

6.2 What will you do to become a true Jain ?

To become a Jain is both easy and difficult. It is easy, because if you want to become a Jain, from any other religion, there is no any specific ritual to be performed either in public or in person. You try to follow the path of *Tirthankarās*, and you are Jain. No caste, no creed, no faith, no belief prevents you from becoming Jain. Jainism is not anybody's Birth Right, or we can say it is every body's Birth Right. So to become Jain is very simple.

Nevertheless, it is equally difficult to become a Jain. A true Jain is the followers of *Tirthankarās*. He has deep convictions in *Lord's* teachings. He sincerely and consciously tries to adopt what is expected of him.

A true Jain has to believe firmly in Non-Violence. He therefore has to put great restrictions on his food. Any food which involves violence directly or indirectly has to be rejected.

A true Jain has to follow the path of truth. He cannot afford to tell a lie. One cannot resort to false speech, action or thought.

A true Jain has to follow the vow of non-theft. That virtually means that he cannot acquire any things by false or illicit means, such as dishonesty cheating. He cannot misappropriate some one else's property.

A true Jain has to be non-possessive. He has develop an attitude of trusteeship on his own property. He may enjoy it, but without the feelings of enjoyment. He has to put a limit – wherever upper limit he may decide – but put a limit for all his possessions. Anything above that, has to be credited to better use of others.

A true Jain has to be contented with his own wife for sexual relations. He cannot have pre or extra marital relations with other women (or men in case of women). Even with one's own wife, one has to keep away on five auspicious days of the month (*Panch Tithi*).

Besides, above basic principles there are several practices for a Jain, for his day to day life. There are many many restrictions. Permission are few and scarce. Thus to be Jain is also difficult.

One good quality he should cultivate is that of honesty. He should be honest, straightforward and just in his dealings with others. His activities should be governed by the proper standard of honesty, integrity and truthfulness.