



save the earth

JAIN ENVIRONMENT PARYUSHAN

Jainism is one of the most environmentally conscious religions in the world. The religion is based on the principal of non-violence towards all living beings. Jainism is a religion of ecology, of a sustainable lifestyle, and of reverence for life. Jainism entire emphasis is on life consonant with ecology.

It is known to all that living as well non-living organisms surrounds us. These together constitute ecosystem. The non-living things are air, water, soil etc., which also contribute a lot to the ecosystem. Thus, in nature there is no wastage at all as through biodegradation everything returns back to nature.

Everything in nature is for others. Rivers don't flow for themselves. Plants don't grow for themselves. They offer everything to others. Each and every species by its activities supports the environment it is surviving in. This harmony is the basic rule of nature.

Jain ethics takes into consideration all forms of life, including air, water, fire, vegetation and earth. Mahavir and Jain Acharyas have always emphasized a non-violent lifestyle, which takes into account all living beings. Jainism teaches that all forms of life are bound together in mutuality and interdependence. Jainism teaches restraints in the consumption of material things and advocates simple lifestyle.

Jainism has taught mankind to respect nature and live the life, which not only supports but also nourishes the environment.

The following is a brief summary of an article I recently read by N.S Dedhia.

“Jainism provides practical solutions for mankind to follow and live. Jainism is a religion of love and dharma of truth. Jainism teaches love, compassion, and respect for all living beings, big and small.

Self-improvement is at the core of Jainism. Selfishness, greed, and violence have no place in the minds of true Jains. Jains are required to show generosity and compassionate nature to other beings.

For Jains, ecology is as much about action, identifying and solving problems, as it is about introspection. Ecologically, Jainism is thus about stewardship, requiring human diligence, human conscience, and human love. Ecological principles of Jain philosophy are to conserve and preserve our environment through the principle of non-violence.”

Life, for its very existence and nurturing, depends upon a bounteous nature. We, human beings need to derive sustenance from the earth; not to deplete, exhaust, pollute, burn, or destroy it.

In a world with billions of people, it really matters how much natural resources we use. What we eat, how we travel, and even the clothes we wear all make a difference. Even if it doesn't feel like it, little things do add up.

“Act as if what you do makes a difference . . . because it does”

Following the conclusion of the Samvatsari Pratikraman, we are supposed to make a small vow, which we observe for a limited period.

This Paryushan let's also consider making a Pledge to adopt sustainable and environmentally friendly practices in our daily lives, in line with our ecological ethics.

See Examples Re: Jainenvironment Paryushan Pledges



Written & Compiled
By Kishor B Shah

JAINENVIRONMENT PARYUSHAN FESTIVAL PLEDGES

I pledge to: Turn the tap off when I clean my teeth / shave

Why: Many people don't have access to fresh water, and the what the world has is running out

I pledge to: Turn my T.V off at the set, and not use the remote and leave it on stand by

Why: Because all that wasted energy Is damaging our environment

I pledge to: Walk or ride a bike instead taking the car when making shorter trips.

Why: To reduce one's carbon footprint and get some exercise at the same time.

I pledge to: Take a shower rather than a bath.

Why: Because it takes 50 litres of water to take a shower instead of a bath. The UK has less available water per person than most other European countries. Saving water will alleviate climate change and can make water scarcity problems in other countries less severe. In these days of cost of living crisis, it saves money on water and energy bills.

I pledge to: The three 'R's' – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle as much as practically possible.

Why: Because it helps to cut down on the amount of waste which helps the environment.

I pledge to: Give life changing presents

Why: Because billions of pounds are wasted yearly on unwanted gifts. Through certain charities, one can buy packages that deliver beautiful cards to our loved ones and friends as well as food, medical equipment or a goat to a family in the developing world. We can only care for the planet only if we care for its people also.

I pledge to: Plant at least one tree until next Paryushan.

Why: Trees are vital source of oxygen – trees are a source of beauty, inspiration, and solace.

I pledge to: Think of a pledge yourself

Why: Start a discussion withing your family, circle of friends – make Jainism relevant to today's world.

The purpose of this is for everyone, especially our young, to give some thought to this and make a pledge.

I am sure there are lots more 'Pledges' and the reason 'Why' then listed here.

**THIS PARYUSHAN DECIDE TO
MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



JAINENVIRONMENT PARYUSHAN



**Paryushan
Festival**

**Make a
Pledge To
Plant a
Tree**

,Adipurana States

**“Forests are like saints and trees should be
planted for positive karma.”**

**The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose
shade you do not expect to sit**

Acharya Shri Chandnaji (Tai Maa) has said

‘one should plant at least 10 trees

in one’s Lifelifetime.’

