

JAVANTI CHEIAIM SUTRA

Javanti Cheiaim,

Uddhe A Ahe A Tiria-loe A,

Savvaim Taim Vande,

Iha Santo Tattha Santaim.

I, who live here, bow to all the temples and images of Jina, which exist there in the upper world, the middle world and the nether world.

JAVANT KE VI SAHU SUTRA

Javant Kevi Sahu,

Bharaheravaya Mahavidehe A,

Savvesim Tesim Panao,

Tivihena Tidand Viryanam.

I bow down to all the Jain Sadhus and Sadhvis found in Bharata, Airavata, and Mahavideha Kshetras

NAMORHAT SUTRA (PANCHA PARMESTHI NAMASKAR SUTRA)

Namorhat-siddha-charyo-padhyaya-sarva-sadhubhyah.

With this Sutra, obeisance is offered to the Panch Parmesthi ie Arihants, Siddha, Acharya, Upadhaya and Sadhu.

Acharya Siddhasen Diwakar composed this sutra in Sanskrit.

JAIN HISTORY

OUR GREAT LEADERS

The Jain Shasan as prescribed by Bhagwan Mahavir has been brought to us by several great leaders. The first eight of these since the nirvana of Bhagwan Mahavir were as follows.

1. **Shree Sudharmaswami:**

He was the fifth of the eleven Ganadhars of Bhagwan Mahavir. He was a learned Brahmin Pandit before he took Diksha. He was a student of the Vedas and he had a question in his mind about the way the Vedas explained reincarnation. He believed that each species would be reincarnated into its own species e.g. humans could only be reborn as humans. Bhagwan explained the theory of karma to him and explained how a jiva could be born as any species depending on its karma. Bhagwan addressed his doubts. He was impressed and asked Bhagwan Mahavir to give him Diksha. He led the Jain Sangha after Bhagwan Mahavir's Nirvana. He attained Moksha in Vir savant 20.

2. **Shree Jambuswami:** Succeeded Shree Sudharmaswami.

Jambuswami was a citizen of Rajgruhi. When Shree Sudharmaswami arrived in Rajgruhi, Jambuswami heard his discourse and himself wanted to take Diksha. His parents however were insistent that he must marry. He agreed to get married only if he could then take Diksha straight after getting married. His marriage to eight brides went ahead. On the same night he remained detached and spoke to his eight wives about detachment and religion and the next day he and in total 527 persons were given Diksha by Shree Sudharmaswami.

3. **Shree Prabhavswami:** Succeeded Shree Jambuswami.

On the day Jambuswami got married, 500 thieves had come to burgle his house. They also heard him talk to his wives about detachment and themselves experienced detachment. All 500 thieves took Diksha at the same time as Jambu swami. The leader of the thieves was Shree Prabhavswami.

4. **Shree Shayyambhavsuriwarji:** Succeeded Shree Prabhavswami.

He was a Brahmin. He was about to perform a yagna and sacrifice animals. Before he started the yagna, two Jain monks who were followers of Shree Prabhavswami came to his house for Gochri (food). They urged him to stop practising a religion which advised animal sacrifices. They asked him to dig up the area where the yagna was going to be performed. Upon digging they found a pratimaji of Shree Shantinath. He was most impressed by the monks. And he decided to take Diksha. After that he also gave Diksha to his son Manak. When he realised that Manak had a very short life span left, he created the Dashvaikalik Sutras from the available shastras to teach him about Charitra Dharma. He then assisted his son in Samadhi Maran. The Dashvaikalik Sutras are still used today to teach Sadhus about their Dharma.

5. **Shree Yashobhadrasturiji Maharaj:** Succeeded Shree Shayyambhavsuriwarji.

His Guru was Shree Shayyambhavsuriswarji

6. **Shree Sambhuti Vijayji Maharaj:** Succeeded Shree Yashobhadrasuriji Maharaj

His Guru was Shree Yashobhadrasuriji Maharaj.

7. **Shree Bhadrabahuswamiji:** Succeeded Shree Sambhuti Vijayji Maharaj.

His Guru was also Shree Yashobhadrasuriji Maharaj. He was very learned and was the last of the Jain leaders to have knowledge of the 14 purvas which form the basis of the Jain Shastras.

His knowledge was great and so he was called Shrutkevali. He wrote the Kalpa Sutra which even today is read by the Sadhus during the Paryushan lectures.

He did a lot for Jain Dharma. Once when there was a famine for 12 years the Sadhus were not able to get enough Gochri (meals) they had begun to forget the Shastras.

At that time he gave Sthulibhadraji and other sadhus knowledge of the Shastras and thus managed to maintain the knowledge for the succeeding generations. He would give seven 'vachana' each day and Shree Sthulibhadraji learned it very quickly.

When the Jain Sangh was being terrorised with all kinds of problems by a Dev, he created the Uvsaagharam Sutra, the recital of which got rid of the problems. Even today we say Uvsaagharam Sutra when we are in difficulties.

8. **Shree Sthulibhadraji:** He succeeded Bhadrabahuswamiji.

He had taken Diksha from Shree Sambhutivijayji Maharaj. He obtained knowledge of the 14 purvas from Shree Bhadrabahuswamiji but his knowledge of the purvas was incomplete as only the first 10 purvas were taught to him with meaning. He was not taught the meanings of the last four purvas as on one occasion he became proud of his knowledge and misused it. Before he had taken Diksha, he used to live in the house of a prostitute called Kosha and was very enamoured by her. As a Muni, one monsoon season, he stayed in her house and was able to stick to his vow of celibacy. Even Kosha was impressed and got converted.