



# ARANATH BHAGWAN

**Janma Kalyanak**

"Om Hrim Shri Aranath  
Arhate Namah"

**Magsar  
Sud Dassam**

**Nirvan Kalyanak**

"Om Hrim Shri Aranath  
Parangatay Namah"

## A PRAYER AMONG FRIENDS

*By John Daniel*

Among other wonders of our lives,  
we are alive

With one another, we walk here  
In the light of an unlikely world  
That isn't ours for long.

May we spend generously  
The time we are given.

May we enact our responsibilities  
As thoroughly as we enjoy

Our pleasures. May we see with clarity,  
May we seek a vision

That serves all beings, may we honour  
The mystery surpassing our sight,

And may we hold in our hands  
The gift of good work

And bear it forth whole, as we  
Were borne forth by a power we praise

To this one Earth, this homeland of all  
we love.



# ARANATH BHAGWAN

Aranath (Arnath) Bhagwan is the eighteenth Tirthankara of the current half cycle of time – Avasarpini. Like Kunthunath Bhagwan and Shantinath Bhagwan, Aranath had the rare distinction of achieving two highest statuses in the same birth – one that of a Tirthankara – highest in the spiritual realm and another that of as a Chakravarti – highest in the worldly realm.

**Parents:** King Sudarshan & Queen Mahadevi

**Born in:** Hastinapur, in the state of Uttar Pradesh, Northern India.

His symbol (Lanchan) is Nandhyavarta – a kind of diagram shaped like an elaborate swastika with nine corners. It is one of the eight auspicious symbols or aṣṭamaṅgala. In Jain mythology, the nine points of Nandhyavarta signify nine types of material, mental, physical, and spiritual wealth and treasure. The Nandhyavarta is often made by devotees with rice grains, during rituals in Jain temples.

Aranath Bhagwan is said to be of golden complexion.

After attaining Samyak Darshan, Aranath took three bhavs to attain Moksha.

**Birth 1:** As King Dhanpati of Sushima Nagri, located in Vatsaljan town in the Purva Videh Kshetra of Jambudweep as per Jain cosmology. After a long and successful reign, King Dhanpati became a ascetic after experiencing detachment towards worldly things. After taking diksha, he worshipped the Tirthankaras with great devotion and acquired the auspicious Tirthankara-naam-gotra karma.



**Birth 2:** As a celestial being, spending a long lifespan in 'Graiveyaka' dimension as per Jain cosmology.

**Birth 3:** As Aranath Bhagwan. When Queen Mahadevi conceived, she saw fourteen dreams, which indicated the baby to be born was destined to be a Tirthankara. Aranath remained in his mother's womb for 9 months and 8 days. Whilst pregnant, Queen Mahadevi saw a gem studded wheel (Ara) in a dream. Accordingly, after birth, the boy was named Ara Kumar.

Jain tradition states that he lived 21000 years as a youth, acceded to the Throne, when his father became a ascetic and ruled for 42000 years as a King, and of this he was a Chakravarti for 21000 years.

After this long and successful reign, one day Aranath was contemplating on the ever changing seasons, which sparked a chain of sublime thoughts that lead to complete detachment. He relinquished all his wealth, power and glory and became a ascetic.

After three years, wondering from place to place and doing intense spiritual practices, he achieved Kevakjnana, under a mango tree, in 'Sahasramra' jungle just outside Hastinapur. He had 32 Gandharas, headed by Kumbh. His first sermon (Deshna) was **how to eliminate Rag and dwesh – attachment and aversions.**

His followers included the sixth and seventh Vasudevas and Baldevas and the eighth Chakravarti (Subhum). After completing 21000 years as a ascetic and at his total age of 84000 years, as per Jain tradition, Aranath Bhagwan attained Moksha at Samet Shikhar, with 1000 other souls.