

## 2.2 Island (*Dwips*) - Areas (*Kshetras*) - Oceans and mountains

### ***Kshetra* (Area)**

*Kshetra* means a place for human habitation our earth. In Jambu Island, there are 7 such *Kshetras*. In *Jambu* island, there are 7 such *Kshetra*. Between each two *Kshetras* are one *Varshdhar*, i.e. a mountain. There are 6 such big mountains. The names of these 7 *Kshetras* are:

- |                               |                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (1) <i>Bharat Kshetra</i>     | (2) <i>Hemvant Kshetra</i>      |
| (3) <i>Hari Varsh Kshetra</i> | (4) <i>Mahavideh Kshetra</i>    |
| (5) <i>Ramyak Kshetra</i>     | (6) <i>Hiranya Vant Kshetra</i> |
| (7) <i>Airavat Kshetra</i>    |                                 |

The *Mahavideh Kshetra* is in the middle of *Jambu Dwip*. In the South of it are *Bharat*, *Hemvant* and *Hari Varsh Kshetras* and in the north of it are *Ramyak*, *Hiranya Vant* and *Airvat Kshetra*.

- (1) ***Bharat Kshetra*** : The God *Bharat* is the chief of this *Kshetra*. His life-span is one '*Palyopam*' years. Because of the God *Bharat*, this *Kshetra* is known as *Bharat Kshetra*. We all live here in *Bharat Kshetra*.
- (2) ***Hemvant Kshetra*** : This is located between two big mountains called *Himvant* and *Maha Himvant Varshdhar*. *Hem* is Gold. Here, all the equipments are golden. The twins sitting of series of rocks look golden. Hence, this is *Hemvant Kshetra*.
- (3) ***Hari Varsh Kshetra*** : *Hari* means both Sun the twins here look golden where as the others are silver in their brightness. Hence *Hari Varsh Kshetra*.

- (4) ***Mahavideh Kshetra:*** *Videh* means body. The size of the body in this Kshetra is comparatively bigger, hence *Maha* (big) *Videh*. Besides, the size and area of this *Kshetra* as compared to others is also bigger. Here religion ins the order of the day. The state of mind is also better as belonging to 4<sup>th</sup> Ara.
- (5) ***Ramyak Kshetra :*** The twins of this region have been playing and enjoying in the \_\_\_\_\_ place of *Heavenly* tree with golden jewelry on it. That is why, it is known as *Ramyak Kshetra*.
- (6) ***Hirnyavant Kshetra :*** The *Rukmi* mountain is silver made, and the *Shikhari* mountain is made of gold. This Kshetra is located between the two, hence the peaks look golden. Hence, *Hiranyavant Kshetra*.
- (7) ***Airavat Kshetra :*** The chief of this Kshetra *Airavat Kshetra* is God *Airavat*. Hence *Airavat Kshetra*. All the arrangement are like those in *Bharat Kshetra*.

## Mountains

There are 6 big *Varshdhar* mountains in *Jambu Dwip*. They are (1) *Him Vant*, (2) *Maha Him Vant* (3) *Nishadh*, (4) *Nilvant*, (5) *Rukmi*, (6) *Shikhari*.

These six mountains are called *Varshdhar* – *Varsh* means *Kshetra* and *Dhar* means holder. These 6 mountains hold 7 *Kshetra* in between them, each one making a boarder. They restrict or limit the *Kshetra*. They are also called *Kul Girikul* is a community. Since these six mountinas form a community of mountains, they are *Kul Giri*. Each of these mountains have their chief holding the similar name of respective mountain.

These mountains on their east and waste touch *Lavan* (Salty) ocean. Both the ends of the mountain touch east and west end of this ocean.

At the end of *Bharat Kshetra* the *Khsulla Himvant* mountain is 4 times bigger. Likewise, the *Maha Himvant* mountain is also 4 times bigger.

- (1) ***Kshulla (Small) Himvant Mountain*** : This mountain being smaller both in length and width, than the *Maha Himvant* mountain, it is known as *Kshulla (Small) Himvant*.
- Maha Him Vant Mountain*** : Bigger both in length and width than the former one, it is *Maha (Big) Him Vant*.
- (2) ***Nishadh Mountain*** : *Nishadh* also means an ox. There are many peaks of oxen shape on this mountain. So it is *Nishadh* mountain.
- (3) ***Nilvant Mountain*** : *Nil* means a kind of pearl. *Nil Mani* are abundantly found on this mountain, that is why, it is *Nilvant* Mountain.
- (4) ***Rukmi Mountain*** : This mountain is permanently silver. Hence, *Rukmi (Silver made)*
- (5) ***Shikharini Mountain***: *Shikhrini* means Trees. The peaks of this mountain have tree like shape. Hence, *Shikhrini* mountain.

## Oceans

According to Jain belief the entire Middle Lok is permanently having wheel-like shape. The middle portion of this have 75% of water the big giant size rivers are almost like big oceans. We have detailed description of oceans, rivers and mountains in Jain scripture in its factual form.

*Jambu Dwip* has 1 lakh *Yojans* area. The *Lavan (Salty)* ocean surrounding it covers two lakhs *Yojans*. Then, each continent is covered by the oceans of the same name, but twice its size. eg. *Puskar Dwip, Puskar var ocean, Varuni var Dwip, Varunivar ocean* etc. Each ocean is twice the size of the continent, island. There are such 32 *Dwips* and 32 Oceans. The last ocean is *Swayambhu Raman*.

It is said that the water of *Lavan* Ocean is salty, that of *Kshirvar* ocean tasting like boiled milk, that of *Dhrtwar* ocean tasting like Ghee, that of Kalodadhi ocean, *Puskaravart* ocean and *Swayambhu Raman* Ocean tasting like fresh rain water, that of *Varunivar* ocean tasting like wine and that of all other oceans tasting like the sugarcane juice. The water of *Lavan* ocean being salty, cannot be used for drinking by any body except those creatures living in it.