



JAIN FESTIVAL AYAMBIL OLI

Shukla Navami – Day 3 of Ayambil Oli Acharya Pad

Acharya is symbolised by the colour yellow and on this day the Ayambil menu includes channa dal.

Acharyas are the first among Guru Tattva. 'Acharya' in sanskrit means a spiritual teacher who guides 'acharan' (conduct). Acharyas are the spiritual leaders of the ascetics as well the lay community. They are scholars not only in Jainism but also other religions, philosophies and other scholarly fields, inspirational orators, leaders and visionaries who display outstanding organisation and management skills as well self-control and discipline.

They carry on the teachings of Bhagwan Mahavir and are instrumental in initiating and motivating the four-fold Sangh in the practice of Jainism. They are responsible for the shiksha (learning) and diksha (ascetic initiation) of disciples under their responsibility. Acharyas motivate sadhus and sdahvis towards a greater practice of five spiritual conducts - Gyanachara, Darshanachara, Charitachara, Tapachara and Veeryachara.

Acharyas have 18 attributes relating to the elimination of 18 impurities - namely 5 attributes of self control over the five senses ; 9 restrictions to follow in observing celibacy ; 4 attributes to avoid the four types of passions - Anger, Ego, Deceit and Greed.

They have a further 18 attributes to the acquirement of 18 qualities - namely 5 attributes relating to the Mahavratas ; 5 attributes relating to observance of five codes of conduct ; 5 attributes relating to observing carefulness and 3 attributes to restrain the activities of the mind, speech and body.

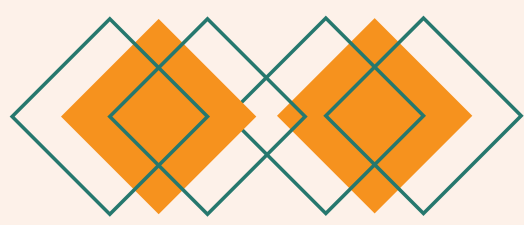
Acharya pad has 36 attributes.



Ritual: Khamasnas (x36) | Logassa (x36)

Prayer - Ohm Hrim Namō Aayariyaanam (x20 malas)

If you wish to participate and are unable to do the above, do as per your capacity and time.



18 Attributes with regards to elimination of 18 Impurities

5 Attributes of self-control over the pleasures of the 5 senses

- Touch, Taste, Smell, Sight, and Hearing. These are known as the five Indriya Nishedha

9 Attributes to follow 9 restrictions for observance of celibacy (Known as nine Brahmacharya Vada)

- Not to live where lay people (Shrāvaks and Shrāvikās) live
- Not to sit alone with a person of the opposite gender
- Not to talk in private with a person of the opposite gender
- Not to observe the body of the opposite gender
- To only eat bland but pure food (not dressed with spices)
- To avoid food that produces impurity of the mind
- Not to adorn the body Not to remember past sensual pleasures
- Not to listen to the private conversations of others

4 Attributes to avoid the 4 types of passions

- Anger, Ego, Deceit and Greed

18 Attributes with regards to 18 Qualities to Acquire

5 Attributes pertaining to follow the Five Great vows -

- Nonviolence, Truthfulness, Non-stealing, Celibacy,
- Non-possessiveness / Non-possession

5 Attributes related to observe the five codes of conduct regarding

- Knowledge, Faith, Conduct, Penance, Vigour

5 Attributes related to observing carefulness (Five Samitis)

- Walking, talking, obtaining alms, putting clothes and other things and disposing bodily waste properly

3 Attributes to restrain the three medium of activity (Three Guptis)

- Regarding activities of mind, speech and body

Pancindiya Sutra recited
at each Pratikraman
highlights
these 36 Attributes of a
Acharya - Our Guru

pancindiya-samvarano, (5)
taha nava-viha-bambhacera-guttidharo (9).

cauviha-kasāya-mukko, (4)
ia atthārasa-gunehim sanjutto

panca-mahavvaya-jutto, (5)
panca-vihāyāra-pālana-samattho. (5)

panca-samio tigutto, (5)
chattisa-guno guru majjha (3)



JAIN FESTIVAL AYAMBIL OLI Day 3 - Acharya Pad

Acharya Maharaj Yashovijay Suriji



At the age of eight years old, Acharyaji fell seriously ill and it was not certain that he would survive. His mother made a vow that if he survived, she would give permission for him to take diksha - become a Jain Monk. He survived and his mother told him "you were born to live the life of a sadhu".

Acharya Maharaj Yashovijay Suriji took Diksha at the tender age of 11 under his Guru Ohmkar Suriji. He learned the basic principles of Jainism from his Guru but still struggled to find his real self. The Guru said, "I can guide; but only self can realize the true nature of self". Hence at the age of 13, Acharya Shriji embraced maun and stayed in that state for over 30 years.

About the importance of Maun, Acharyaji said in an interview conducted more than a decade ago, "Knowledge remains superficial unless one absorbs its deeper meaning through introspection. Our likes and dislikes keep us in the external world. These likes and dislikes evaporate once we realize that all these are a result of our own fault or our delusion. Words are only required to stay in the outer world; no words are required to stay close to the soul. Unless one stays within, one cannot understand the reality of the self." Acharyaji had stayed in maun until he was able to realize his self - Who I am? - That nameless self.

Why did he come out of maun?

"Only after one realizes the power of ego-less self, one can give the message of truth to the outside world.

My Parmatama's message was to first realize the power of the ego-less self. With that realization came a unique joy (anand). The second part of the message was to guide others to realize the same anand. A book of knowledge only provides the outline, but the joy of one's soul can inspire another soul to the same joyful state", said Acharyaji.

He further stated " Dharma was nothing but learning and practicing the true art of living. Deep introspection brought one to reality of self (soul) and the art of living was to stay within the bounds of reality and not delusion."

For people living outside India, he emphasised the importance of imparting right Sanskar, to the younger generation. He suggested a simple ten-minute prayer daily. However, his most pertinent observation was that children always observed their parents and unless they lived the life of Dharma (not just in the traditional sense but in the sense of basic integrity and human values), all later efforts could go to waste.

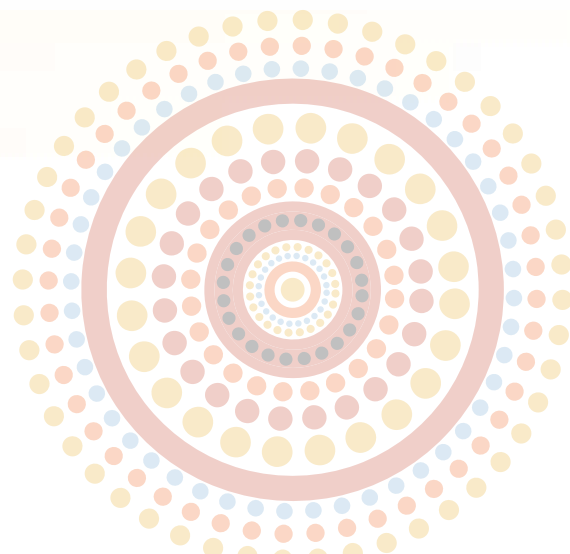
Acharya Maharaj Yashovijay Suriji of the Shwetambar sect is a spiritual master. For some years now, he has been conducting five-day Maun Sadhana Shibirs in various reclusive places in India. On average about 700 Jain laypeople attend this transformational Maun shibirs, each time it is held.

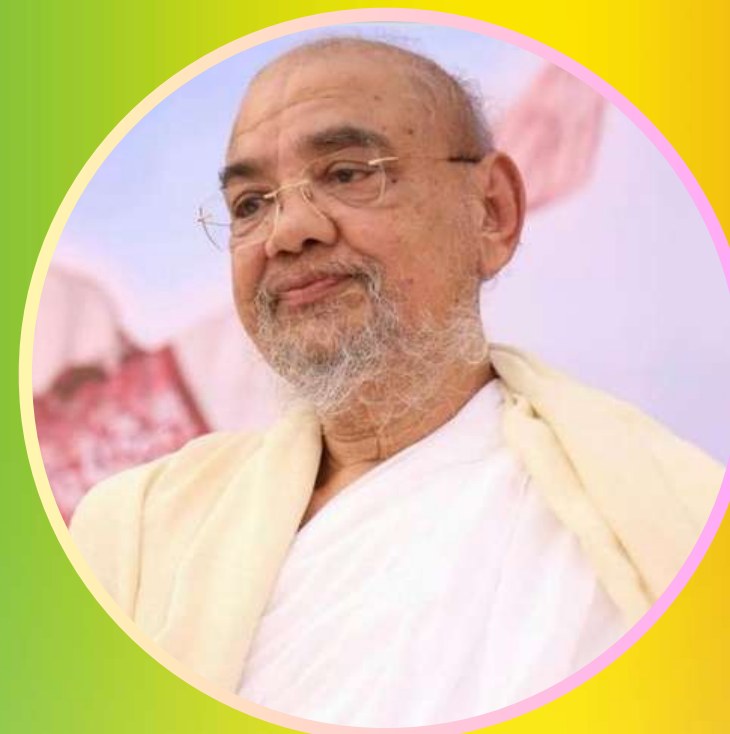
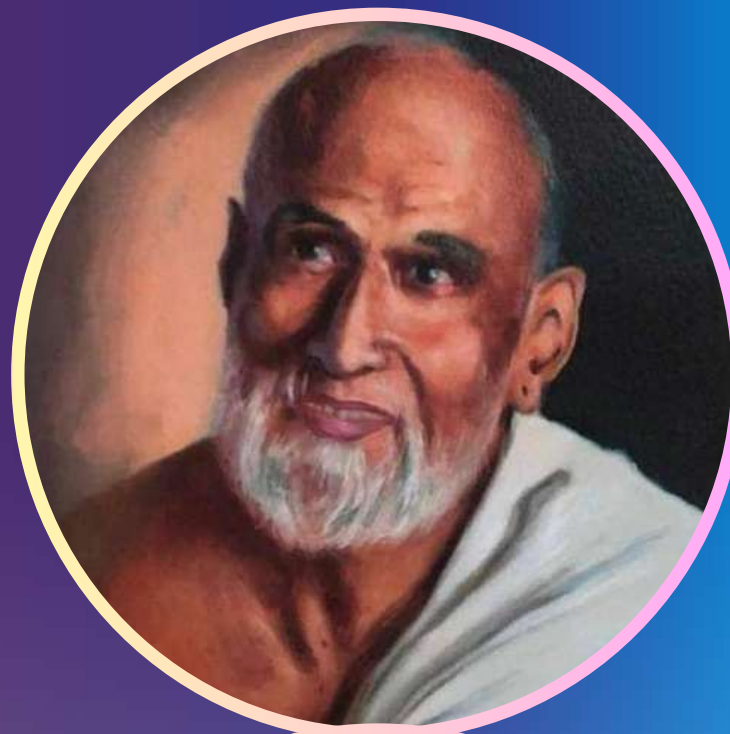
In 2019, my sisters and I were fortunate to meet him. One knew, immediately, you were in the presence of someone special. It was a unique experience, one which we cherish and remember.

Source: based on an article - www.jaina.org



BY KISHOR B SHAH





JAIN ACHARYAS

