

JAIN PRIMER

(A Children's religious Book)

Br. HARILAL JAIN



Shree N. C. JAVERI (the President of All INDIA D. JAIN MUMUKSHU MANDAL, and Shree D. J. Swadhyay Mandir Trust Songad) Presenting this 'English Jain Primer' to Pujya Shree KANJI SWAMI at Songad, on the opening ceremony of 'Shree Mahavir-Kundkund Parmagam Mandir, by Shree Shahu Shanti Prasadjai Jain-Delhi. (Virnirvan S. 2500, Falgun S. 13, Dt. 6-3-74)

ॐ श्रीकृष्णाय नमः । श्रीगणेशाय नमः । श्रीविष्णवे नमः । श्रीशिवाय नमः ।

प्रति : माधीनगर, वि. ३८२०००



णमो अ रि हं ता णं ।
णमो सि द्धा णं ।
णमो आ इ रि या णं ।
णमो उ व ज्झा या णं ।
णमो लोए सव्वसाहूणं ।

This is our NAMSKAR-MANTRA
We bow to All Gods and Saints by this
'NAMSKAR-MANTRA'

Only
Soul
Has
Power
To
Know
卐



Real
Happi-
ness
Comes
From
True
Know-
ledge
卐

JAIN PRIMER

(A Children's religious Book)

[Jain Balpothi]



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नम्र सूचन

इस ग्रन्थ के अभ्यास का कार्य पूर्ण होते ही नियत
समयावधि में शीघ्र वापस करने की कृपा करें
जिससे अन्य वाचकगण इसका उपयोग कर सकें.

A golden maddel is presented to the
Author of this book, by Shree N. C. Javeri
in the pleasure of publishing more then
1,11,000 copies of this Book.

Edition 23rd

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INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to put in your hands this English edition of "Jain Primer" in the 2500th year of "Nirvan" of Bhagwan Mahavir. This booklet which has been accepted by the entire Jain community has been published in various languages such as Hindi, Marathi, Tamil and Gujarati and already more than a lakh copies have been printed and distributed.

This booklet teaches in simple steps how to attain eternal happiness by explaining total distinction between Jiva and Body as two separate entities having diametrically opposite properties. The presentations of these principles are made easier by incorporating suitable pictures. We earnestly hope that all young people will willingly learn these principles and parents will encourage their children in their early formative years to learn them. All of us are grateful to Shri Kanji Swami for giving us this invaluable knowledge about the true characteristics and nature of Jiva (Atma), thus enabling us to pursue the path of real happiness.

Shri N. C. Javeri, chairman and managing director, The Amalgamated Electric Company Limited has decided with great pleasure to donate Rs. 2500/- to the Gujarat-Saurashtra centre of All India Bhagwan Mahavir 2500th Nirvan year Mahotsva

Committee, from the above company on the eve of the celebration of Bhagwan Mahavir 2500th Nirvan Mahotsva for the preaching of the message of Lord Mahavir.

It will be given free of charge to the people who are keen to learn these true principles of Jainism. We are grateful to this company for its generosity.

I am grateful to Shree Sumanlal Ramjibhai Doshi, Bombay. Who has translated this book in proper way. I am also grateful to the following persons who have helped me : Shree Dinesh J. Mehta (M. Com.), Morbi, Shree Rajkishore Jain (B. Sc.) Baraut, Shree Jagdish N. Lodaria (M. S. U. S. A.), Bombay, Jayshreeben Khara (M. B. B. S.), Ranchi. I also gratefully acknowledge the encouragement received from our Past President, Shree Ramjibhai Manekchand Doshi and present President, Shree N. C. Javeri.

It is my earnest desire and hope that many people, particularly the young ones, will pursue the path of happiness by learning the principles of this Jain Primer.

JAI MAHAVIR

Songadh (India)

-Br. Harilal Jain



TO THE CHILDREN



O! Religious Children!

You are the children of Lord Mahavir.

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

Study it with enthusiasm.

Go everyday to the religious school to study it.

Be like Mahavir by gaining 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 teacher of religion.....(1)

We shall keep on learning while growing.

We shall attain the Knowledge of Soul.

We are thankful to our religious teacher.

We bow to him over and over.....(2)



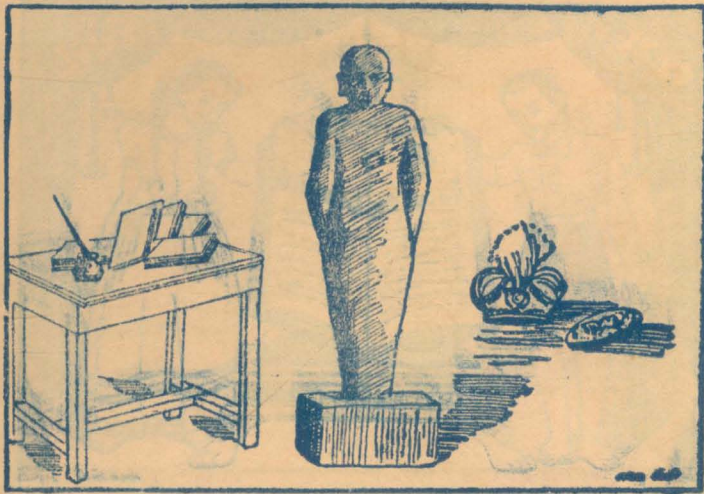


I am Jiva.

**There is power to
know in myself.**

**I know by this power
of knowledge.**

(JIVA=Living matter; Soul.)



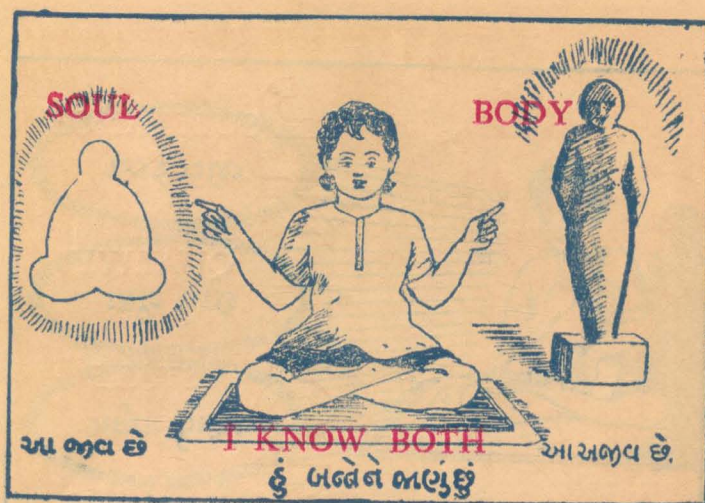
The body has no soul.

It is Called Ajiva.

**It does not have
Power to know.**

It knows nothing.

(3) THE JIVA AND AJIVA



I am Jiva. The body is Ajiva.

The Jiva has power to know.

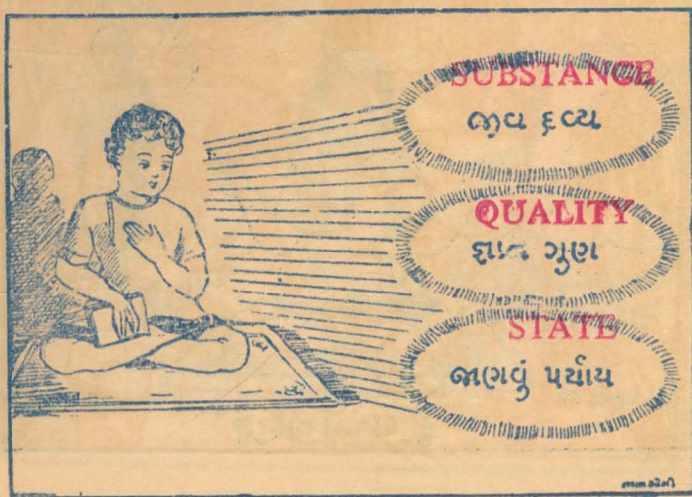
The body has no power to know.

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
cannot know anything.

(5) EXAMINATION



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

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

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

What is the Body? Ajiva, Ajiva, Ajiva.

Dose it have knowledge?No, No, No.

Is body yours?No, No, No.

Do you perform work for the Body? No, No, 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 knowany thing ?.....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 the 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.

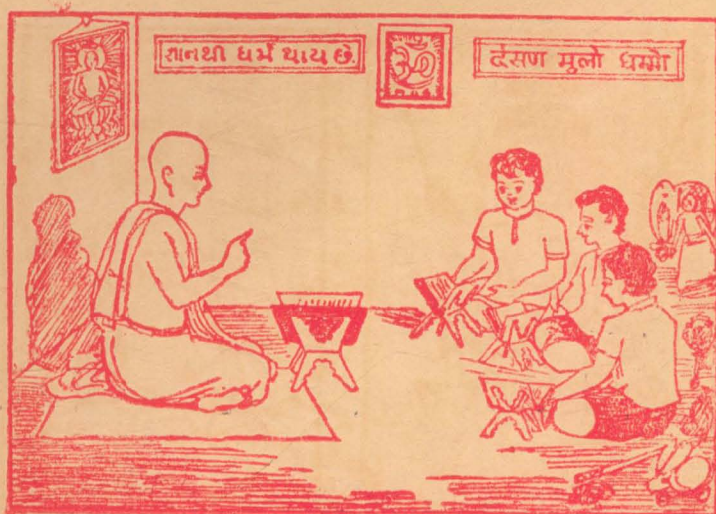
Body cannot follow religion.

I am Jiva, and therefore can do religious work.

The Body is Ajiva and therefore cannot do
religious work.

Jiva is a Dravya (substance).

Religion is its Paryaya (State).



Religion is done through knowledge.

Wrong knowledge leads to Irreligion.

One who has power to know understand 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



Religion means understanding of the soul.

He who understands the soul becomes
supreme being.

God (Supreme Being) has full and complete
knowledge.

God (Supreme Being) does not have passion,
lust or "likes and dislikes."

The Supreme Being knows all.

God or Supreme Being does not control the
functions of others.

God does not feel hungry.

The Supreme Being does not eat.

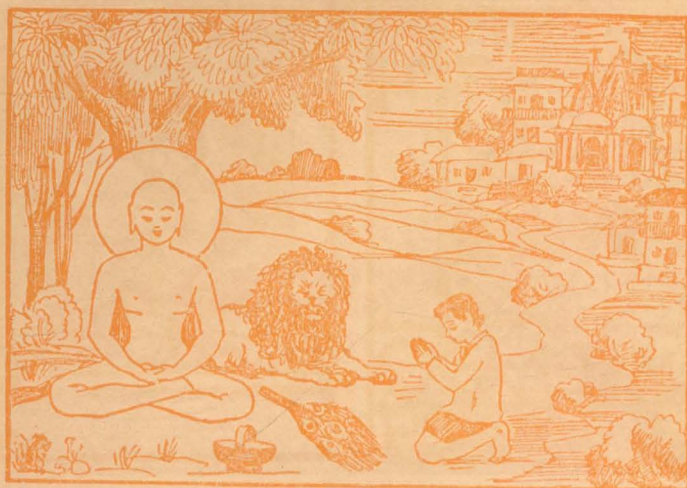
The Arihant is a Supreme Being.

The 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 the meditation of the self.

Nearby, there is a kamandlu and Pichchhi.

The real sage has the true knowledge of self.

Kundkund muni was Acharya (Head of sages).

Acharya is a sage.

Upadhyay is also a sage.

Sadhu is also a sage.

All sages are our gurus.

The guru preaches religion to us.

Always worship and respect the guru.

(12) LULLABY OF A JAIN'S CHILD



Arianhant is your Father. Jinvani is your mother.
O! my brother! It is easy to be arianhant.



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



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



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

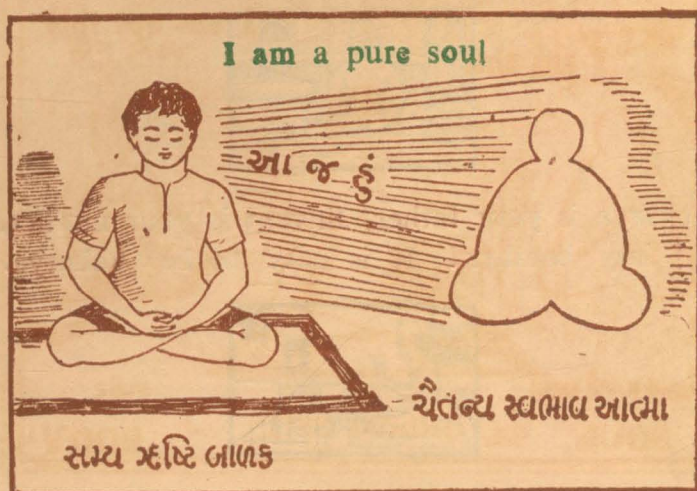


Muniraj is your father, Jinvani is your mother,
O! my brother! It is easy to be Muniraj.



Jainism is your religion, It teaches intricacies of self.
O! my brother! It is easy to understand religion.

(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 be attained
without a doubt in due course.

Samyak-Darshan is the root of all religious
activities. There cannot be any true religious
activities without Samyak-Darshan. Right belief
of soul is the first step in the path of religion.

What would you do first? Samyak-Darshan.



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 the happiness. The beginning of the true religion starts with the attainment of correct understanding of soul. The wandering of the soul in the universe ends once the correct understanding of the soul is attained.
 One becomes a supreme being when he attains correct understanding of the soul.
 What will you do? "Attain correct knowledge of soul. and banish ignorance."



Samyak Charitra means Right Conduct. He who attains correct understanding of the soul can only have the Right Conduct (Samyak Charitra). He who does not have correct knowledge of the soul cannot have the Right Conduct.

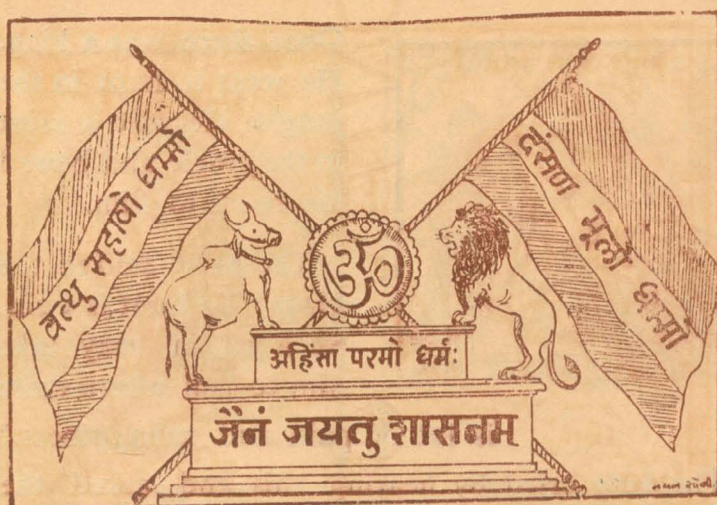
Samyak Charitra is Equanimity.

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 the soul and then we can practice true conduct.

Children, first attain the correct understanding of the 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 of "likes and dislikes" through the correct understanding of the nature of the 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 to the king: "To hunt is a sin. Such a sin may take him 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 wash out my sins? And how can I be happy?'



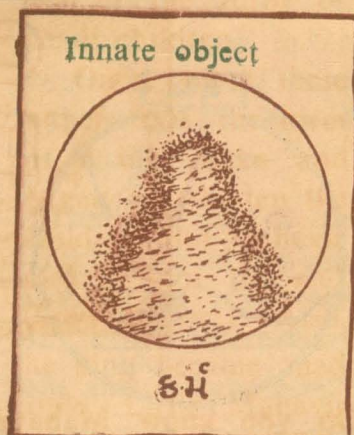
The saint said,

"O" King, the happiness is within you. Give up hunting and learn true nature of your soul. It will give you the 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.

[illegible][illegible]



Karma is an 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 unhappiness to soul.

Soul is harassed because of his own fault.

Karma does not harass soul.

Obtain true knowledge about soul.

Do not blame karma.

The religion is to obtain true knowledge of soul.

To accuse karma is against the principles of
religion.



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

Mahavir's father was the King Siddhartha. His mother's name was Trishladevi. He was born on the thirteenth day of increasing moon in the month of Chaitra in the city of Kundapur



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



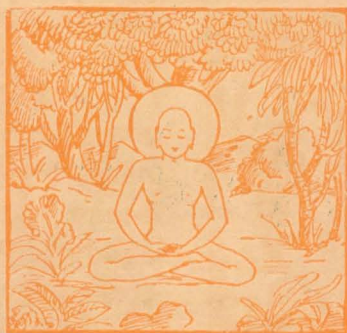
him in the form of small children.

Once, one of these 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. Little Mahavir went out and subdued him. When Prince Mahavir grew up, memories of his previous life became



vivid to him one day. This knowledge of his previous life made him disenchanted from the



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 with and about the 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 (God) Arihant.

He then started preaching the true principles of religion. To hear him, many men, women and children above 8 years old 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 prea-



chings. Many of them obtained true knowledge of their souls from these preachings.

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 in the night of the fourteenth day of the decreasing moon in the month 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, eliminate feelings of likes and dislikes (prejudices, passions, etc) and attain Moksha.

JAY MAHAVIR





Children ! Rise early in the morning.

Think about soul after rising.

Remember Bhagwan and recite Namaskar-Mantra.

Wear clean clothes and go to the temple.

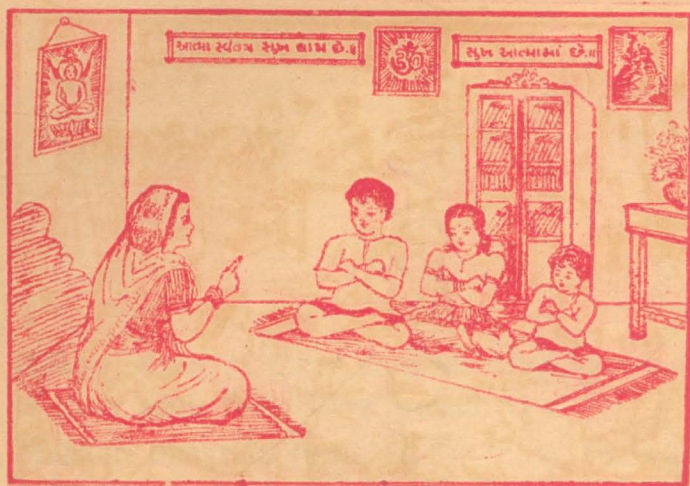
There, in the Jain temple worship Bhagwan.

Then, kneel down before religious books
(Shashtra) and study them.

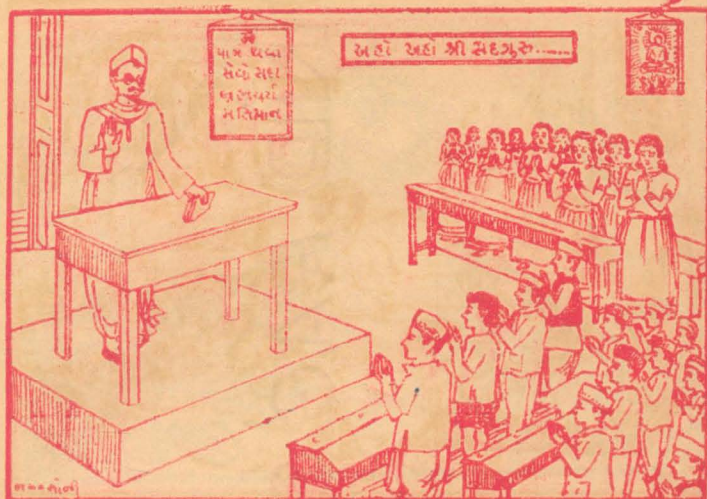
Also, kneel down before Guruji and hear his
preachings. Then meditate about his preachings.

At least do this much.

It will make your life pious and Pure.



1. Never forget soul;
never kill anybody.
2. Don't forget God;
don't ever lie.
3. Always offer prayer to Guru;
don't ever steal.
4. Don't leave religious books helter-skelter;
don't eat after dark.
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.



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 criticise anyone.

Never conceal your faults.



1. Soul attains supreme knowledge through continuous and proper meditation about self.
2. I am soul, pure non-destructible and full of happiness.
3. Our God is Arihant and our Guru is saint and he is genial.
4. I am pure and cannot be seen by eye.
My important property is power to know.
5. Body may die but not I;
I am an indestructible soul.
6. Jay Mahavir and Jay Gautam.
Jay, Jay, benevolent Gurudev.

(25) PRAYER

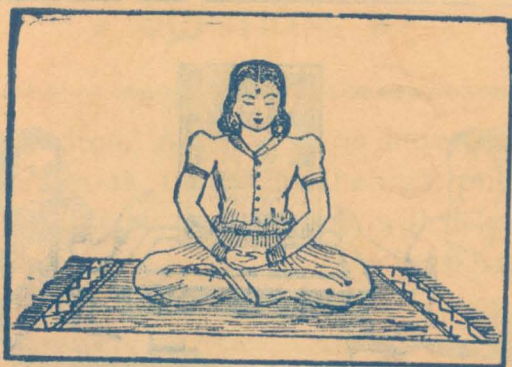


1. We Pray to Bhagwan.
We pray to Gurudev.
2. We pray to Siddha Bhagvan
We pray to Arihant Bhagwan.
3. We pray to all Saints, the true religion
We pray to religious books (shastras).
4. We pray to all enlightened persons
and to the soul.
5. We pray to pure nature of the soul
which is the real Bhagwan (God).

(26) PURE SOUL IS GOD



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 is within his power to know like a mirror. I wonder how he can do this?
 4. He is said to be unconcerned about the world and distinct from Body. He is supposed to be 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 cannot be seen by naked eyes; he cannot be heard yet he can be perceived and felt through correct knowledge.
- 1 I would really like to learn about soul.



1. Please show me soul. What is he ?
Where does he stay ?
2. What kind of a 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 diferent from Body
and Voice, yet he is fullof happiness.
5. Soul does not die or take birth. His true nature
has no feelings of "likes and dislikes".
6. One cannot see it by naked eye, But it can
be seen and understood by proper knowledge.



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) because 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 get free of worldly attachments and attain Moksha quickly.

* QUESTIONS *

[Children, now that you have learned this small book, try to find the right answers to the following questions. It will help you study better and in the examinations—besides giving fun. You can also use these questions to ask answers to 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 would you know the above ?
11. Can you know without the eye ?
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 become religious ?
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 religion ?
27. Can religion be done by body or soul ?
28. Is religion Dravya or Paryaya ?
29. Whose Paryaya is religion ?
30. How would you follow the religion ?
31. Who can do religion ?
32. By what religion can be done ? Body or
Knowledge ?
33. What do you mean by religion ?
34. What should be done to be Bhagwan-God ?
35. What does God have ? And who he does
not have ?
36. Does God eat ?
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 religious Book.
45. What does shastras (religious books) teach us ?
46. Where does knowledge stay ? In shastras or in Jivas ?
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 has made Samaysar Shastra ?
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 foundation of religion ?
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. How much one would understand soul by Samyak Gyan ?

60. What do we call the person who has Samyak Charitra (Right Conduct) ?
61. Which three things together lead one to the path of Moksha ?
62. Can one obtain Moksha by following good Conduct without the true knowledge and understanding of soul ?
63. Who can have Right Conduct and Sainthood ?
64. Who is Jain ?
65. What do we call the person who has conquered desires of "likes and dislikes" ?
66. Who can be called Jain Dev (God) ?
67. There was a king. Why did he cry ?
68. What did Saint told the king in order to be happy ?
69. Jivas are of two types. What are they ?
70. Jivas in heaven - are they liberated or worldly souls ?
71. Till how long soul will wander in the universe ?
72. What should soul do in order to be liberated ?
73. Is karma Jiva or Ajiva ?
74. Does soul has karma ?
75. Why does soul become unhappy, due to Ignorance or Karma ?
76. What did Mahavir do to become Bhagwan ?
77. What is the birthday of Mahavir ? What was the name of his mother ?

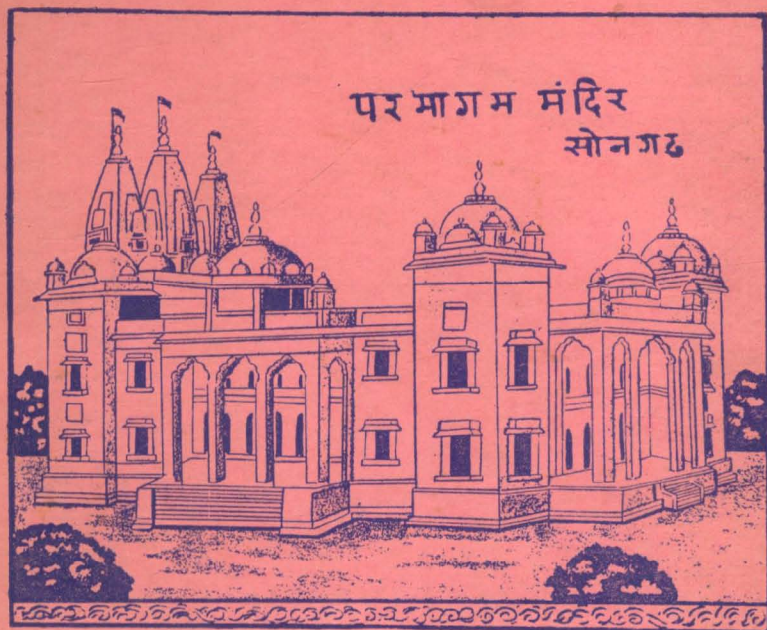
78. What did Mahavir do after he remembered his previous life?
79. What was Mahavir Bhagwan doing after he became a sage?
80. Who all came to hear Mahavir Bhagwan's preachings?
81. From which place Bhagwan Mahavir achieved Moksha?
82. Is Mahavir Bhagwan Arihant or Siddha at present?
83. Where does he stay at present?
84. What will you do first when you wake up in the morning?
85. What should we do daily?
86. One mother is giving good advice to her child. What are these advices?
87. Should we eat at night?
88. What would you do daily?
89. What should you not do daily?
90. What does one attain by meditating about soul?
91. Which is that substance which is "full of happiness, pure and indestructible?"
92. Who is our God?
93. Between body and Soul which one is indestructible?
94. In the lesson on "Prayer" to whom are you offering the prayer?
95. What kind of a God is soul (Lesson 26)?

96. What does one 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. Where do you want to go in a hurry ?
106. Do you study and practice 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 book of Jainism ?
112. Do you know the song "Children of Lord Mahavir" ?



॥ JAY MAHAVIR ॥

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