



## **Paryushan Celebrations - Thursday, 13 September 2012**

### **Day 2**

#### **What is Kalpasutra?**

Swamiji starts his talk with an anecdote from the time of Bhagwan Mahavir.

It was a time when Bhagwan's Chaturmaas was going on, and for the whole four months, saadhu, sadhvi and shravaks would visit to hear his lectures every day. During this time, there was a very devoted couple (shraavak, shravika) who were also attending these lectures. They would not miss any day, and would finish their household chores quickly to arrive early at the lecture. It so happens that one day, the shravak has to go out of town for work. He feels sweet jealousy for the shravika that she will be able to hear Bhagwan's words every day, but he will have to miss it.

The shravak leaves town, whilst the shravika goes to listen to Bhagwan's words. On her way back home from the lecture, she gets late and her sons are waiting at home. Not finding the mother home, the two brothers decide to go to the nearby lake for swimming. The lake experiences some disturbance and in that, the two boys drown. Some time later, the villagers find their bodies and bring them home. Soon after, the mother returns home, Bhagwan's words fresh in her mind and her spirit elevated. She finds out about the fate of her children, and becomes aghast for a few seconds. Then realising Bhagwan's words, she composes her mind and reaches an equanimous state. It is at times like this that one realises how they have imbibed Bhagwan's words into their life - do you become reactive or do you become responsive to a situation.

Later that evening, the shravak returns home after hearing about some mishap in

his village, unaware of the fate of his children. When he sees the shravika, she seems unhappy on the face, but inside, she is calm and composed. The shravak asks her what the matter is, to which she says "A little while ago, someone gave me two gems to keep and use. Now they have asked for those gems to be returned. What should I do?"

The shravak responds by saying that if it is theirs and they have asked for it, then you have to return it. And we should not feel sad or sorry about it. The shravika uncovers the bodies of the two boys, and says that the karma prakruti gave us these two boys to keep and enjoy, and now it has taken them back. The shravak becomes aghast for a few seconds, but just then, regains his composure and equanimity and becomes responsive to the situation. It is not only our responsibility to keep a balanced and responsive mind for ourselves, but through us, we should enable others to do the same. So where does one get such kind of strength? By listening to Bhagwan's words, and through satsangs.

These words of Bhagwan is what we call the Kalpasutra. Acharya Bhadrabahu Swami put down Bhagwan's spoken word into a granth almost 1000 years ago.

Bhagwan Mahavir took diksha at the age of 30, and then spent the next 12.5 years in meditation and tapasya. He performed the first chaturmaas inside a little hut of a friend of his father's. Since he was in deep meditation (4 months in Kayotsarga mudra), the entire area around the hut overgrows with grass, weeds and other greens. The hut owner gets very upset that such a "mahapurush" cannot even look after a little hut. When Bhagwan comes out of his meditation, he decides to leave the hut and takes five vows.

- 1 - I will not stay at such a place that someone does not like
- 2 - Until I get "keval-gnyan" (enlightenment), I will not speak. The only words he spoke were when someone ask him who he was, and he would respond "I am a tapasvi".
- 3 - I will only eat what fits in my hands.
- 4 - For most of the time, I will be in dhyaan-kausag; in meditation.
- 5 - I will introspect on 12 bhavna.

After 12.5 years, at the age of 42.5, he achieved enlightenment. Bhagwan then gave his first sermon, and it is said that it was a failure. No one took any vows. It was because all those that attended were devi devtaa, who are incapable of

taking vows. At the second sermon, Gandhar Gautam Swami attended the sermon and Bhagwan's words were recorded in his memory for life. During his time, Gautam Swami wrote down Bhagwan's words in the form of 12 Agams.

The last of these is called Drstivaad (now extinct). This text contained 14 purvas, the knowledge of which was transferred from one Swami to the next by memory, until it reached the time of Bhadrabahu Swami. Bhadrabahu Swami realised that if he did not spread this knowledge through more Saadhu's, it would be lost forever. He called on hundreds of Saadhu's and started speaking Bhagwan's words. With each section, more and more Saadhu's retreated as they could not handle the level of knowledge, until lastly there was only one left - Stulibhadra Swami. He reached the tenth purva and acquired the vidyas. Once when meditating in a cave, Stulibhadra Swami changed his form to a lion to impress his sisters who came to visit him. When Bhadrabahu Swami came to know of this, he realised that he should not impart any more knowledge as it may fall into the wrong hands. So whatever stutras we have available today, which are still watered down, are available from Stulibhadra Swami, and not the full version.

Bhadrabahu Swami realised that there are so many sutras and agams that people will not be able to read and comprehend everything. So he combined various shastras into one called the Dasa Shruth Skandh, and the 8th chapter in this granth is the Kalpasutra. From 45 shastras, one shastra - and from that one shastra, the 8th chapter is Kalpasutra.

There are three sections to the Kalpasutra

The first section contains the 24 Tirthankara's life story, primarily Aadinath Bhagwan, Shantinath Bhagwan, Parshvanath Bhagwan, and Mahavir Bhagwan.

The second section contains the life history of all Acharyas that came after Mahavir Swami like Gautam Swami, Sudharma Swami and Jambu Swami.

The third section contains the life of a saadhu, and their rules and regulations.

When King Dhruva lost his son, he went to a Saadhu to ask him for some consolation and a way to deal with his son's death. That was the first time when a Saadhu asked a shravak to read the Kalpasutra. And since then, it has become a part of Paryushan reading amongst shravakas.

Swamiji finishes his talk by imploring everyone to keep at least three sutras at home:

Kalpasutra  
Tattvartha Sutra  
Saman Suttam

Even if you don't understand most of the text, keeping these at home will create a positive energy to all around. And when a learned one comes to your house, you can make use of the opportunity to understand these texts further.