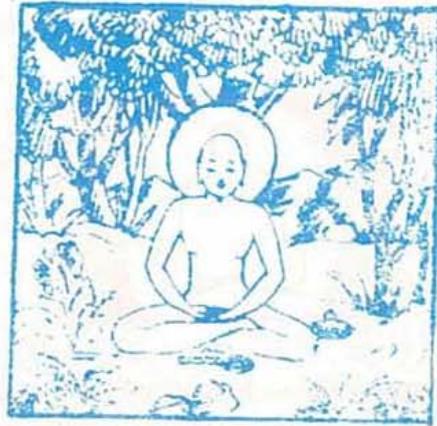


him in the form of children.

Once, one of those Angels took the form of a big snake and began to frighten the children, But Mahavir picked him up and threw it away. Also,

one day an elephant of the king became mad and started harrassing people. Prince Mahavir went to him and subdued him. When prince Mahavir grew up, memories of his previous life





worldly affairs and he became a saint ( Muni ). He already had the correct knowledge and understanding of the soul. After becoming the sage he started meditating with great concentration. Due to this concentrated meditation about soul, the purity of his knowledge started improving and his thoughts and feelings towards worldly matters started diminishing. In due course he attained



complete detachment and disenchantment towards worldly affairs and also attained complete and supreme knowledge. He thus became Bhagwan ( Lord ) Arihant

He then started preaching the true principles of religion. To hear him, many men, women and children came; also Angels ( Devas ) from heaven and big kings came; from the jungle lions, tigers, elephants, monkeys, snakes and little frogs also



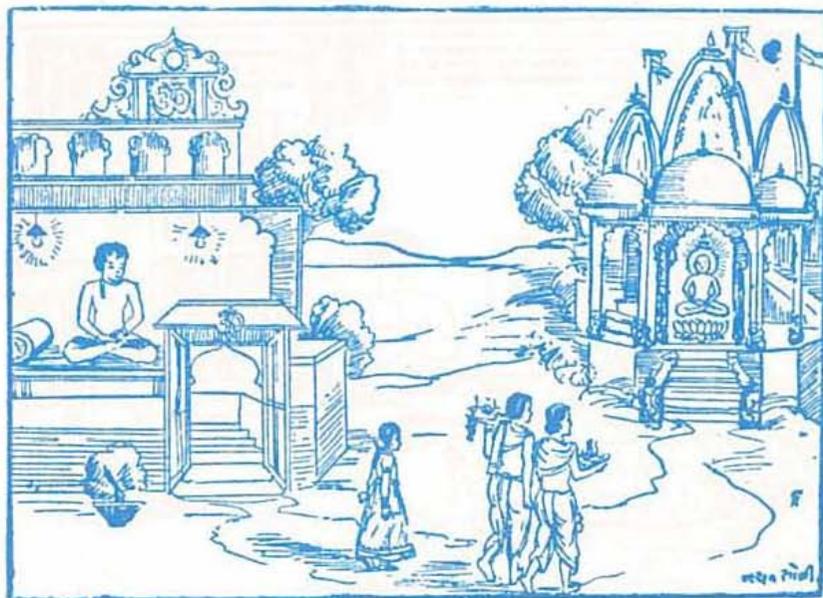
came to hear his preachings. Through these preachings many of them obtained true knowledge of their souls.

Mahavir Bhagwan preached for thirty years and spread the principles of Jainism far and wide. At last he attained Nirvana ( Moksha ) at Pavapuri in Bihar state. Before attaining Nirvana he was Arihant ( living with body ); He now became Siddha ( living without body ). He attained Nirvana a night on the fourteenth day of the decreasing moon in the month of Kartik. Next day was celebrated by everyone as Dipawali. Today Mahavir Bhagwan's soul is existing in Moksha and he is now in eternal happiness.

Children, you also obtain correct understanding of soul like Mahavir Bhagwan, remove feelings of likes and dislikes ( prejudices, passions, etc ) and attain Moksha.

**JAY MAHAVIR**

( 21 ) DO THIS MUCH



Children ! Rise early in the morning.

Think about soul after rising.

Remember Bhagwan and recite Namaskar-Mantra.

Wear clean clothes, go to the Jain-Temple.

Bow and worship Bhagwan Arihant.

Then, kneel down before religious books

( Shastras ) and study them often and often.

Also, kneel down before saints and hear their preachings; Then meditate about those preachings.

At least do this much everyday.

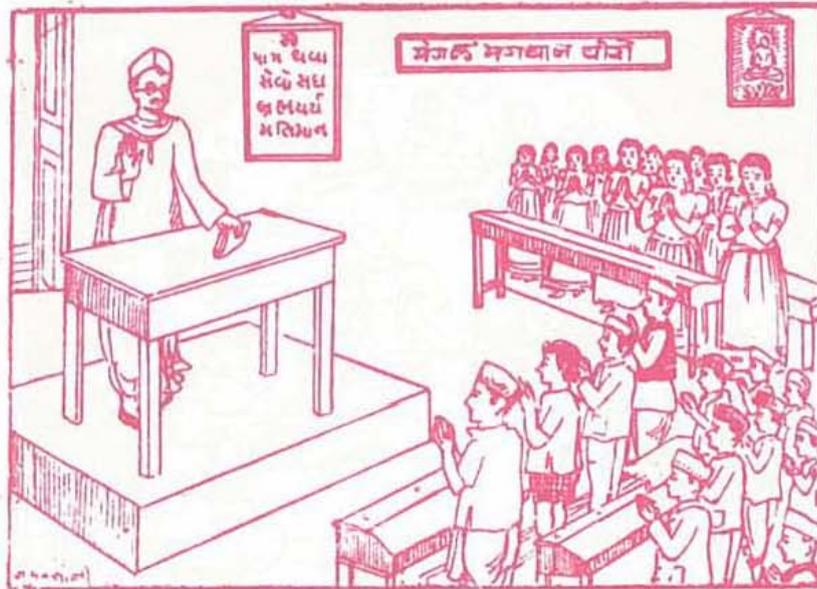
This will make your life pure and graceful.

## ( 22 ) REAL GOOD ADVICE



1. Never forget soul:  
Never kill anybody.
2. Don't forget God;  
Never tell lie.
3. Always offer prayer to saints;  
Never steal.
4. Don't leave religious books helter-skelter:  
Don't eat after Sunset.
5. Always lead a satisfied life:  
Don't be possessive and greedy.
6. Always listen to good advice:  
and do all the above things properly.

( 23 ) NEVER...NEVER



Never neglect religion.

Never be angry.

Never be obstinate.

Never cheat.

Never be greedy.

Never be unkind.

Never be afraid of anything.

Never be lazy.

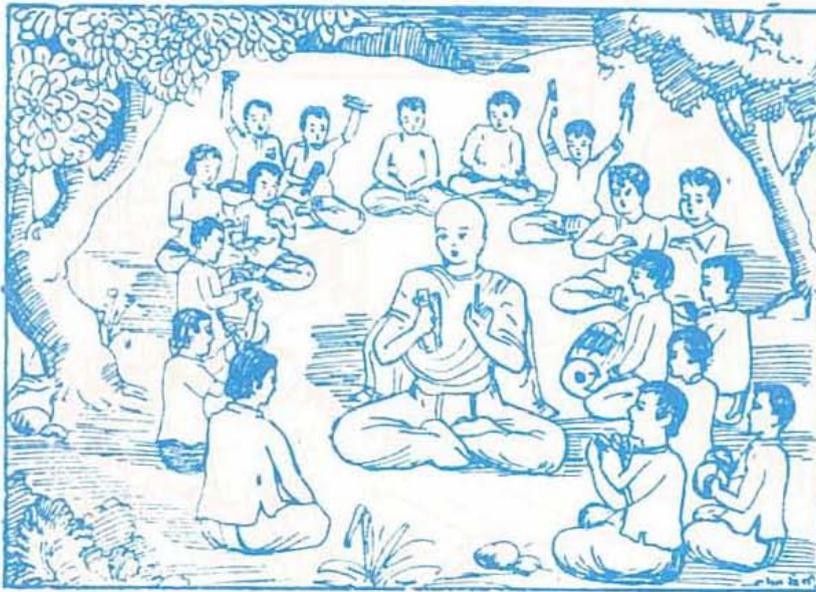
Never gamble.

Never believe and follow wrong principles.

Never speak ill of any body.

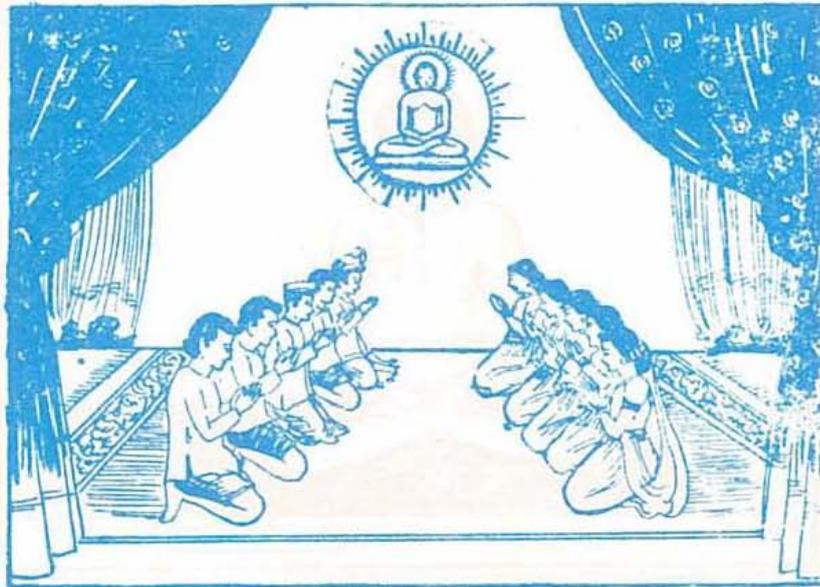
Never conceal your faults.

## ( 24 ) ANTHEM



1. Soul attains supreme knowledge through continuous and proper meditation about self.
2. I am soul, non-destructible, pure and full of happiness.
3. I bow to the Lord Arihant.  
I bow to the Jenial Guru
4. I am pure, and invisible by eye. My important property is power to know.
5. Body may die but not I:  
I am an eternal soul
6. Jay Mahavir and Jay Jinendra;  
Jay Arihant, and Jay all saints.

## (25) PRAYER



1. We pray to Bhagwan.  
We pray to Gurudev.
2. We pray to Siddha Bhagvan  
We pray to Arihant Bhagwan.
3. We pray to Saints, and true religion;  
We pray to religious books ( Shastras ).
4. We pray to all enlightened souls  
and also my own pure soul.
5. We pray to pure nature of the soul  
which is the real Bhagwan ( Lord )

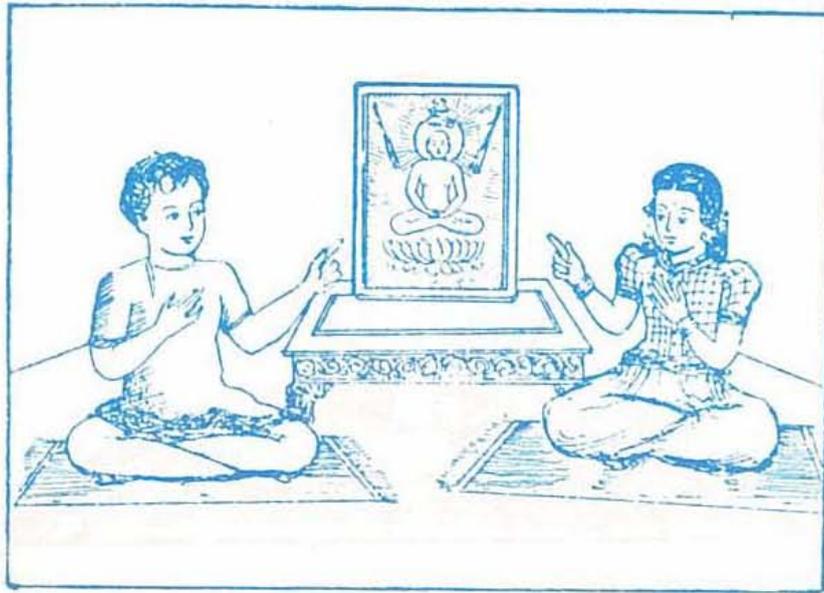


1. I want to see and perceive the pure soul which is God. I want to know its activities.
2. He is God; He is Supreme Being; He is Bhagwan. What kind of a being must he be?
3. The whole universe reflects in his knowledge like a mirror. I wonder how it is?
4. He is unconcerned about the world and distinct from body. He is full of happiness. I would like to know all about this.
5. He does not take birth; he does not die; he is not a rich or a poor person but still full of happiness. I am eager to learn all about him.
6. He can not be seen by naked eyes; he can not be heard, yet he can be perceived and felt through correct knowledge.
7. I would really like to learn about soul.



1. Please show me soul. What is he ?  
Where does he stay ?
2. What kind of soul is he that sees and  
knows everything ?
3. Soul himself is God and Siddha,  
He is an ocean of knowledge.
4. He is distinct and different from body  
and voice, yet he is full of happiness.
5. Soul does not die or take birth. His true nature  
has no feelings of "likes and dislikes."
6. One can not see him by naked eyes, but he can  
be seen and known by right knowledge.

## (28) MY MOTIVE



1. I want to pray and see God.  
I want to pray and see Soul
2. I want to serve the saint who has the true knowledge of soul because I want to attain the true knowledge of soul,
3. I want to study Religious books ( Shastras ), and I want to eliminate feelings of likes and dislikes.
4. I really want to get detached from worldly pleasures and want to stay in company with saints,
5. I wish I can be free of worldly attachments and attain Moksha quickly.

## ❁ QUESTIONS ❁

( Children, now that you have studied this book, try to find the correct answers to the following questions. It will help you to make you perfect and you will get enjoyment. It will be helpful for examination as well as for asking questions and answers amongst your friends. )

1. Who am I ?
2. What do I have ?
3. Whose children are we ?
4. What do you like to study ?
5. What will you do when you grow up ?
6. Are you Soul or Body ?
7. Who has Power to know; Soul or Body ?
8. What is the distinction between Soul and Body ?
9. Are Body and Soul one or separate ?
10. How or by what means can you know the above ?
11. Can you see without eyes ?
12. Does Body know anything ?
13. Which Dravya ( substance ) are you ? Jiva or Ajiva ?
14. Which quality do you have ?
15. Whose Paryaya ( state ) is " to know " ?
16. What is the difference between Jiva and Ajiva Dravya ( substance ) ?

17. What is Body ?
18. Who are you ?
19. Can Soul do the work of Body ?
20. Can Soul know about the Body ?
21. Can Body have "Power to know" ?
22. What will you do to be happy ?
23. What happens when one tries to understand  
philosophy of Soul ?
24. Can one be happy without the true knowledge  
of Soul ?
25. Can one be happy by obtaining wealth ?
26. What will happen to Soul if he does not  
follow the true principles of its philosophy ?
27. Can Liberation of Soul be done by Body or  
Soul ?
28. Can Liberation of Soul be done by Dravya  
or Paryaya ?
29. Whose Paryaya is Liberation ?
30. How would you Liberate your Soul ?
31. Who can Liberate Soul ?
32. By what Liberation of Soul can be done ?  
Body or Knowledge ?
33. What do you mean by Liberation of Soul ?
34. What should be done to be Supreme Being ?
35. What does Bhagwan possess ? And what  
does he not possess ?
36. Does the Supreme Being take meals ?
37. What is the difference between Arihant and  
Siddha ?

38. At present, is Mahavir Bhagwan Arihant or Siddha ?
39. Who is Arihant now ? Do you know the name of that Bhagwan ?
40. Write Namaskar Mantra.
41. Who is sitting in meditation in the jungle ?
42. Who is our Guru ?
43. In the lesson 10th about "Guru", there is a mention about one Acharya. What is his name ?
44. Write the name of the best Shastra.
45. What do Shastras teach us ?
46. Where does Knowledge reside ? In Shastra or in Soul ?
47. Have you ever taken in hand and seen Samaysar Shastra ?
48. Which are good Shastras and which are not good Shastras ( religious books ) ?
49. Who is the author of Samaysar ?
50. What kind of a lullaby a mother sings to her child ?
51. Who is our religious mother ?
52. What is the name of Right Belief ?
53. What does one get when he attains Samyak Darshan ?
54. What is the root of philosophy of Soul ?
55. Why is Jiva wandering in the Universe ?
56. Which is the first step of religion ?
57. Which is the biggest sin ?

58. What do you mean by Samyak Gyan-  
( Right Knowledge ) ?
59. What kind of Soul should we understand to  
attain Right Knowledge ?
60. What do we call the person who has  
Samyakcharitra ( Right Conduct ) ?
61. Which three things together lead one to the  
path of Moksha ?
62. Can one obtain Moksha only by Conduct  
without the Right Knowledge of Soul ?
63. Who can have Right Conduct and Sainthood ?
64. Who is Jain ?
65. By what name should we address the person  
who has conquered feelings of “ likes and  
dislikes ” ?
66. Who can be called, Jain Dev ( God ) ?
67. In ‘ the story of a king ’ why was the king  
afraid ?
68. What did Saint preach the king in order to  
be happy ?
69. Jivas are of two types What are they ?
70. Are Jivas in heaven Worldly Souls or  
Liberated Souls ?
71. How long Soul will wander in this world ?
72. What should Soul do in order to be Liberated ?
73. Is Karma Jiva or Ajiva ?
74. Does Soul have Karma ?
75. How does Soul become unhappy, due to  
I norance or Karma ?

76. What did Mahavir do to become Bhagwan ?
77. What is the birthdate of Mahavir ? What was the name of his Mother ?
78. What did Mahavir do after he remembered his previous life ?
79. What was Mahavir doing after becoming the Saint ?
80. Who came to hear Mahavir Bhagwan's preachings ?
81. From which place Bhagwan Mahavir achieved Moksha ?
82. Is Mahavir Bhagwan Arihant or Siddha at present ?
83. Where does he stay at present ?
84. What will you do first when you wake up in the morning ?
85. What should we do daily ?
86. What good advice is given to her child by Mother ?
87. Can we take meals at night ?
88. What actions do you do daily ?
89. What actions will you never do ?
90. What does one attain by meditation of Soul ?
91. Which is that substance which is full of happiness, as well as pure and nondestructible ?
92. Who is our God ?
93. Between Body and Soul which one is non-destructible ?
94. In the lesson on "Prayer" to whom are you offering prayer ?

95. What Soul is a Pure Soul ?  
( Refer Lesson 26 )
96. What does a child want to see ?
97. Can you see Soul by eyes ?
98. How can one see Soul ?
99. Complete the sentence : “ Soul does not die  
or take birth; His true nature....”
100. Complete the sentence : “ Soul himself is  
God and Siddha.....”
101. Whom do you wish to pray ?
102. Whom do you want to serve ?
103. What do you like to do ?
104. From what do you want to get liberated ?
105. What do you wish to attain quickly ?
106. Do you study and prectise religion daily ?
107. Does your mother tell you religious stories ?
108. Do you go to temple everyday ?
109. On which page of this book are the pictures  
of “ Sixteen best dreams ” ?
110. Which is the first dream ?
111. Would you now like to read the second  
part of this book on Jainism ?
112. Can you recite the song “ Children of Lord  
Mahavir ” ?



❖ JAY MAHAVIR ❖



जैन जयति शासनम्