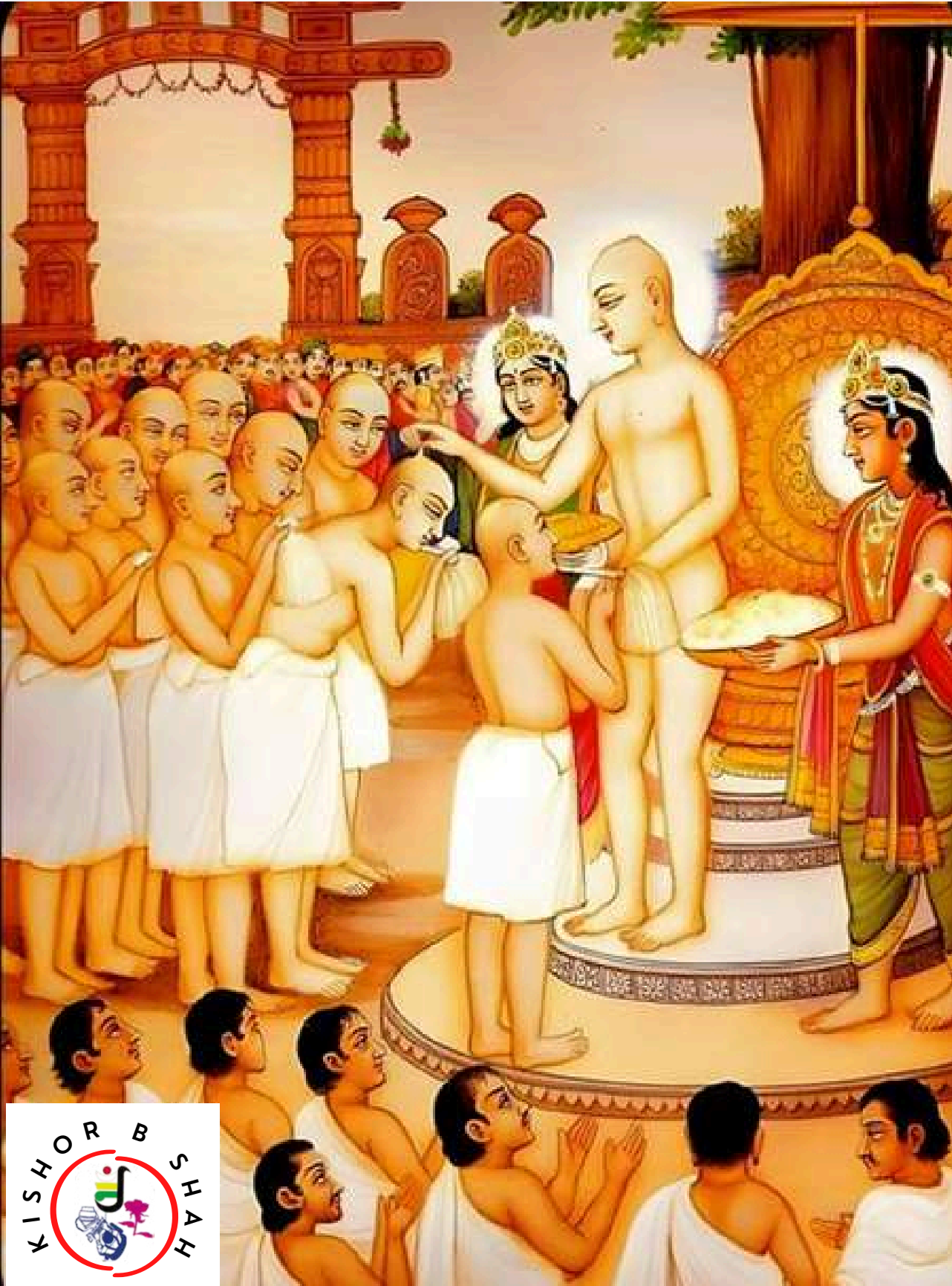


Guru Purnima

Indrabhuti Gautama - Gautama Swami



On Guru Purnima, great reverence is paid to Gautam Swami - our Guru and his life is celebrated for the many life lessons it can teach us.

Gautam Swami was born in 607BC, as Indrabhuti Gautam to Brahmin parents Vasubhuti and Prithvidevi Gautam in the village of Gobara, state of Madadha, India. He had two younger brothers named Agnibhuti and Vayubhuti. Father Vasubhuti was famous as preceptor of veda and other Hindu scriptures and ensured all his sons were also well versed in the four Vedas and fourteen vidyas and performing Hindu rituals. All three become great scholars at an early age and each of them had 500 disciples.

Indrabhuti, for 50 years of life engaged himself in learning, teaching, debating and scholarly discussions and was famous for his intellect and knowledge.

On his first meeting with Mahavir. He had great pride and ego in his knowledge which disappeared the moment Mahavir cleared his doubts regarding the existence of the soul, and he realised how incomplete his spiritual knowledge had been. Lesson: Minimise pride and ego and always have humility. Never too old to learn.

He took diksha along with his 500 disciples and became Mahavir's first and chief disciple - Gandhara.

When he took Diksha, he was 50 years old. Mahavir attained Kevaljñana when he was only 42 years old - so Indrabhuti was much older than Mahavir. Mahavir lived for 72 years. Gautam Swami's lived for 92 years. Thus, he lived 20 years more than Mahavir Bhagwan. Gautam was born eight years before Mahavir and attained Moksha 12 years later than him. Gautam attained kevaljñana when he was 80 years old.

After taking diksha, he spend 42 years as an ascetic - 30 years he lived as chadmashtha (pre-omniscient) and cared for Mahavir as his shadow and served him with devotion, respect, honour and with great reverence.

He was obedient and always did as Mahavir requested. Once he immediately sought forgiveness from Anand Shravak after Mahavir informed him, that Anand was telling the truth when he said that he had attained Avadhi jñana.

Mahavir gave him "**Tripadi - Uppanneiva | Vigameiva | Dhuveiva**" from which he composed the "**dwadasangi**" His discussions with Mahavir are the foundation of many of the most important Jain scriptures in the Jain Agams - the fifth Agam known as Bhagawati Sutra features 36000 questions, which in hindsight, Gautamswami asked Mahavir on our behalf.

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His penance was unique and unparalleled. He observed Chhath Tap – two day fasts together continuously for his whole life.

He had many special auspicious powers – Labdhi. He climbed Astapad Tirth, where he composed “**Jag Chintamani Stotra**” recited in the morning Pratikraman. Keeping a thumb in a small bowl, he served food to 1500 ascetics due to his “**Akshin Mahanasi Ladhi – non diminishing power**”. Whoever he gave diksha to, that person attained kevaljnana.

Despite his great love and devotion to Mahavir, he accepted reality and gave up his rag (attachment) for Mahavir and became Vitrag.

At the age of 92, in 515BC, he came to the town of Rajagrhi and achieved Moksha. He became – Ajara -ageless, Amara – immortal, Avinasi – eternal. He became a siddha -liberated.

Indrabhuti Gautama who was the first disciple -gandhara of Mahavir is today affectionately known to all Jains as Gautam Swami – the first Guru of the Jain order.