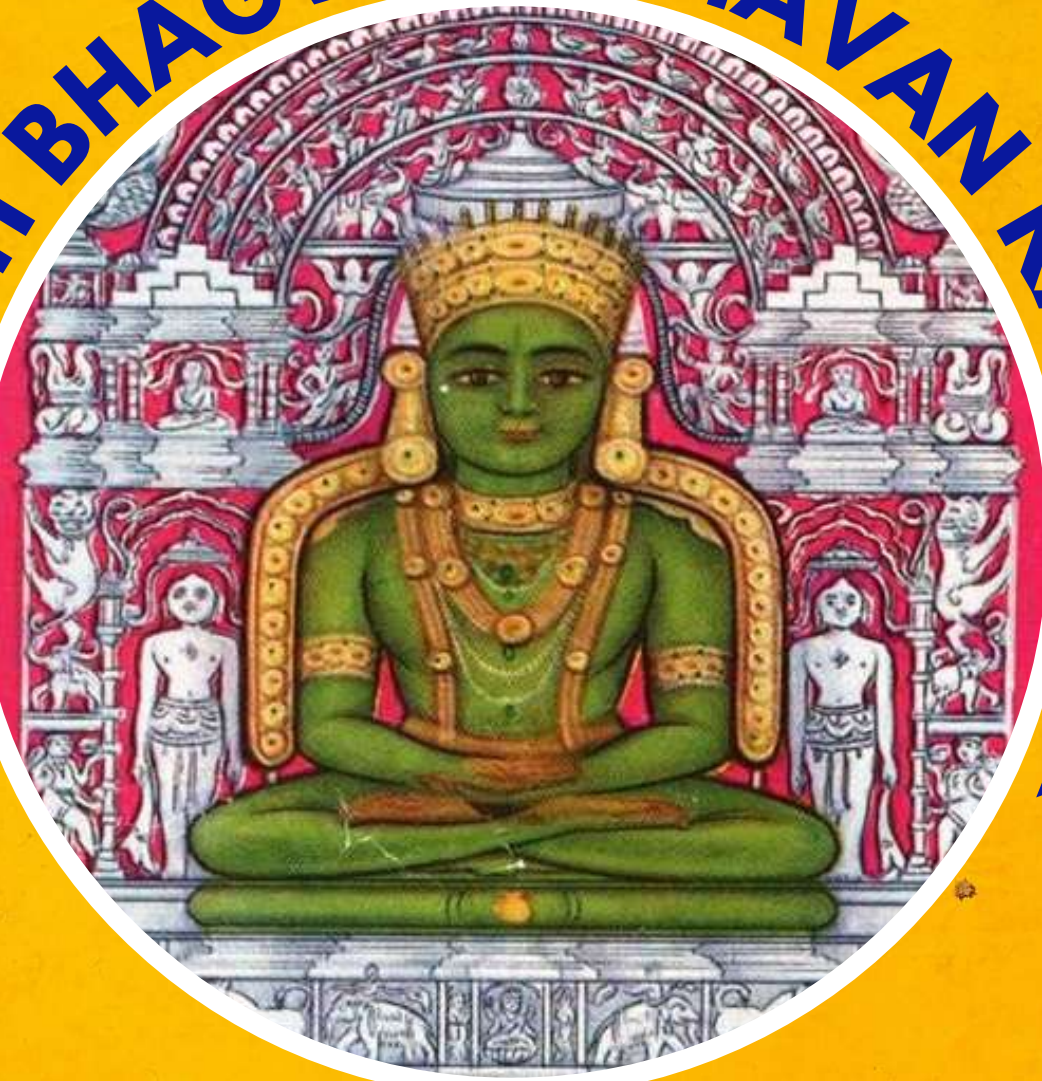




MALLINATH BHAGWAN CHAVAN KALYANAK



Knowledge is important, however, much more important is its beneficial use. This depends on human minds and heart. *Dalai Lama*

If you understand others, you are intelligent. If you understand yourself, you are enlightened. *Lao Tse*

Praying to Vitarag alone gets us nowhere. Practicing his teachings will help us more.

Mallinath Chavan Kalyanak

Fagan Sud Choth

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

“Om Hrim Mallinath Parmeshthine Namah”

Chavan (Conception) Kalyanak
The event when the Tirthankara's atma (soul) departs from its last life, and is conceived in the mother's womb. After the Tirthankara soul is conceived, the mother witness fourteen (as per Shvetambar) auspicious objects in her dreams.



Mallinath Bhagwan

Mallinath Bhagwan is the nineteenth Tirthankara in the current time cycle.

In the Digambara Sect, Mallinath is said to be male as they do not believe that a woman can attain moksha or Kevaljnana. In the Svetambara sect, Mallinath is worshipped as a woman and considered as one of the ten unexpected wonders in the spiritual world, as usually only males can become Tirthankaras as per Jain scriptures. Although Mallinath is considered a female Jina by Svetambara's, her image is carved as other Jinas because Tirthankara images represent the qualities and virtues of a Arihanta and not their physical body.

Parents: King Kumbha & Queen Prabhavati

Born in city of Mithila and is considered as modern Janakpur, Nepal. Four Kalyanaks of Mallinath Bhagwan took place in Mithila.

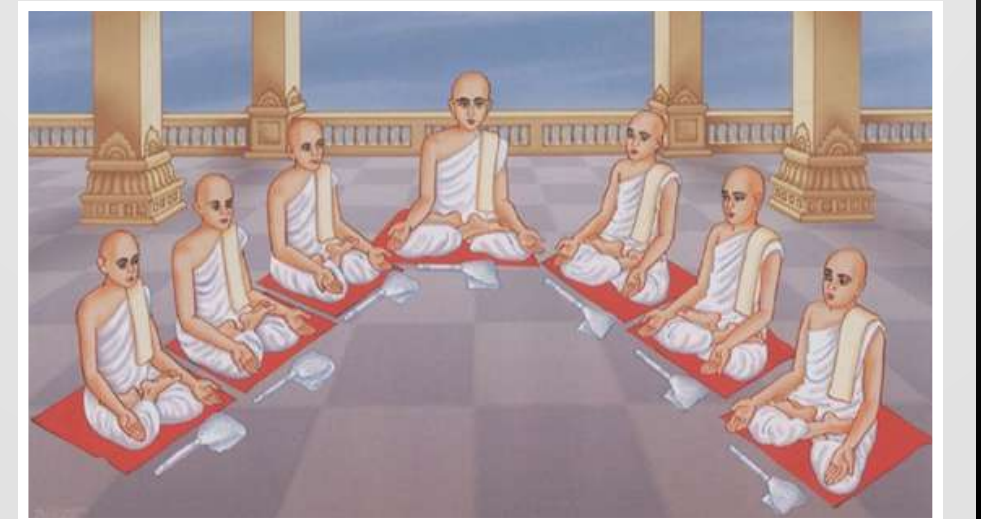
Her symbol (Ianchan) is kalash (water pot) and is said to be of dark blue complexion.

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

Birth 1: As Mahabal – son of King Bal and Queen Dharini. Mahabal succeed his father and became King of city of Veetshoka in the Mahā-vidēha region of Jambudweep. King Mahabal had six childhood friends, whose names were Acala, Dharaṇa, Pūraṇa, Vasu, Vaiśravaṇa and Abhicandra. All seven were born on the same day and grew up together, spending their time together in collaboration with one another. None of them would do anything without the knowledge of others and would do everything with mutual consent.

All seven, after listening to sermons by a well-known Jain Acharya, realised living a worldly life is full of misery and pain, so all seven decided to renounce worldly life and become ascetics, agreeing to do all spiritual practices together and to the same degree, progressing at the same rate. Mahabal, maybe because of his egoistic and deceitful nature, had the intention of progressing ahead of his six friends and secretly observed longer austerities. He constantly found excuses (such as ill health – stomach-ache or something akin) to skip meals and thus deviously accumulated a larger number of fasts than his friends. As a result of this behaviour, he acquires the karma – “*itthi-ṇāma-goyaṃ kammaṃ*” which established his future birth as a woman. However, as he also maintained the purity and intensity in his spiritual practices, he also acquired the auspicious Tirthankara-naam-gotra karma. As per Jain scriptures, it is said that they were ascetics for 84000 years and breathed their last after fasting for 60 days unto death.

Birth 2: All seven were born as a celestial being, spending a long lifespan in Anuttara heaven called Jayanta as per Jain cosmology. After completing their celestial lifespan, the six friends souls were born as Rajkumaras except Mahabal's soul which was born as a Rajkumari named Malli – Mallinath Bhagwan



Mallinath Bhagwan

Birth 3: As Mallinath Bhagwan. During her pregnancy, Queen Prabhavati had a strong desire to sleep on different types of flowers, hence when born, the baby was named Malli – meaning ‘Jasmine’. The 56 Dik-Kumaris and 64 Indras came to celebrate the birth ceremonies as per custom. Later on, Queen Prabhavati, gave birth to a son, who was named Malladin

Princess Malli was exceedingly charming and beautiful. She also mastered all the fine arts and became a talented and accomplished princess. Malladin learned all the martial arts and became a bold and brave prince.

The six friends of Mahabal were born as princes (rajakumaras) in different kingdoms and in due course ascended thrones. All of them became known for their boldness and capable administration and as formidable kings of the cities of Ayodhyä, Champä, Hastinäpur, Kämpilypur, Shrävasti and Käshi. All of these cities were located in the present states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

These six Kings heard about the beauty of Princess Malli and decided to marry her, but King Kumbha refused all suitors. Feeling insulted and humiliated, all six Kings waged war on Kumbha, attacking and besieging his city of Mithila.



Through her clairvoyance – *avadhi jnana* – Malli realized that the root cause of the problem lay in her previous life. She recalled her life as King Mahäbal and realized that due to their deep affection for her in their previous lives, all six of the kings even now desired to be near her. Malli then decided to tackle the issue by bringing home the truth to those former friends. Keen to avoid any more bloodshed, she persuaded her father to invite all the six Kings to the palace.

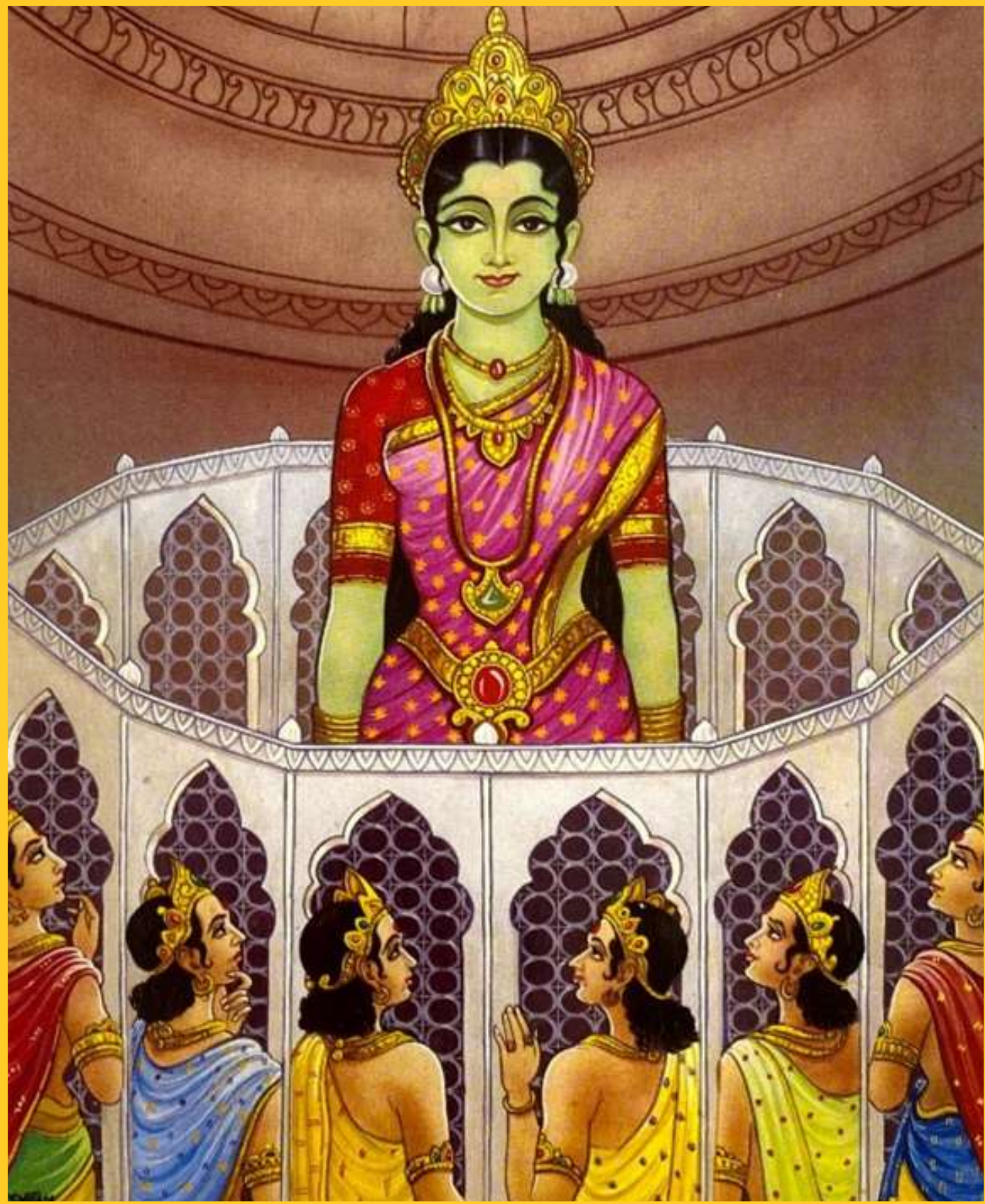
Princess Malli ordered casting of a life like golden statue of herself, hollow inside, covered with a lid at the top concealed under a lotus device on the head of the statue. She instructed her maid servants to put little food daily inside the statue. The food became rotten and spread foul smell when opened.

The six Kings were summoned into the hall via six different entrances. When they first saw the statue, which so beautiful and life like that they mistook it for the real princess. Malli, entered via a different entrance and removed the lotus cover. The smell from the rotting food is so obnoxious that the Kings had to cover their noses.

Malli then explained that the food she ate was the same food in the statue. The food in her body did not stink because her soul prevented the rotting. However, when her soul would leave the body, her body too would start to decay. It is the nature of the body to degenerate, decay, and disintegrate. Malli asked the kings, “What is the purpose of being attached to a body when it is destined to rot eventually? Is it not worthwhile to pursue something that will last forever?”



Mallinath Bhagwan



She also recalled facts of their previous common births and lives. Upon hearing this, the kings recalled their past lives and what they had renounced. The seven of them now felt an acute sense of detachment for the short-lived worldly life. They all decided to renounce the world to enhance the spiritual pursuit that they had left undone in the previous life.

The diksha ceremony took place in Sahasrāmravana, outside Mithila. She was carried on a palanquin named Jayanti and was accompanied by numerous Kings. Following the ceremony, she broke her two days fast at the house of King Viśvasena.

On the same day she took diksha, Mallinath Bhagwan attained Kevaljnana, under a variety of Asoka tree. She had 28 Gandharas – Chief Gandhara was Bhiṣaj.

She attained Moksha at Samet Shikhar. Her lifespan is said to be 55000 years, of which she spends only a mere 100 years as a princess.

GENEROSITY

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and create a vision for tomorrow."

Reflection: Be thankful for all that you receive and experience every- day and reflect on who and what made those experiences possible. Give special thanks for the food you eat and for the people you meet.

"Two flowers blossomed together.
But look at their fate.
One is tucked in a wedding garland.
The other placed on a grave."

Unknown Poet

Reflection: Circumstances that fate deals us is beyond our control, but how we deal with those circumstances is in our hands.

