



Gunasthanas

Stages of Spiritual Development

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Stages of Spiritual Development

Gunasthanas

- **There are 14 stages of spiritual development**
- **Soul travels from complete Ignorance (Mithyätva) state to the complete blissful and liberated state**
- **The order of Gunasthänas is logical and not chronological**
- **They are arranged according to the principle of decreasing sinfulness and the increasing purity**
- **Soul removes its**
 - f* **Ignorance (Mithyätva) on 4th stage**
 - f* **Vowlessness (Avirati) on 6th stage**
 - f* **Passions (Kashäya) on 12th stage**
 - f* **Ghāti karma on 13th stage**
 - f* **Yoga (activities of body, mind and speech) on 14th stage and attains liberation**



Stages of Spiritual Development Gunasthanas

- **01 Mithyätva (False conviction or faith)**
 - f* **Delusion or Gross ignorance state of Right faith or conviction**
 - f* **This state is possessed by all souls from the beginning of time**
 - f* **Soul does not have a true knowledge and faith in reality but believes in non-reality**
 - f* **Three progressive stages Mithyätva Mohaniya**
 - Mithyätva Mohaniya (Wrong belief)**
 - Mishra Mohaniya (Right/wrong belief)**
 - Samyaktva Mohaniya (Clouded right belief)**
 - f* **Soul migrates to 4th stage after acquiring right conviction of its proper or right knowledge**



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- **02 Sāsvādāna (Stage of having tasted true belief)**
 - f* One has a taste of true belief
 - f* This states exists only while actually falling down from the fourth to the first stage
 - f* Duration less than 48 minutes
- **03 Mishra (Mixed Stage)**
 - f* Mixed or partially rational belief.
 - f* Also the condition of mind while actually falling down from the fourth to the first stage
 - f* After the first fall, condition of mind going up from first to the fourth stage
 - f* Duration less than 48 minutes



Stages of Spiritual Development (Gunasthanas)

- **04 Samyag_drashti or Samyaktva (Right Faith or Conviction)**
 - f* Soul migrates directly to 4th stage from the 1st stage (first time)
 - f* Soul possesses Right Faith (Samyaktva) and Right Knowledge but lack of self control or conduct and hence it is known as Avirata_samyagadrasthi (Vowless Right Faith)
 - f* Gateway to Liberation
 - f* Three ways to achieve Samyaktva
 - Upasham (suppression)
 - Kshäyik (eradication)
 - Kshayopasham (partial suppression and partial eradication)
 - f* Three types of Faith Deluding (Darshan Mohaniya) Karma and four Anantänu_bandhi Kashäya (very intense passions) has been suppressed or eradicated. These seven Karma are called Darshan-saptak.
 - f* Downfall occurs if Mithyätva was suppressed only



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- **05 Desavirata_samyagadrsti (Partial Renunciation)**
 - f* Practicing partial vows of Right Conduct
 - f* Conquered over Apratyakhan_kashay (intense passions)
 - f* Highest spiritual stage for laypeople
- **06 Pramatta_virata (Full Renunciation with some Non-awareness)**
 - f* Total renunciations of Material belongings and Family life (follows ascetic life)
 - f* Observes five great vows though possesses some Non-awareness (Pramāda)
 - f* Conquered over Pratyakhan_kashay (high passions)
- **07 Apramatta_virata (Full Renunciation with total awareness)**
 - f* Observes vows at every moment without negligence (pramada)
 - f* Passions are reduced to minimum in intensity, quality, number and form (Sanjvalan)
 - f* Partial realization of natural joy or bliss (svabhavik ananda)



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- **08 Apurva_karana or Nivratti_badara_samparaya (Meditative state)**
 - f* Purenness of soul increasing
 - f* Remains in meditative state
 - f* Traces of Passions are still present
- **09 Anivritti_karana or Anivratti_badara samparaya (Advance meditative state)**
 - f* More advanced thought-activity or meditation
- **10 Sukshma_samparaya (Almost passionless state)**
 - f* Only very slight pious greed left to be controlled



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- **11 Upasanta_moha (Quiescence passionless state)**
 - f* Quiescence of the remaining traces of pious greed
 - f* Fallback occurs due to suppression of passions

- **12 Kshina_moha (Complete passionless state)**
 - f* Desirelessness (Vitaräga) State
 - f* Complete eradication of even pious greed
 - f* Duration is less than 48 min
 - f* No fallback can occur (all passions are eradicated)



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- **13 Sayogy_kevalin (Active Omniscience State)**
 - f* Omniscience state (elimination of four Ghati karma)
 - f* Perfection of Right Vision, Knowledge, Conduct, and Power or Energy
 - f* It is known as Liberation in the embodied state
 - f* Activity of Body, Mind and Speech exist (Yoga)
 - f* Tirthankara establishes religious order
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- **14 Ayogy_kevalin (Passive Omniscience State)**
 - f* Cessation of all activities of the three yogas
 - f* Duration is very short (few seconds)
 - f* Next step is the attainment of Liberation or Nirvana