

CHAPTER – 4.2

THE RISE OF NEW RELIGIONS

I. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN A WORD OR A SENTENCE EACH.

1. Who was the founder of Jainism?

A: Rishabanatha

2. Who was the 23rd Thirthankara?

A: Parshvanatha.

3. Where was Vardhamana born?

A: Vardhamana was born in Kundagrama near Vaishali.

4. Where did Vardhamana attain enlightenment?

A: Vardhamana attained enlightenment in Jrimbhikagrama in Bihar.

5. Where did Mahavira attain Nirvana?

A: Mahavira attained Nirvana at Pava near Rajagruha in South Bihar.

6. Who founded Buddhism?

A: Gautama Buddha.

7. Where was Buddha born?

A: Buddha was born in Lumbini garden (Nepal) .

8. What was the original name of Buddha?

A: Siddhartha.

9. What was the meaning of the term 'Buddha'?

A: The term 'Buddha' means the enlightened one.

10. In which place did Buddha attain enlightenment?
A: Buddha attained enlightenment under a Pipal tree at Gaya.

11. Where did Buddha deliver his first sermon?
A: Buddha delivered his first sermon in the Deer park near Saranath.

12. Where did Buddha attain Niravana?
A: Buddha attained Nirvana at Kushinagara in U.P.

II. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN TWO WORDS OR TWO SENTENCES EACH.

1. Who were the parents of Vardhamana?
A: King Siddhartha and Queen Trishaladevi.

2. Mention any two among the Triratnas of Vardhamana.
A: 1) Right Knowledge.
2) Right Conduct.

3. Where were the Jain Councils held?
A: 1) The first council was held at Pataliputra .
2) The second council was held at Vallabhi in Gujarat.

4. Which are the sects of Jainism?
A: 1) The Shwetambaras
2) The Digambaras.

5. Who were the parents of Buddha?
A: King Shuddhodhana and Queen Mayadevi.

6. Mention any two of the noble truths preached by Buddha.
A: 1) Worldly life is full of sorrows.
2) Desire is the root cause of all sorrows.

7. Name any two kings who patronized Buddhism.

- A: 1) Ashoka.
2) Kanishka.

8. Mention any two of the Tripitakas.

- A: 1) Vinaya Pitaka.
2) Sutta Pitaka.

9. Name the sects of Buddhism.

- A: 1) Hinayana.
2) Mahayana.

III. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN 15 TO 20 SENTENCES EACH.

1. What were the factors responsible for the rise of new religions?

A: Factors responsible for the rise of new religions are:

- a) Complications in the Vedic religion: In the Later Vedic period, due to the influence of priests, rigidities and complexities in the religion increased leading to dissatisfaction among people.
- b) Supremacy of the priestly class: The Brahmins established supremacy over other castes and enjoyed a number of special privileges and regarded themselves superior to all. It became impossible to perform the yajnas without them.
- c) Animal sacrifices: Animal sacrifices formed a part of the rituals which were costly to practice. So people started losing faith in the existing religion. For worldly attainments like getting children, victory in the war, cure from diseases and also for getting salvation, yajnas and rituals were recommended, which were really complex. Rationalists regarded them as a waste.
- d) Chanting of Mantras: Vedic literature was in Sanskrit, which was difficult for the common people to understand and in the absence of clear understanding, people lost faith in the chanting of mantras (Sanskrit Shlokas).
- e) Caste system: There was discrimination among the different castes. Brahmins enjoyed high status whereas the Shudras had to suffer greatly. These inequalities led to widespread discontent.
- f) Birth of great personalities: The birth of great personalities like Mahavira and Gautama Buddha who preached simple principles of life, in the language of common people attracted them towards the new faiths.

2. Discuss the life and teachings of Mahavira.

A: Vardhamana was born in 599 CE at Kundagrama near Vaishali. His parents were King Siddhartha and Queen Trishaladevi. He was married to princess Yashodha and had a daughter by name Priyadarshini. Due to the sudden death of his parents, Vardhamana renounced worldly comforts including clothes. He became a Sanyasi and went in search of truth of life. He attained enlightenment at Jrimbhikagrama in Bihar. He attained the highest spiritual knowledge called 'Kaivalya' and became 'Kevalin' or a Jina. Thereafter he came to be known as Mahavira. For the next 30 years he travelled preaching the principles of Jainism. He attained Nirvana at Pava near Rajagruha in South Bihar at the age of 72 in 527 BCE.

His teachings are:

Mahavira preached five vows (Panchasheela) and three Jewels (Triratnas) for the attainment of salvation.

Five great vows:

1. Satya – truth
2. Ahimsa- non-violence
3. Astheya- non-stealing
4. Aparigriha-non-possession
5. Brahmacharya-chastity

Three jewels or Triratnas:

1. Right knowledge
2. Right faith
3. Right conduct

Mahavira condemned the caste system and animal sacrifice. He advocated severe ascetism and

Extreme penance for the attainment of salvation. He had eleven disciples known as the Gnanadharas.

IV. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN 30 TO 40 SENTENCES EACH.

1. Sketch the life and teachings of Buddha.

A: Gautama Buddha(early name-Siddhartha) was born at Lumbini Garden in 563 BCE. His parents were king Shuddhodhana and queen Mayadevi.

Mayadevi died when Siddhartha was a child of seven days, so he was brought up by his aunt Mahaprajapati Gautami. He was married to princess Yashodhara and had a son by name Rahula. According to a Jataka story, one evening Siddhartha saw an old man, a sick man, a funeral procession and a sage. He saw only sorrows in the first three scenes and found happiness in the fourth. This greatly influenced him and he decided to renounce the worldly life. This event is called as "the Great Renunciation".

Siddhartha spent the life of a wandering ascetic. He attained enlightenment under a pipal tree at Gaya at the age of 35. He then onwards came to be known as "Buddha"- meaning the enlightened one and the religion he found, came to be known as Buddhism. He delivered his

first speech at Deer park near Saranath. Dharma Chakra is the symbol of Buddhism. He attained parinirvana at Kushinagara in U.P. at the age of 80. He was known as the 'Light of Asia'.

Teachings of Buddha:

Buddha preached 4 principles :

Satya – truthfulness

Ahimsa- non-violence

Astheya- non-stealing'

Brahmacharya- chastity

He also preached the 4 Noble Truths:

- 1) Wordly life is full of sorrows.
- 2) Desire is the root cause of all sorrows
- 3) When desire ceases, rebirth ceases.
- 4) Desire can be overcome by following 'Asthangamarga'. It consists:
 - 1) Right faith
 - 2) Right conduct
 - 3) Right livelihood
 - 4) Right thought
 - 5) Right effort
 - 6) Right mindfulness
 - 7) Right speech
 - 8) Right meditation

Buddha opposed caste system and gave importance to conduct, equality and Ahimsa. He didn't refer to God, and gave no importance to rituals and sacrifices. Buddha admitted men and women to his Sangha.

The teachings of Buddha are collected in Tripitakas (three baskets):

- 1) Vinaya Pitaka
- 2) Sutta Pitaka
- 3) Abhidamma Pitaka.