

①

Tender Heart High School,
Sector 33B, Chandigarh

Class VI

Subject:- History and Civics

Teacher:- Mili Bhatnagar

Chapter 7

Mahavira and Buddha — Great Preachers

Good Morning Students!

In this chapter we will study about two religions - Buddhism and Jainism. But before we study about them let us understand what led to the rise of these reform movements.

In the Later Vedic Age religion became complex and ritualistic. Complicated rituals became important and a purohit became essential for the performance of yajnas. The language of the Vedic texts and that used during sacrifices was Sanskrit which the common people could not understand. The Shudras were not treated well. Many people got dissatisfied with these aspects of the religion and wanted simple and inexpensive religion.

According to the Jain tradition, the teachings of Jainism were the work of twenty four tirthankaras or spiritual gurus. The first Tirthankara was Rishabhadeva and the twenty third was Parsvanath. Mahavira was the twenty-fourth and the last tirthankara. But it was Vardhmana Mahavira who popularised Jainism. He was born at Kundagrama near Vaishali in Kshatriya clan. When he was thirty years old, Vardhmana renounced all worldly

History and CivicsClass VIChapter 7Mili Bhatnagar

pleasures. He left home in search of truth. In the thirteenth year of his asceticism, he attained true knowledge and came to be known as Mahavira. Thus he conquered both misery and happiness and was known as Jina. His followers were called Jains.

Mahavira was against rituals and animal sacrifices. He believed in following the principle of non-injury for all living beings. The goal of life according to Mahavira is to set the soul free and not be born again. This could be achieved through the tri-ratnas — Right belief, Right knowledge and Right Action. Mahavira was against the caste system and believed in good deeds to attain liberation.

There were two sects of Jainism — Digambaras or sky clad and Svetambaras or white clad.

Jainism gradually became popular among the people because of simple language, equality of all human beings and receiving patronage of the rulers.

Jainism spread because it preached simple life, equality and royal patronage. It declined due to split in Jainism and could not compete with Buddhism and Hinduism.

Home assignment - MCQ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

State True or false 1, 2, 3

Fill in the blanks 1, 2

Long answer type questions 1