



BY KISHOR B SHAH



Bhagwan Mahavir, when explaining the greatness of Navapad to King Srenik, from the **Niscaya Naya** – absolute point of view, stated: –

“In Navpad, it is our ‘atma tattva’ – the real state of one’s self, which is shown through the mediums of Arihant, Siddha, Acaraya, Upadhyaya, Sadhu, Darshan, Gyan, Charita and Tapa because Navpad is not based on substances but is based on qualities. This means that in Navpad, it is not the worship or veneration of any specified personality from amongst the nine Pads mentioned earlier, but it is the worship of their Virtues. Each and every virtue attributed to each of the ‘Nine Pads’ is in fact the virtues of our soul from the absolute point of view.”

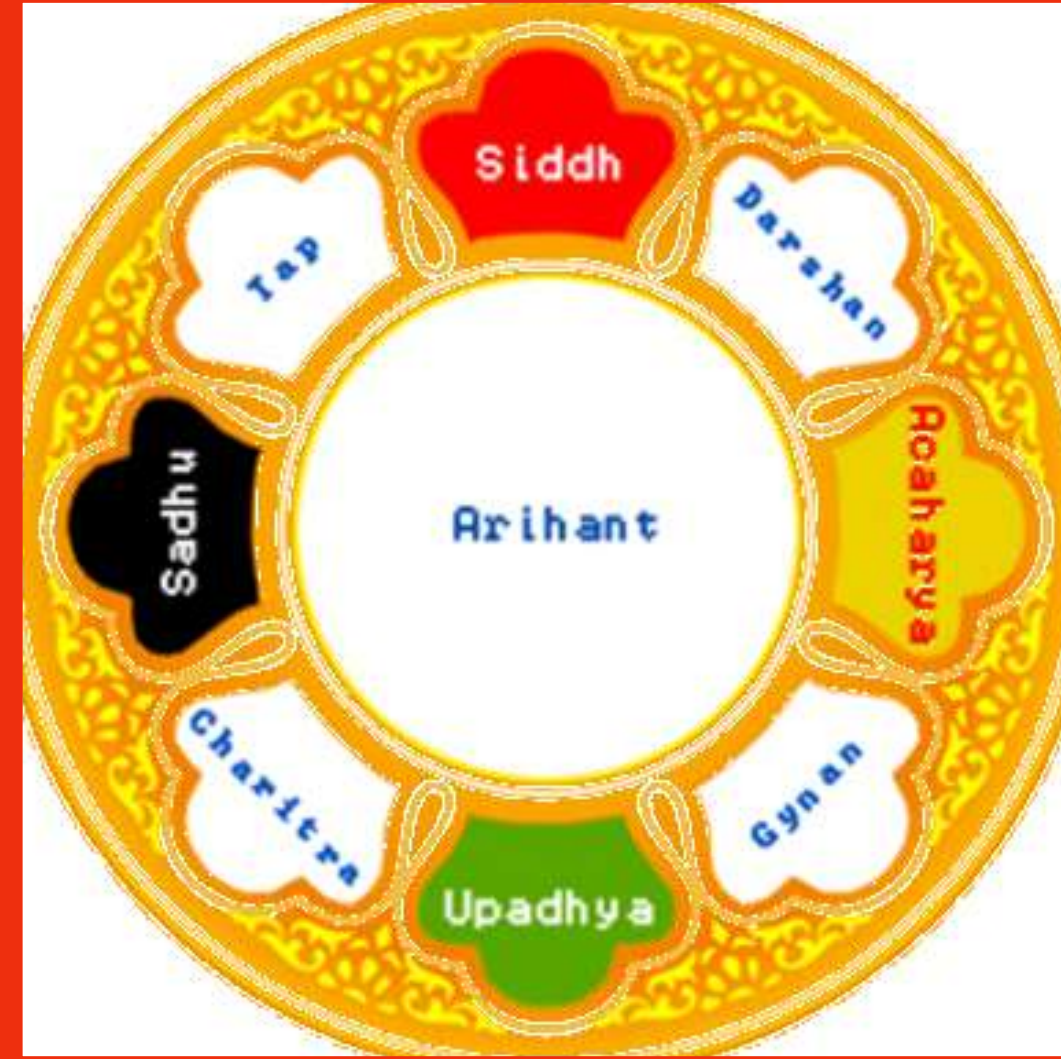
1 – **Arihant’s** main attribute is that of ‘omniscience’, which is nothing but our soul’s virtue of complete knowledge.

2 – **Siddha’s** ananta gyan (infinite cognition), ananta darshan (infinite perception), ananta caritra (infinite conduct) and ananta virya (infinite energy) as also his liberated state are in reality a state of our own soul, because there is an eternal rule, no matter how much a soul may be obscured by excessive karmas, yet his central eight space points – *rucaka pradesa* – located near the naval, are forever and at all times free of karmas, like those of a Siddha. Therefore, even today, when our inner, partially liberated state completely reveals itself outwards, then that itself is the state of a liberated soul.

3 to 9 – Likewise, 3 – **Acarya’s**, 4 – **Upadhyaya’s**, 5 – **Sadhu’s** virtues like self-restraint, knowledge, vigilance along with 6 – **right perception**, 7 – **right knowledge**, 8 – **right conduct** and 9 – **austerities** are all in our pure inherent nature, virtues of our own pure soul.

Contemplation on Navapad is contemplation on the soul’s intrinsic nature and virtues.

(Above extracted and adapted from Sripal Ras by P & S P Kapadia)



THE SIDDHACHAKRA YANTRA (Also known as Navapad)

'Siddha' – Liberated Soul

'Chakra' – Freedom from karmic bondage

'Yantra' – Mystical diagram

When one worships the Siddhachakra Yantra, one's soul becomes liberated from karmic bondages.

- In the centre is the Arihant - the embodied liberated soul
- On the top of the Arihant is Siddha - the perfect supreme soul
- On the right side of the Arihant is Acharya - example of teaching and practice
- Below Arihant is Upadhyaya - a Jain religious teacher
- On the left of the Arihant is the Sadhu - living simplicity
- Between the Siddha and Acharya represents faith (Darshan)
- Between the Acharya and Upadhyaya represents knowledge (Gyan)
- Between the Upadhyaya and Sadhu represents conduct (Charita)
- Between the Sadhu and siddha represents penance & forbearance (Tapa)