

Ajitnath Bhagwan



THE FIVE TREASURES WE ALL POSSESS....

Once, a poor man came to see Buddha. He asked, "Why am I poor?" Buddha answered, "You are poor because you don't practice 'generosity'. You don't practice 'charity'." "But how can I practice charity if I don't have anything to give?" He asked. Buddha replied, "You have 'five treasures' that you can share with others.

First, you have your 'face'. You can share your smiles with others. It's free. And has an amazing and lasting impact on others.

Second', you have your 'eyes'. You can look at others with eyes full of love and care. Genuinely, you can impact millions. Make them feel so good.

Third , you have your 'mouth'. With this mouth you can say nice things to others. Talk about goodness. Make them feel valued. Spread joy and positivity.

Then, you have a 'heart'. With your loving heart you can wish happiness to others. Make others feel a bundle of joy. Touch their lives.

Last treasure that you possess is your 'body'. With this body you can do many good things to others.. Help the people who need. Help is not money. A small caring gesture can light up lives.

True Wealth is that which no one can take away from you. It increases as you give it away. 'Money is not the only means by which we can do charity- giving love, a smile, talking positively may bring joy and happiness in a person's life!

Share your Treasure and double your Pleasure!!



**Janma
Kalyanak
Maha Sud Aatham**
"Om Hrim
Shri Ajitnath
Arhate Namah"

On these day, Jains try & do at
least one 'mala' reciting:

**Diksha
Kalyanak
Maha Sud Nom**
"Om Hrim
Shri Ajitnath
Nathay Namah"

AjithnathBhagwan



Ajithnath Bhagwan is the **second Tirthankara** in the current time cycle, born in the period known as Dusama – Susama (a period of the time cycle characterized by more unhappiness than happiness during which moksha is possible).

Parents: King Jitashatru and Queen Vijaya

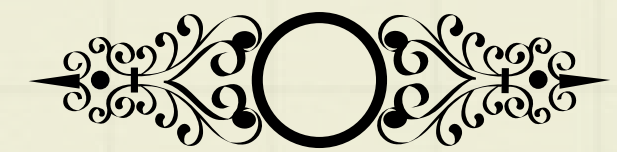
Born in: the city of Ayodhya. Ayodhya is considered sacred and spiritual as many Tirthankaras were born in this city.

His symbol (lanchan) is Elephant and is said to be of golden complexion. His spiritual attendants – Yaksha is Mahayaksa and Yaksi is Ajita as per Svetambara tradition.

After attaining Samyak Darshan, Ajithnath took three bhavs to attain Moksha.

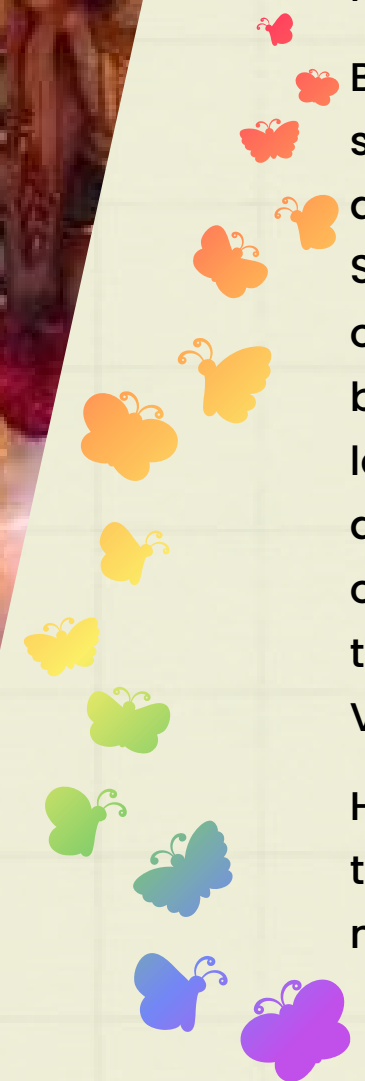
Birth 1: King Vimalvahan of Susima city in Mahavideh Kshetra. Tradition states that it was during this birth, in which the soul destined to be Ajithnath attained Samyak darshan – right faith. King Vimalvahan asked Arindama Suri, “what inspired you to take diksha?” Arindama Suri replied, recalling an occasion when he saw a garden full of beautiful flora and fauna. So beautiful was the garden, that one could easily spent hours in it. A few days later, he visited the same garden again and noted the garden was destroyed and nothing was left in it. At the moment he realised the futility of living in sansara – the endless cycle of birth and death and concluded the only way to stop this cycle is to take diksha. On hearing this, King Vimalvahan attained Samyak darshan.

He led a pious life in spite of all the riches and princely grandeur. He bound the Tirthankar-naam-gotra-karma due to his pious practices and deep meditation



Birth 2: as a celestial being, spending a long lifespan in Vijaya-anuttar dimension as per Jain cosmology.

Birth 3: as Ajithnath Bhagwan. After Tirthankara soul is conceived, the mother of any Tirthankara see the same fourteen auspicious dreams as per Shwetambar tests, indicating they will give birth to a Tirthankara. Queen Vijaya saw these fourteen dreams and curiously, Vaijayanti, wife of King Jitashatru younger brother, Sumitra, also saw fourteen dreams. On consulting the wise and learned men, who concluded that Queen Vijaya would give birth to a Tirthankara and Vaijayanti to a Chakravarti (King of six continents).





A Tirthankar's soul, while even in mother's womb, possesses three types of knowledge, namely Mati Jnän (sensory knowledge), Shrut Jnän (scriptural knowledge), and Avadhi Jnän (clairvoyance).

Queen Vijaya's pregnancy lasted nine months, eight and half days. The 56 Dik-kumaris and 64 Indras celebrated Ajitnath's birth ceremonies as per their custom. Vaijayanti also gave birth to a son, who was named Sagar.

Whilst the Queen was pregnant, the power of the King expanded, as all his enemies started surrendering. The King decided to name his son when born as Ajit – the invincible. Some texts also state that he was called Ajitnath because he won over all Kashays namely, anger, pride, deceit and greed.

As King Jitashatru became old and wanted to devote his remaining years to spiritual activities. He requested his younger brother – Sumitra to take over the kingdom, which he declined as he too wanted to be an ascetic.

From childhood Ajitnath was of a distinct temperament, sitting engrossed many times in meditation. As times passed, increasing involvement in spiritual activities. Ajitnath also declined the offer to accede his father and thus Prince Sagara, his cousin ascended the throne and Ajitnath took diksha to become an ascetic. To perform the diksha ceremony, he was carried in a 'palanquin' called Suprabha, which required a thousand men to carry it to the garden named Sahasramravana. Next day, after taking diksha, he broke his two days fast by taking kheer at the house of King Brahmadata. Thereafter he went into remote and dense forests for his meditation and penance. His personality and the power of his highly moral and intellectual practices casted a pacifying influence all around.

When a Tirthankar renounces the worldly life, he attains Manah-paryav Jnän (telepathy), the fourth type of the knowledge.

After twelve years as an ascetic, Ajitnath attained Kevaljnana. He had 90 Ganadhars and Chief Ganadhar was Sinhsen. The topic of his first sermon (deshna) was on Dharma Dhyana.

CHAKARVATI SAGAR

Jain tradition states that by this time, King Sagar had become a Chakarvati, having conquered the six continents. His contemporaries at that time were King Meghvahan and Vidyadhar Bhim – ruler of the island of Rakshasas (demons). After hearing discourses of Ajitnath Bhagwan, Vidyadhar Bhim became spiritual and increasingly detached to the point he gave up his kingdom, including the famous cities of Lanka and Patal Langa as well as all his knowledge and miraculous powers to King Meghvahan. He also gave him a divine necklace of nine large and shining heads. King Meghvahan was the first King of the Rakshas clan in the which the famous King Ravana was born.

Chakarvati Sagar had thousands of queens and sixty thousand sons – eldest son was Janhu Kumar. Once, all the princes went to visit Ashtapad. When they arrived at the base of Ashtapad, they dug up large ditches and canals to protect it. They flooded these canals with water from river Ganges causing flooding in area occupied by lower gods known as Nag Kumars, whose King, Jwalaanprabh tried to stop the princes, but in vain. Eventually, Jwalaanprabh lost his patience and temper and turned all sixty thousand princes to ashes.

On hearing this tragic news. Sagar handed over the Kingdom to his eldest grandson – Bhagirath and took diksha from Ajitnath Bhagwan.

Ajitnath Bhagwan attained moksha at Samet Shikhar with one thousand other ascetics.





Taranga Tirth

Taranga Tirth



In ancient Jain scriptures, this place has been described as Tar-ur, Taravarnagar, Tarangiri, Tarangadh. The present Shwetambar Jain temples were constructed by the Solanki King Kumarpal in the 12th century CE, under the inspiration and instruction of Acharya Hemachandra.

The main temple in the tirth is 150 ft. in length, 100 feet wide and 142 ft. in height. The structure of the temple is like that of Mahameru-palace. Along with the vast open square, the well-curved, eye-catching summit of the four-storied temple made of yellow stone looks stunning. This temple is famous for its tall steeple. Since the wood used in building this temple was of the Tagar (veleriana hardwickii) wood, it is fire-extinguishing; when set to fire, it does not catch fire, but oozes out water. This is truly amazing.

On looking at it, one must wonder as to how much labour and effort must have been put in the construction of this temple at such a spot, with all its majesty and supreme art.

Neminath Temple on Mount Girnar and Adinath Temple on Shatrunjaya Hills are similar to the Taranga temples, however the one on Mount Girnar is lower in height and less ornate and the one on Shatrunjaya Hills has lost some of its original features when restored, following damage caused by Muslim invaders in the past.

The Taranga Hills has associations with Digambara sect with Digambara temple on the hills as well as Buddhist antecedents. Jain texts state, in the past many thousands of ascetics have attained moksha whilst meditating on the Taranga Hills.



The Main Idol – Mulnayak – is of Ajitnath Bhagwan. It is 2.75 metres in height, of white complexion and in padmasana posture. This large magnificent idol of Ajitnath Bhagwan is rarely to be seen anywhere else. The temple is therefore known as Ajitaprasad or Ajitnath Vihara.

On a visit to Taranga Tirth, some years ago, we were very fortunate to do puja of this Mulnayak Ajitnath Bhagwan.

Taranga Tirth is nestled on the Taranga Hills, near Mehsana Town of Patan District in the state of Gujarat. The natural scenery on the surrounding hills together with the holy and auspicious atmosphere of the whole area gives one an experience of serene peace to the soul.