

ADINATH BHAGWAN

As the first Tirthankara of the current Chauvisi – 24 Tirthankaras, Adinath is greatly revered by all Jains. Adinath, in Sanskrit means 'First Lord'. He is also referred to by other names including Rushabhdev, Rishabdev, Rishabh, Adishwar, Rishabhdeva, Adishvar, Vṛṣabhanātha, Ṛṣabhadeva, Ṛṣabhanātha, mata Marudevi na nand.



Jain chronology places him in almost immeasurable antiquity in the past. He was born at the end of the third period in the current regressive half cycle of time (Avasarpini). The details of his life are given in the Mahapurana and Padmapurana of the Jainas are corroborated by the Hindu Purans like the Bhagavat and Shivapurana. He is mentioned as an incarnation of God Vishnu in Bhagwat Puran.

There is copious evidence that he was worshiped in the Indus Valley civilizations. In the excavations at Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro, nude images of a male ascetics standing in Kayotsarga posture and seals with emblem of bulls (bull being the symbol of Adinath) have been found. From the evidence gathered from numerous finds, scholars conclude that the Indus Valley Civilisation was a pre-Aryan civilisation with the Ahimsa cult. From the absence of any weapons, scholars have reasoned that there might not have been wars and that the state administration was probably founded on the principle of non-violence. Prof N L Kachhara has stated that "it is a good augury that such archaeological discoveries and other evidences are gradually favouring the Jaina tradition of its antiquity."



Adinath Bhagwan Pratima
Shikharbandhi Jinalaya Oshwal Centre



Adinath



Chavan Kalyanak

Jeth Vad Choth

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

“Om Hrim Shri Adinath
Parmeshthine Namah”

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He was born in Ayodhya, during the Yuglik era as the son of the patriarch Nabhi and his queen Marudevi. He was named Rshabha as he bore the mark of a bull on his thigh and his mother – Marudevi – saw a bull in her first dream.

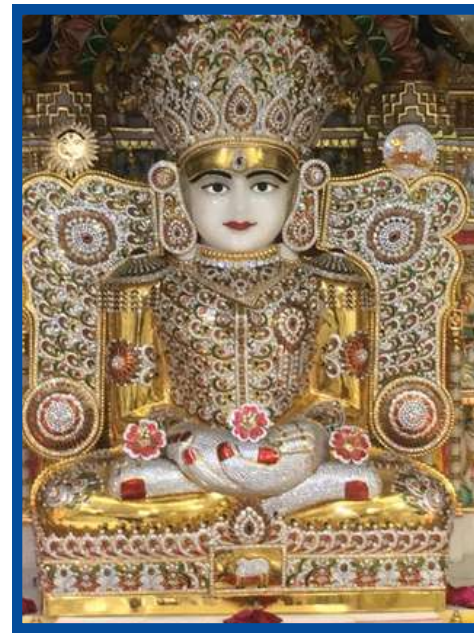
Rishabdev marriage to Sunanda, whose twin died in a accident, marked the beginning of the marriage system. He was also married to his twin Sumangala, in a ceremony arranged by the Gods. Sumangala gave birth to Bharat, Brahmi and ninety-eight other sons, whilst Sunanda gave birth to Bahubali and Sundari

As well as overcoming his inner enemies – anger, greed, ego and deceit – to become an Arihant, Jain tradition holds that all civilization developed from the teachings of Adinath and is credited with setting up the customs and institutions of society. As per Jain tradition, this was the period when the earth changed its status from the land on enjoyment (Bhogbhumi) to that of labour (Karmabhumi). It meant that people had to work for their livelihood. Adinath educated the people to co-operate with each other for mutual benefit. He taught Asi (defence), Krishi, Masi (literature), Vanijya (Commerce), Shilpa (Crafts and engineering) and Vidya (Knowledge and skills) to the people. Jain literature states that he taught 72 arts to men and 64 fine arts to women, including writing, painting, music etc. He is also credited with the invention of a script, taught to his daughters – the script is now known as Brahmi script.



According to Jain tradition, it is stated that after a long span of time (6.3million purva), King Rishabdev's interest in mundane things and activities declined. One day, whilst watching a performance of Nilamjana - a dancer who suddenly collapsed and died. Stunned by the realisation about the uncertainty and fleeting nature of life, Adinath began introspecting and detaching himself from worldly affairs. He decided to spend his life in search of lasting happiness. He renounced his kingdom, appointing his eldest son Bharata as his successor. He divided his kingdom amongst his other sons including Bahubali. India acquired the distinguished name of Bharatvarsa due to the memorable reign of Bharata.

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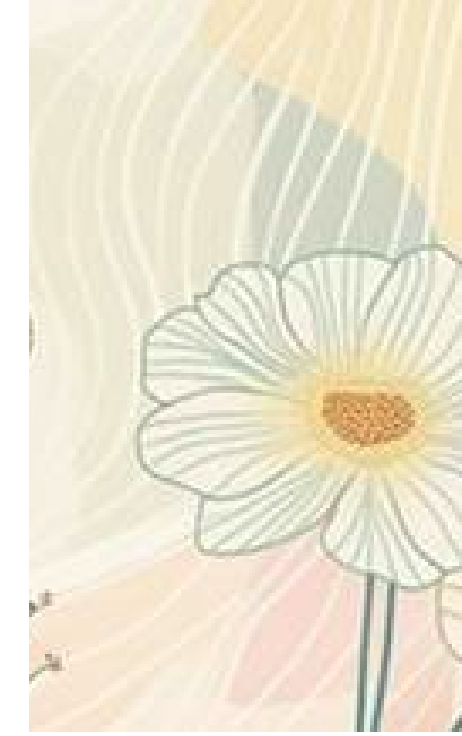


Adinath took diksha and became an ascetic. Accompanied by other ascetics, they took a vow of total silence and penance. Upon completion of his penance, he set out to break his fast, When Adinath Bhagwan took diksha, asceticism was new to the people. When he went for gochari (alms), they offered him gold, jewellery, gemstones, elephants, horses, and expensive clothes but not food. He had to fast for 13 months and 13 days until finally he came across a sugar cane farm near the town of Hastinapur, owned by his great grandson – Shreyanskumar, who offered him sugarcane juice, thus breaking his fast. The day of this parna is known as Akshaya Trithya.

One thousand years, after taking diksha, Adinath attained kevaljnana, under a banyan tree in the Shakatmukh garden, outside Purimtal town, near the city of Ayodhya. He had 84 gandharas, the chief gandhara was his grandson – Rishabhasen – also known as Pundarik. Both his daughters become nuns.

Adinath attained Nirvana (moksha) at Mount Ashtapad together with 10,000 additional Jain ascetics.

Poems By Thich Naht Hahn



YOU ARE ME

You are me and I am you.
It is obvious that we are inter-are.
You cultivate the flower in yourself so that I will be beautiful.
I transform the garbage in myself so that you do not have to suffer.
I support you you support me.
I am here to bring you peace
you are here to bring me joy.

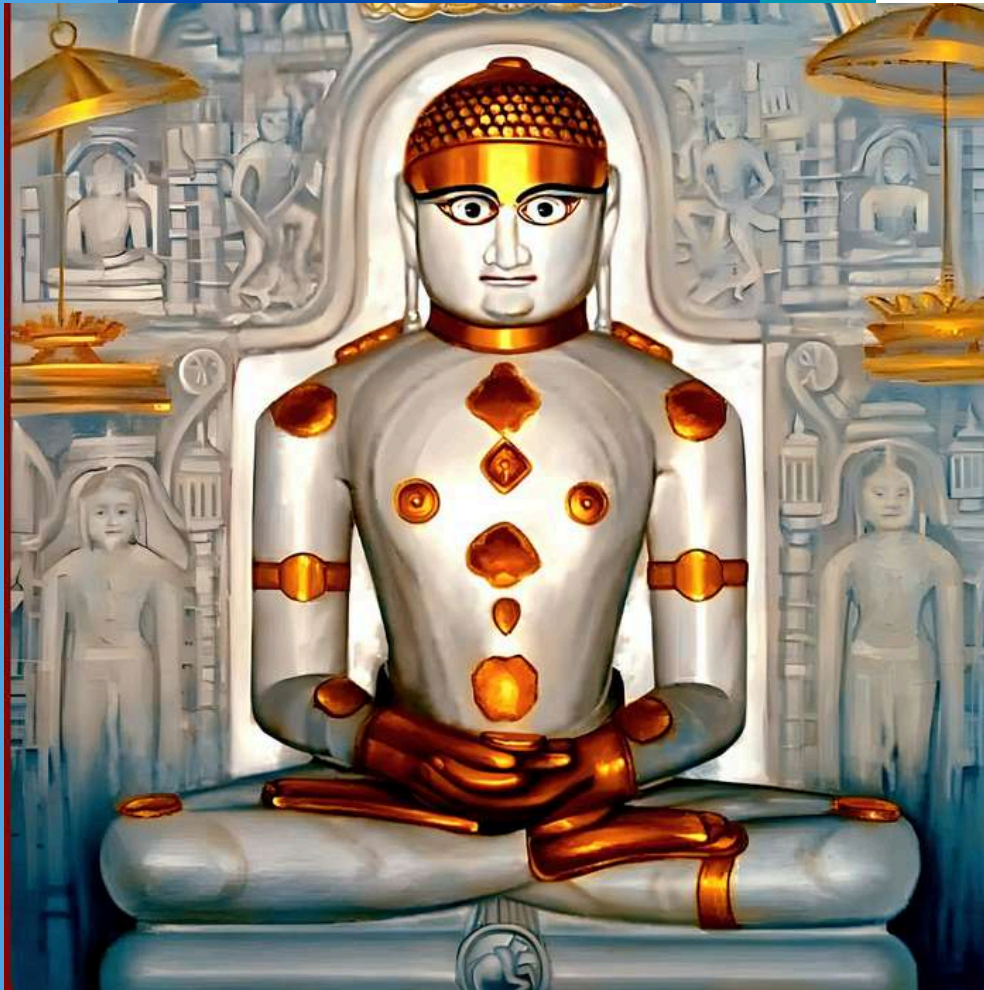
KISS THE EARTH

Walk and touch peace every moment.
Walk and touch happiness every moment.
Each step brings a fresh breeze.
Each step makes a flower bloom.
Kiss the Earth with your feet.
Bring the Earth your love and happiness.
The Earth will be safe
when we feel safe in ourselves.

TO MEDITATE

To meditate does not mean to fight with a problem.
To meditate means to observe.
Your smile proves it.
It proves that you are being gentle with yourself,
that the sun of awareness is shining in you,
that you have control of your situation.
You are yourself,
and you have acquired some peace.

Previous Births of Bhagwan Adinath



Jain scriptures state that after attaining samyak darshan, he became a Tirthankara in his 13th birth.

Birth 2 and 7 as a Yugal (twins)

Birth 3, 5, 8 10 & 12 as a celestial being

Birth 1 – as Dhanna Seth in the Kingdom of King Prasanna Chandra in the Mahavideh Kshetra. He was a successful businessman who offered alms and services to many ascetics and others. Once on a business trip, he was accompanied by monks who he looked after. He found the monks suitable accommodation and left to attend to his business affairs and completely forgot about the monks. On realising his mistake, he immediately went to them, repented for his mistakes and served them heartily. He attained samyak darshan, lived as a shravak and dedicated his remaining life to religion, helping others and penance.

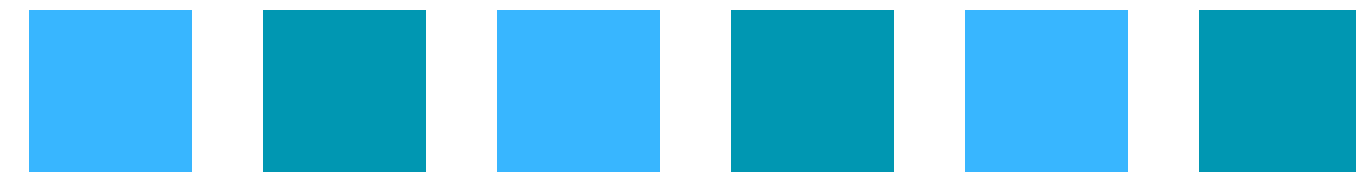
Birth 4 – as Mahabal – a human. Born to King Satbal and Queen Swayamprabha, he was also known as Vidhyadhar, as he was skilful. Upon succeeding his father to the throne, Mahabal enjoyed life to the full. One of his ministers, named Swayambhut informed him that he had only a month left to live. Swayambhut explained to him that, one can still achieve liberation if one does penance before death even for a day with sincerity. Mahabal did severe penance, become religious and completely changed his lifestyle.

Birth 6 – as Vajrajang – human in the Mahavideh Kshetra

Birth 9 – as a human – Vaidya Jivanand – a doctor who took great care of ailing people, including ascetics and discovered a remedy for Pandu-rog (dreaded skin disease).

Birth 11 – as a Chakravartin (ruler of the world) named Vajranabh. King Vajranabh, during his reign, supported the poor and desolate masses. Keshav was his brother. Keshav was Swayamprabha (female) in his previous birth. His other friends from his previous birth were born as his brothers in this life and were very attached to each other. After many years of reign, he renounced the world and became an ascetic. His brother and friends also became ascetics.

As a result of unprecedented spiritual practices, including religious studies, penance, tolerance and meditation, he acquired the Tirthankara-naam-gotra-karma. These benevolent deeds, penance, meditation, spiritual studies during earlier births resulted in his last thirteen birth as Rishabha Dev (Adinath).





SPIRITUALITY -ROUTE TO A GOOD LIFE

The word 'spirituality', like 'truth', is a much misused and abused word. Even in its true spirit, it has many meanings and shades. In its simplest form, it means search for a good, useful, and meaningful life. I call it a grid that defines the areas of your day-to-day action which is noble and helpful. It is a path that keeps one on the right track to realise higher values and a greater meaning of life.

It is not just a belief in things good and noble. It is the capacity and the medium to carry out your plans. An act a day that gives you good sleep without disturbing others' can be an act of spirituality. An act that helps others and makes them happy is a far greater act of spirituality.

The cultivation of compassion and patience, and a nice thought a day, could be greatly uplifting. If one believes in God as the Supreme Governor of the universe, it is spirituality. Even if one does not believe in God's existence as a Supreme Being, 'up there' controlling the whole universe, but believes in the inherent nature of one's own goodness in soul and mind, that too is spirituality. In fact, I can say that is a greater kind of spirituality! For, the innate nature is the same for all human beings. It is only the exteriors that make no two individuals look alike — not even twins.

Spirituality is reading and knowing about great people who have made a difference to society they lived in, and life became easier and more comfortable. Spirituality is our following them and trying to be "like them" as far as possible. Spirituality is following ways that make yours and others' ways of life cheerful and satisfying.

Spirituality is not being able to sleep on seeing others in misery and suffering. It is seeing yourself in others. It is the capacity to feel their pain and the willingness to share them. It is the courage to be honest and truthful even in the worst of circumstances. It is the ability to realise that truth is the fulcrum around which the axis of your life will move.

Spirituality is the driving force of your life that makes you think and see yourself among the weakest and the helpless. It is the force that enlightens you and frees you from the bonds of pain and suffering. Its cultivation makes your journey on this planet enjoyable and fruitful. It is the saviour that liberates you.

