



22 March WORLD WATER DAY

Save Water - Save Earth

Water is not only the building block of life but is also an essential natural resource for life.

Here in the U.K, because safe clean water is easily available to us, it is easy to forget what a scarce and precious resource water is. Nearly one-half of the world's population lack access to water. Even here, According to the UK Environment Agency, we could face water shortages by 2050 unless we save water fast.

According to Jainism, water, even a drop of water has life. Jain ascetics use water sparingly as if it is molten gold.



Jainism stands unique in assigning equal status, same as that of human beings, to all constituents of environment. The main constituents, most important life supporting natural resources, earth (soil, minerals etc.), water, energy (fire), air and plants are as much living beings as human beings and should be considered and treated as such. This will eliminate possibility of harm to them.

Acharanga Sutra



WATER FACTS

- Water is the most important resource in the world.
- The Earth has 525million km³ of water – 2% of its frozen | 97% of it is found in oceans | 80% of inland water are surface waters | the remaining 20% are underground or in the atmosphere.
- Only 2.5% of the water on Earth is freshwater.
- If all the watering the world was contained in a gallon jug (3.78 litres) only one tablespoon (14 Millilitres) of that gallon would be freshwater.
- 70%of freshwater is used for agricultural purposes.
- Today, 1 in 4 people – 2 billion people worldwide – lack safe drinking water.
- 80% of the illnesses and deaths in the developing world result from water related disease.
- It takes 924 gallons of water to produce 2.2 pounds of rice. It takes 2,641 gallons of water to make a pair of jeans. It takes 3,962 gallons of water to produce 2.2 pounds of beef.

Water needs to be more than clean, it must be “safe”.
Safe water means having water at home, whenever needed,
and free from contamination.

Sources: Various including WHO;UNICEF;Nasa

WATER SCARCITY

CAUSES

Climate Change
Overuse of water
Pollution
Increase in demand for
Freshwater

EFFECTS

Hunger | Poverty
Lack of Education
Sanitation Issues
Diseases
Biodiversity Loss
Conflicts



Water & Jainism



Water is essential source of life for all bonded organisms and the Jain philosophy of detachment and compassion calls for careful handling of water and its resources to avoid causing harm and denial of livelihood to fellow beings - including the water bodied and the water borne.

The conservation of water is a logical option according to Jain philosophy. Very strong emphasis is given to "Jiv Daya", that is avoiding any kind of suffering or killing of even one sensed living beings (Ekendriya Jivas).

Water contains innumerable number of microscopic lives in each drop - Scientists say it likely that a single drop of ocean water has millions of bacteria and viruses as well in some cases fish eggs, baby crabs, plankton. According to Jainism, water by itself also is composed of innumerable number of water body particles, the Ekendriya Jivas. By conserving or minimizing the use of even one drop of water, we will be instrumental in saving billions and billions of lives. On the other hand, with little negligence, we will also be responsible for killing them.

Mahavir stated a profound ecological truth when he said "One who neglects or disregards the existence of earth, fire, water and vegetation disregards his own existence which is entwined with them." Jainism is, in essence, a faith of ecology and conservation, of sustainable lifestyle and reverence for all life forms

Are we doing all we can to conserve this precious resource in our daily lives?

There are many other ways to cut down the use of water which we can adopt in our day to day life and give "Pran-Daan" to innumerable one-sensed lives.

"Earth forms, water-forms, energy-forms (fire), air-forms, plant forms possess consciousness, the essential attribute of only living beings"

"Earth-forms, water-forms, energy-forms (fire), air-forms, plant forms and all higher form from two sense to five sense organising are living beings like us (human beings).

Dashavaikalik Sutra



Save Water, Save World

To produce vegetables, fruit, cereals and other food takes a lot of water. Reduce food waste.

Use rainwater to water plants in the garden

Water garden early in morning or evening to stop water evaporating in sunlight and heat

Boil water only as much as required. Steam vegetables instead of boiling to reduce water usage and retain more of the natural nutrients

Think of ways to save water Yourself

Simple acts like brushing teeth with running tap uses about 2 gallons of water, and this wastage can be minimized by simply using glass of water instead of the tap water.

Every minute spend in a power shower uses up to 17 litres of water. Reducing our shower time or using a bucket like our parents & Grandparents use to.

"A drop of water is worth more than a sack of gold to a thirsty person"
According to UNICEF in Africa, women, and children, especially girls walk an average of 6KM a day to get water for their families. That is every day – 200 million hours or 8.3 million days.

THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER CONSERVATION

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Water conservation can have economic advantages, as it can lower water costs for households, businesses, and industries



LIMITED RESOURCES

Conserving water for future generations is important due to its limited supply



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Water conservation has the potential to protect rivers, lakes, and other bodies of water from pollution



CLIMATE CHANGE

The impact of climate change on droughts in many parts of the world is making water conservation even more crucial

