

EARTH DAY

"In every walk with nature one receives
far more than he seeks"



APRIL 22



Earth provides enough
to satisfy every man's
need, but not every
man's greed



22 APRIL

EARTH DAY



**"We live on
this point
called Earth -
think about
what you
might do,
today or
tomorrow -
and make the
most of it"**



**Earth
provides
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satisfy
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Jainism despite its antiquity holds a modern relevance in its gentle warnings of the importance of caring for all life and our environment.

Jainism quietly foreshadows some of the significance and the impact that our beliefs and daily habits can have on global survival.

Jainism is an eco-friendly religion, whose philosophy and way of life preserves and protects the Earth and the Environment.



EARTH DAY



"We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors...
... we borrow it from our children"



The environmental issues facing us are not just global responsibilities but are also our responsibility as individuals. Considering the gravity and scale of environment issues facing us, we may ask – **What Can I Do?** Does what I think or do matter. Can I make a difference? The answer is of course, emphatically – Yes, we can all make a difference. The only place to start is with and within ourselves, instead of wondering what others are or should be doing. We can all be mindful of Earth's resources, appreciating the good things we have instead of taking them for granted.

Let us, as Jains, be true environmentalists by following the basic tenets of our faith – **Ahimsa , Anekantavada and Aparigraha** and **living the Jain Way of Life.**

Be the Change – Be a source of inspiration to others



EARTH DAY



Jain Eco-Friendly Way of Life involves:-

- Cultivation of a benevolent attitude, detachment and universal friendship.
- Cultivation of an attitude of moderation and restraint and minimal use of natural resources and consumables.
- Cultivation of the habit of mindfulness in all activities
- Daily reflection/meditation/ partikraman/prayers for the welfare of all living beings and universal peace.
- Cultivation of contentment and tolerance.
- Cultivation of non-violent lifestyle – in action, thoughts and speech.

Mahavir in the “Acharanga Sutra” stated all the elements of nature, under the fundamental principle of Ahimsa were to be protected in all ways – no waste, no overuse, no exploitation, no abuse, no polluting. If we follow Mahavir’s principles, then we would stop destroying our environment as well preserve the resources for all to share now and for future generations.

BHAGWAN MAHAVIRA

whose entire life was an example on how to live in perfect harmony with nature and the environment, stated a profound ecological truth :

“One who disregards the existence of earth, water, fire, air and vegetation, disregards his own existence which is intertwined with them”

“One who knows the demerit of the destruction of plants and trees, knows the merit of reverence for nature”



Vaayukaya,
Vanaspati Kaya, Tras
Kaya Ni Raksha Karu

“I care for and
protect the living
beings that have
wind, or vegetation
as their bodies and
care for & protect all
mobile living beings”



Pruthvikaya,
Apkaya, Teukaya
Ni Jayana Karu

“I care for the
living beings that
have earth, water
or fire as their
bodies”

Earth Day



All the Venerable Ones of the past, present, and future discourse, counsel, proclaim, propound, and prescribe thus in unison: do not injure, abuse, oppress, enslave, insult, torment, torture, or kill any creature or living being.

Know other creatures' love for life, for they are like you. Kill them not; save their life from fear and enmity.

All creatures desire to live, not to die.

Hence to kill is to sin.

A godly man does not kill.

Therefore, do not yourself kill, consciously or unconsciously, living organisms which move or move not, nor cause slaughter of them.

He who looks on the creatures of the earth, big and small, as his own self, comprehends this immense world.

Among the careless, he who restrains is enlightened.

One who neglects or disregards the existence of earth, air, fire, water and vegetation disregards his own existence, which is entwined with them”

..... *Acaranga Sutra*



Places of worship and community centres have a deep impact on perception, understanding and behaviour. As torchbearers of Jainism, to disseminate the message of Jain ecology, sustainable living and environmental stewardship. what better place to start than our community centres.

Some Suggestions

- Eliminate or minimise the use of single use plastics, which according to scientists, remain in the environment for a long time, harming wildlife and contaminating food and water.
- Minimise the use of Styrofoam, plastic and other disposable plates and utensils.
- All our centres have steel plates and cutlery – use these at our functions to reduce waste and encourage selfless service in washing them.
- Encourage our youth to initiate and action eco-friendly practices at our centres, functions, and religious festivals.

