

Our Mask

It chanced upon a winter's night
Safe sheltered from the weather.
The board was spread for only one,
Yet four men dined together.
There sat the man I meant to be
In glory, spurned and booted
And close beside him, to the right
The man I am reputed.
The man I think myself to be
His seat was occupying
Hard by the man I really am
To hold his own was trying
And all beneath one roof we met
Yet none called his fellow brother
No sign of recognition passed
They knew not one another.

Author Unknown

One time, a man was standing outside his house holding his baby in his arms. An acquaintance commented how pretty his child was and the man said, "Oh, this is nothing someday you should come and see his picture album." The acquaintance walked away shaking his head at this strange comment. In real life, we all work so hard to project an image, a perfect picture of our views, intelligence, wealth, education, status, power and very comfortably wear different mask to fit that image. We switch back and forth so easily that it becomes part of our nature. It's not that others do not understand us but we do not understand ourselves. Image mask becomes such a vital part of us that we start to play games with ourselves.

The Japanese say that we all have three faces – the first one – one we show to the world; the second one, the one we show to our close friends and family and lastly the one we never show anyone – this is the truest reflection of who we are.

Jain philosophy teaches that all negativity is generated through not being able to accept reality as it is, whereas positive energy is generated through acceptability. When we accept ourselves as we are and others as they are, the need to wear a mask vanishes away.

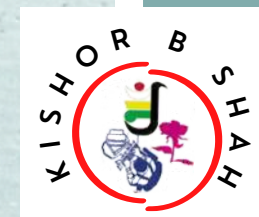


Vasupujya Bhagwan

Kevalgnan Kalyanak – Maha Sud Bij

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

**“Om Hrim Shri VasupujyaSwami
Sarvagnay Namah”**



Know Your Tirthankara

| | |
|---|---|
| Vasupujya Bhagwan – Twelfth Tirthankara | |
| Father | King Vasupujya |
| Mother | Queen Jaya Devi |
| Family / Clan | Ikshvaku |
| Born In | City of Champa Nagri, India. Campa is modern Champapur, in Bihar |
| Lanchan (Symbol) | buffalo |
| Symbolic Colour | Red Complexion |
| After attaining Samyak Darshan, Vasupujya took three bhavs to attain Moksha. | |
| Birth 1 | as King Padmottar, who was devoted to spiritual practices and later in his life took diksha. Due to his penance and spiritual practices, he acquired the Tirthankara naam and gotra karma |
| Birth 2 | As a celestial being |
| Birth 3 | Vasupujya Bhagwan |
| Height | 70 Bows |



Panch Kalyanaks

| |
|--------------------------|
| Chavan Klayanak |
| Jeth Sud Nom |
| Janma Kalyanak |
| Maha Vad Chaudas |
| Diksha Kalyanak |
| Maha Vad Amas |
| Kevalgnan Kalyanak |
| Maha Sud Bij |
| Nirvan (Moksha) Kalyanak |
| Ashadh Sud Chaudas |

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| Naming | Whilst Queen Jaya Devi was pregnant, the King of gods, Indra came to convey his veneration, both to the unborn baby and mother. As Indra is also known as Vasu, the new-born was named as Vasupujya (venerated by Vasu). |
| Diksha Palanquin | Pruthvi |
| Place of Diksha | Vihargraha, Gardens in Champa |
| Breaking Fast | house of King Sunanda in the town of Mahāpura |
| Time as Ascetic | 1 month |
| Place of Kevaljnana | Vihargraha, Gardens in Champa |
| Tree | Patal Tree |
| Deshna (First Sermon) | first sermon – Deshna was on Dharma Durlabh Bhavana |
| No of Gandharas | 66 – Chief Gandhara – Suksma |
| Yaksha Yakshi | Kumara Candra |
| Sangh | Monks – 72K Nuns – 100K – led by Dharaṇīdharā Laymen – 215K Laywomen – 436K |
| Place of Moksha | Champa Nagri |
| No of Ascetics who attained Moksha with Bhagwan | 600 |
| Lifespan | 7,200,000 years |