

SALIENT FEATURES OF JAINISM



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Evolution of Religions



Early man knew "one" and "two" Some primitives used "many" to signify three.



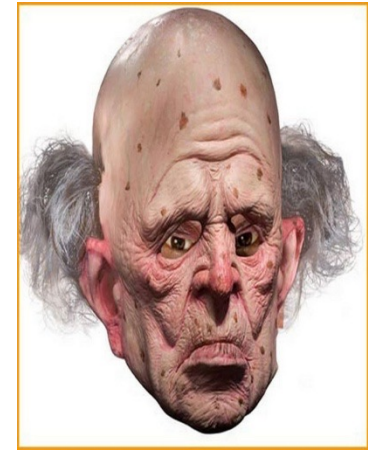
Why and How?



Why and How?



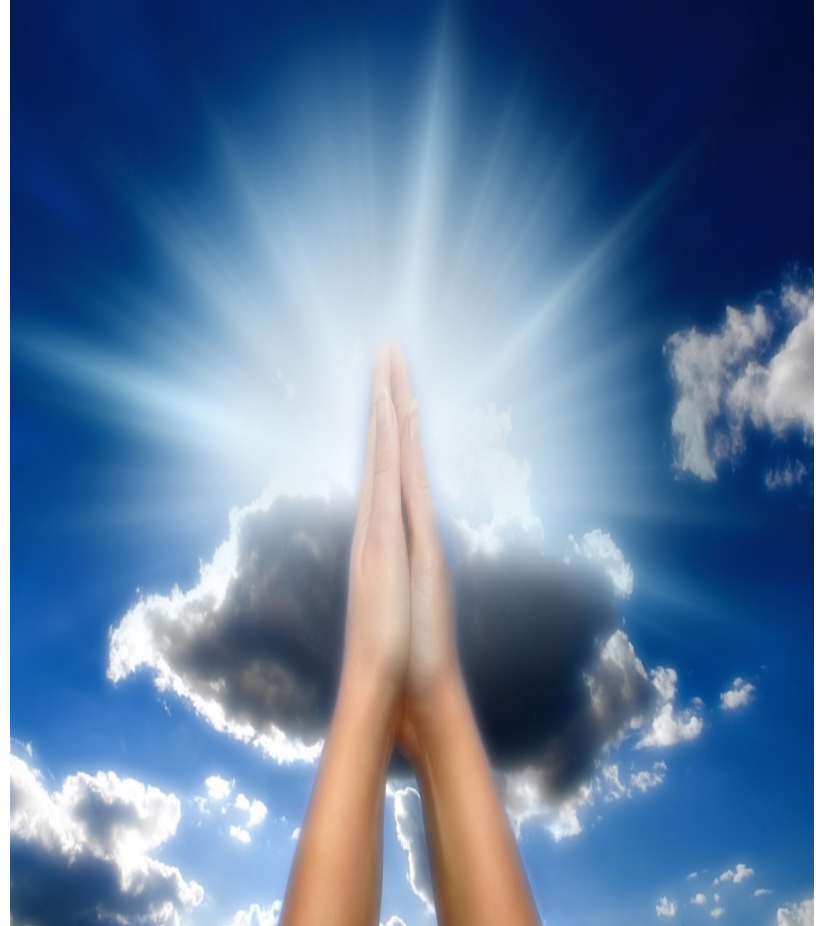
Earthquake damage photo from Wikipedia



Sky Gods !



Pleasing Gods.....



Social Evils of Early Civilization

Evils

- 1) Blind Faiths/ Superstitious
- 2) Exploitations of common people
- 3) Slavery
- 4) Caste System Hierarchy
- 5) Gender Discrimination and sexual abuses
- 6) Animal Sacrifice /Human too
- 7) Use of Intoxicants in Rituals

Self impurities

Anger

Ego

Cheating

Greed

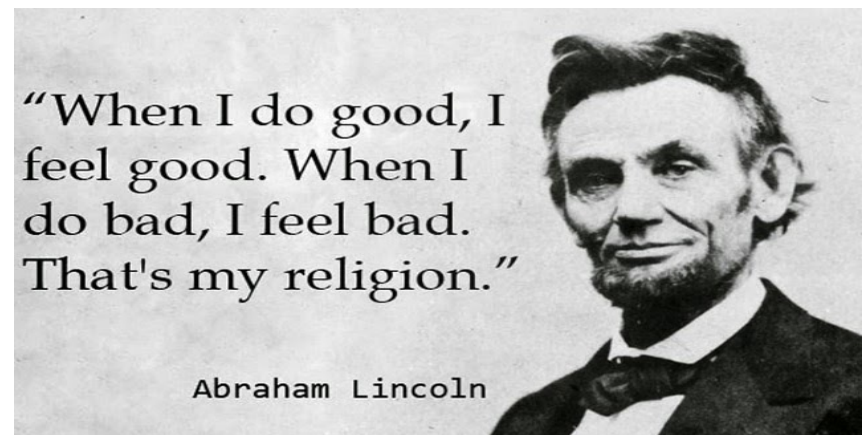
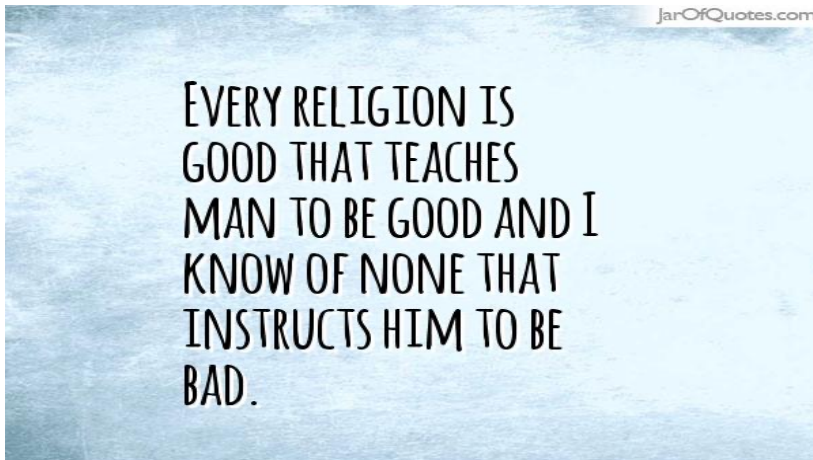
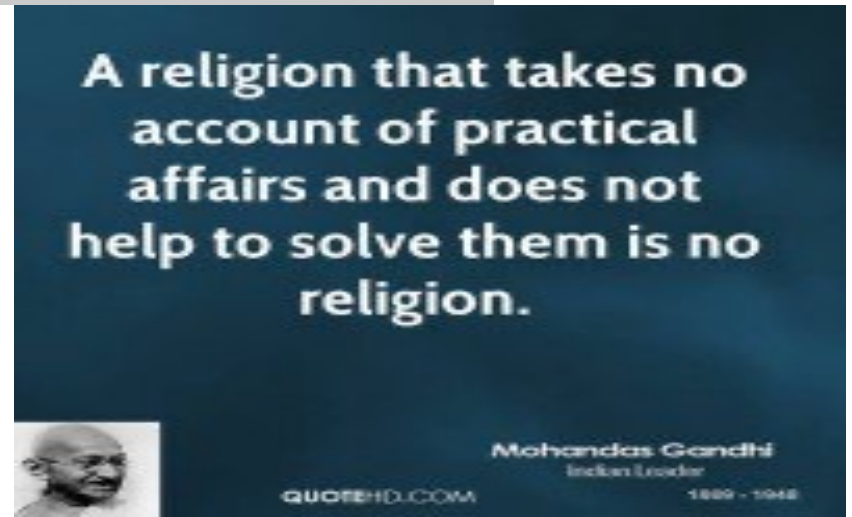
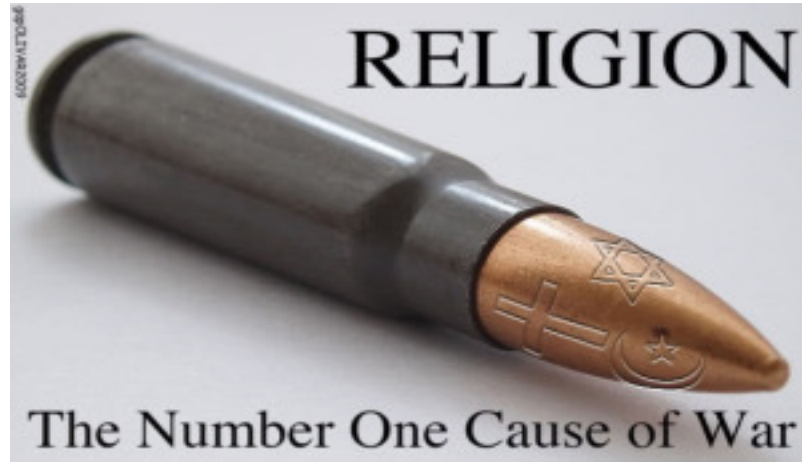
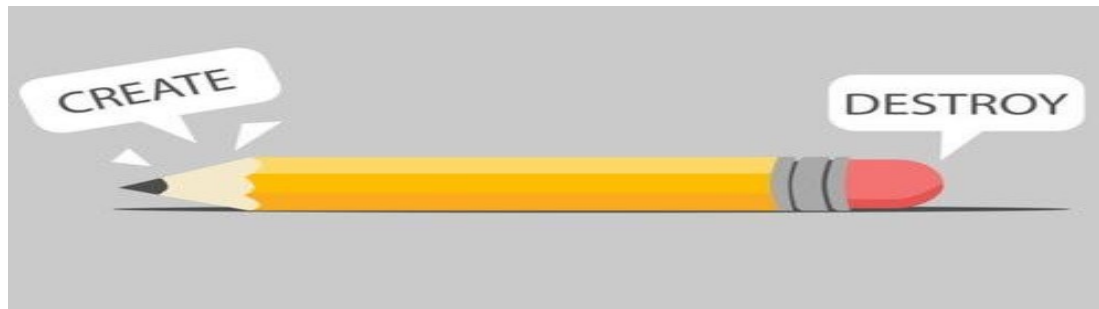


Reformers in 6th Century BCE!



What does Religion mean?

The term religion etymologically goes back to '*re-ligare*' in Latin which means 'to bind together'. Hence if any so-called religion or religious belief does not bind people together and only spreads discord among people, it ceases to be a religion in this sense.



INDIAN RELIGIONS

VEDIC TRADITION

- Mainly Hinduism
- Believes in Creator God
- Accepts Vedic authorities & Rituals
- Brahmin Supremacy
- Caste system
- Focus on *Grahasthashram*
- Grace and interference of God or Divine Power



SHRAMAN TRADITIONS

- Mainly Jainism & Buddhism
- No creator God
- Rejects Vedas
- No superiority of any caste
- Focus is on Asceticism or *Shramanata*
- No Divine Grace or Interference of God



I AM WRITER OF
MY OWN DESTINY

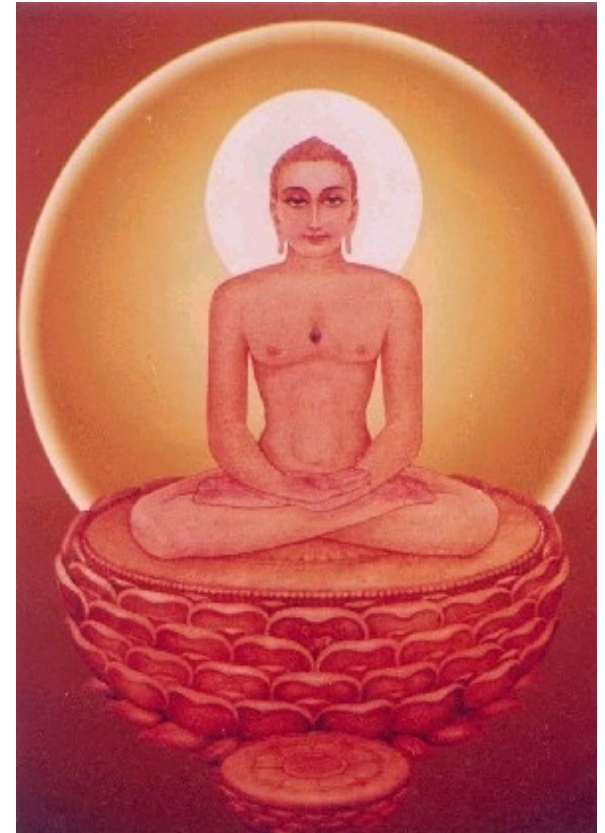


परस्परोग्रहो जीवानाम्

Tirthankar Mahaveer

Great social and spiritual reformer.

- Fight against animal sacrifice in religious rituals.
- Anti caste system.
- Against exploitations by *Brahmins*.
- No gender discrimination
- Valued Self purification more than God's grace by self efforts
- Used local language for *Upadesh*

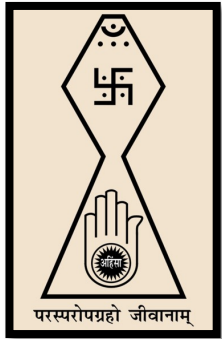


**EQUALITY OF ALL LIVING BEINGS-NON VIOLENCE
EQUANIMITY FOR INNER PEACE- HAPPINESS**

What is so special about being Jain?



Uniqueness Of Jainism : Has All Elements Of Civic Society



- **Laws** : No Law less-ness/Fearlessness
- **Personal Equality** : All lives are equal- weakest Jiva to even Tirthankars
- **Responsibility** : Purushartha/Karma theory/emphasis on **SELF**
- **Coexistence** : Parasparopagraho Jivanam-Ajivanam
- **All Inclusive** : **Anekantavad:** Respect different or opposite views
- **Social Equality** : Truth/non stealing/ Non interference (Ahimsa):
Aparigrah: highest communism/minimalism
- **Equal Opportunity Provider** : Emphasis on Knowledge physical/psychological and spiritual development of all
- **Purpose of Life** : Eternal Happiness

Worthy Of Becoming A Globally Acceptable Philosophy,
(if you remove Jainism)

It is Anant Gyan : We limited to Ahimsa

Ancient & Living Religion



- Jainism is one of the most ancient religion, even historian accepts its existence beyond 3000 years
- Kharvel inscriptions

EQUALITY

Not only Human beings
but all living beings
are Equal

I am potentially
Parmatma

Respect

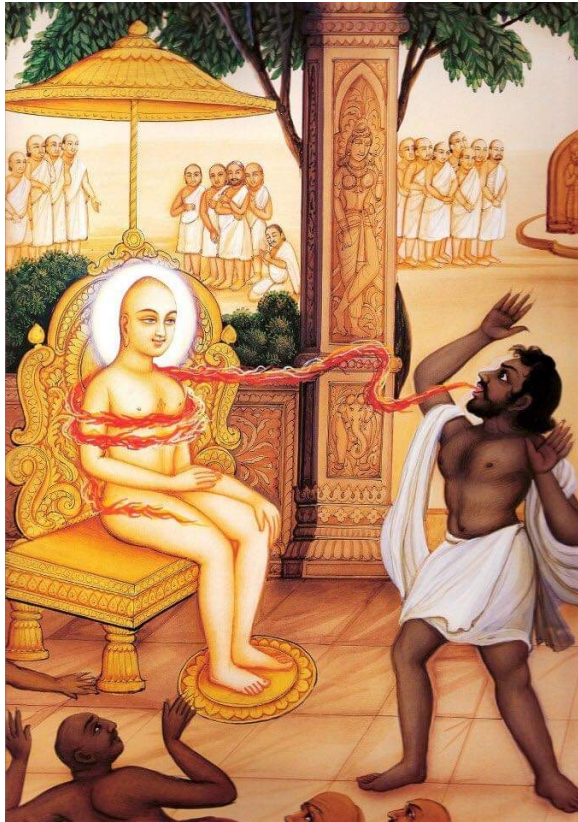
Love

Compassion

Human-Animals
Plants-Earth-Water



Equanimity



No Divine interference
Only my Karmas decide my destiny



I can become *Parmatama*



Virtue focused- not individual focused

Ancient living Religion of World

- Jainism focuses more on virtues for self purification and not on worship of individuals
- It is called Jain *Darshan* or *Vitrag Darshan* or *Anekant Darshan* but not *Mahavir Darshan* or *Rushabh Darshan*
- It is one of the ancient living religion of the world
- Jain worship of *Tirthankara* is not for grace or favours but to enhance the virtues of individuals.



**CARDINAL PRINCIPLES OF
JAIN PHILOSOPHY**

NON VIOLENCE (Reverence to life)

AHIMSA

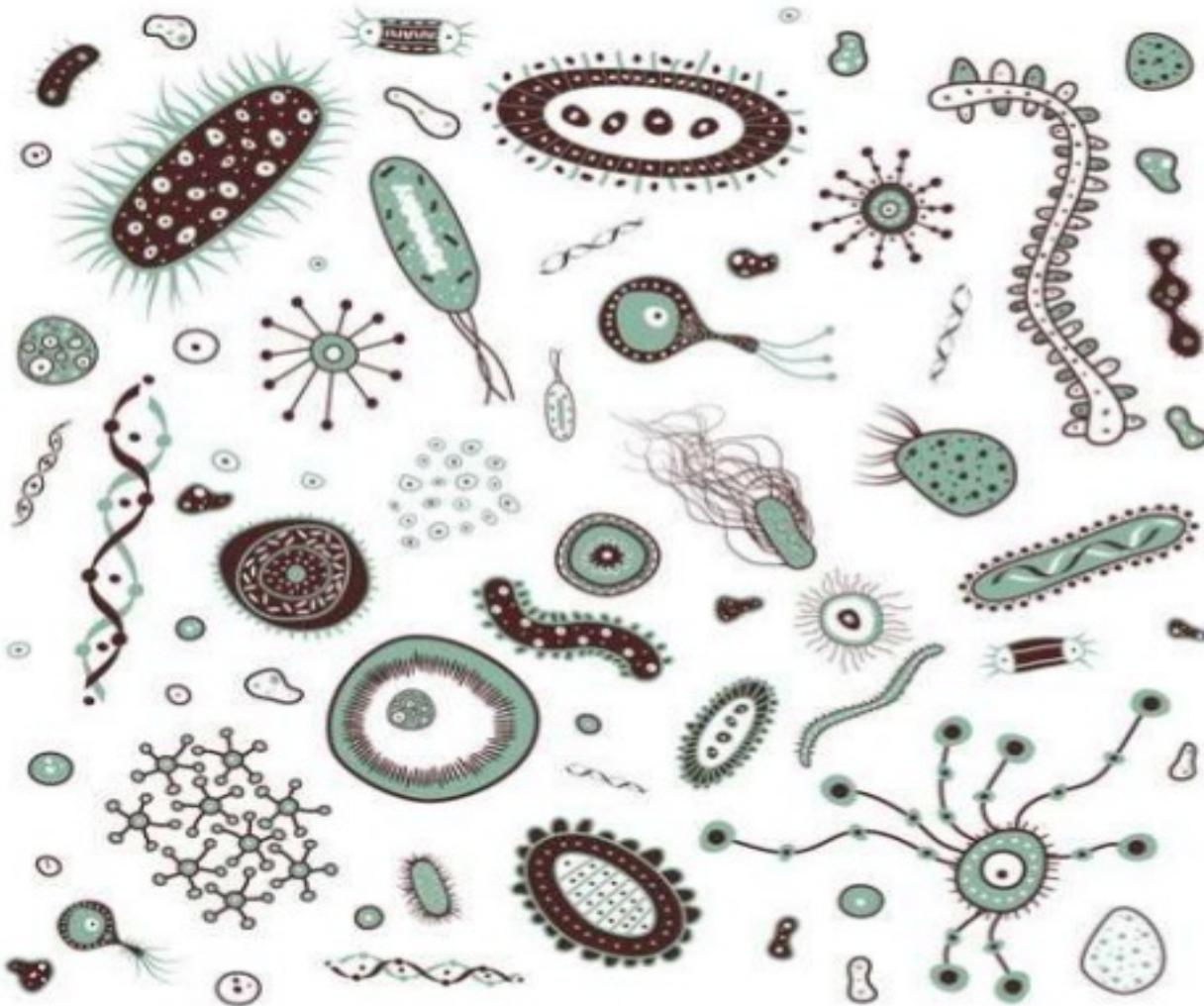
NON ATTACHMENT

APARIGRAH

TRUTH IS MULTY-FACETED

ANEKANT

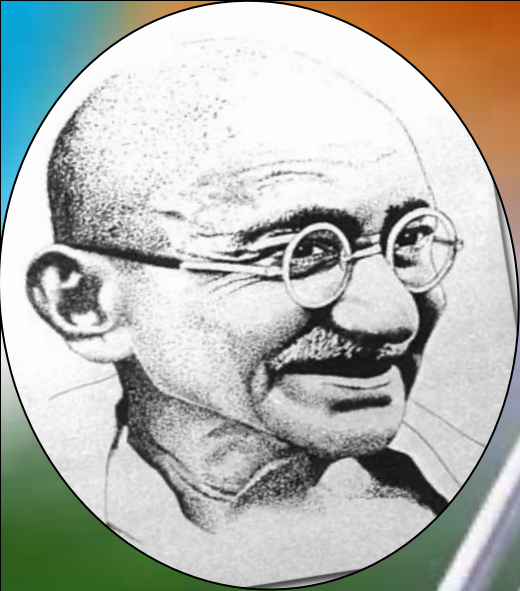
Care for minutest living beings



Microbes

- Prion
- Viruses
- Bacteria
- Parasites





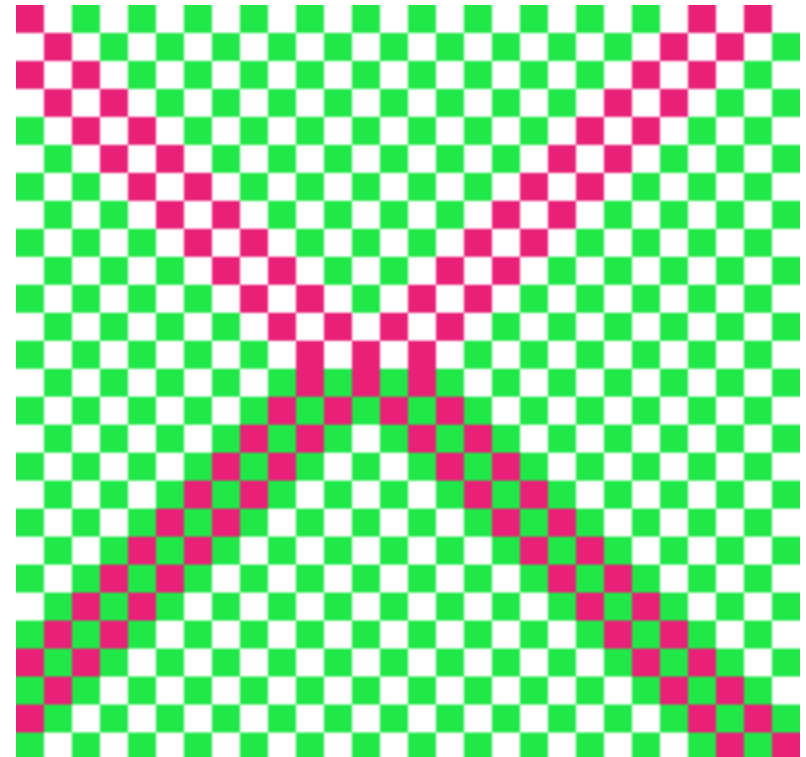
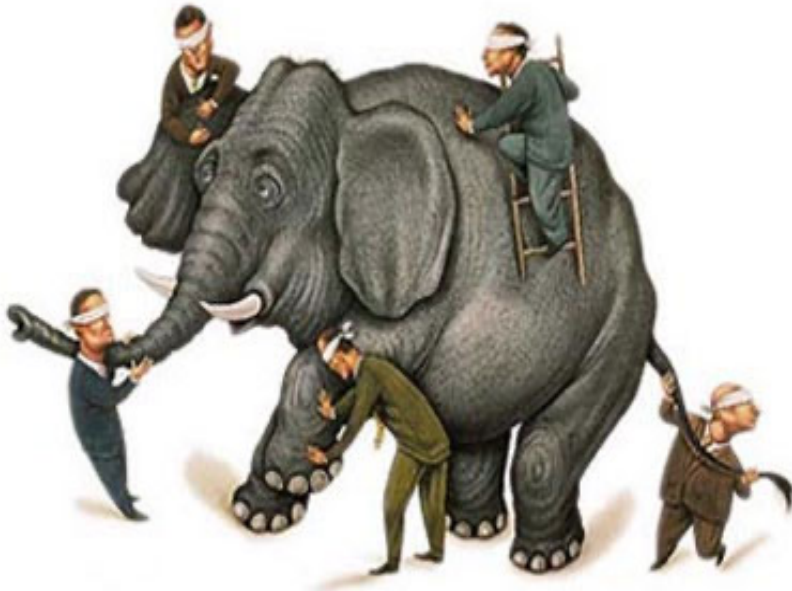
**“Ahimsa” (Non-Violence)
is the Greatest Weapon**

Anekant- Multiple Views of Truth

**I'M
RIGHT
AND
YOU'RE
WRONG.**



Anekant- Multiple Views of Truth



Aparigrah

Trusteeship of your Wealth



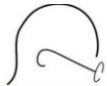
Trusteeship is about

Welfare of others



Trusteeship is about

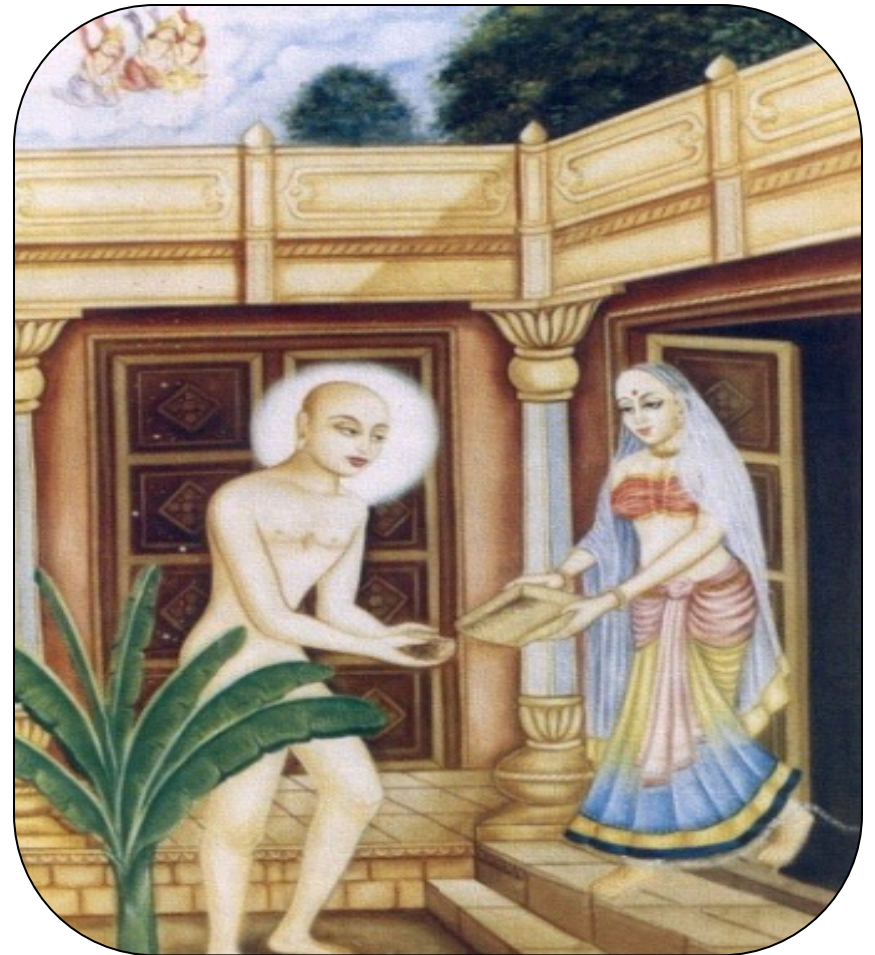
Non violence

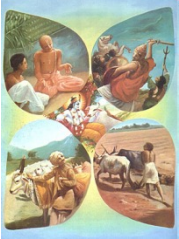


Trusteeship is about

Economic Equity

Gender Equality

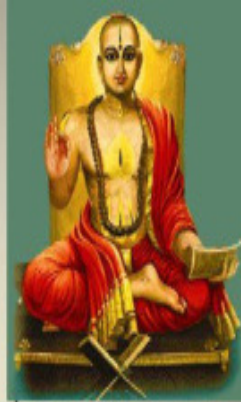




No caste hierarchy in Jains

Brahmins

- Brahmins are priests
- Brahmins performed rituals for gods
- Brahmins are on the top of the caste system
- Brahmins were seen to have the highest varna
- The Vedas are the primary source of knowledge for Brahmin practices



ECO-FRIENDLY ECO SPIRITUAL



Water- Plants –Air
are living beings
Care & Love





- Science -



JAGDISH CHANDRA
BOSE

Plants have Life

- Jainism -

"Plant is *Vanaspati* – *Kaya Jiva*"

- Science -

Discovered the first microscope to demonstrate the minute forms of life around 400 years back



- Jainism-

Classification of "*Jiva*" describes "*Shukhma Jiva*" in extensive detail around 2600 years back

Caution, Can't be fanatics!



As we exist in multi-religion and multi-cultured society we need to respect others' religions views and traditions.

Jainism in Practice



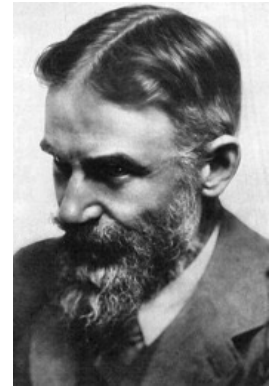
Jainism-Diet Rules- Physical Health

- Freshly prepared food
- Avoid food at night
- Vegetarianism
- Boiled water
- Concept of physical and mental effects of food

Non Violence at its root

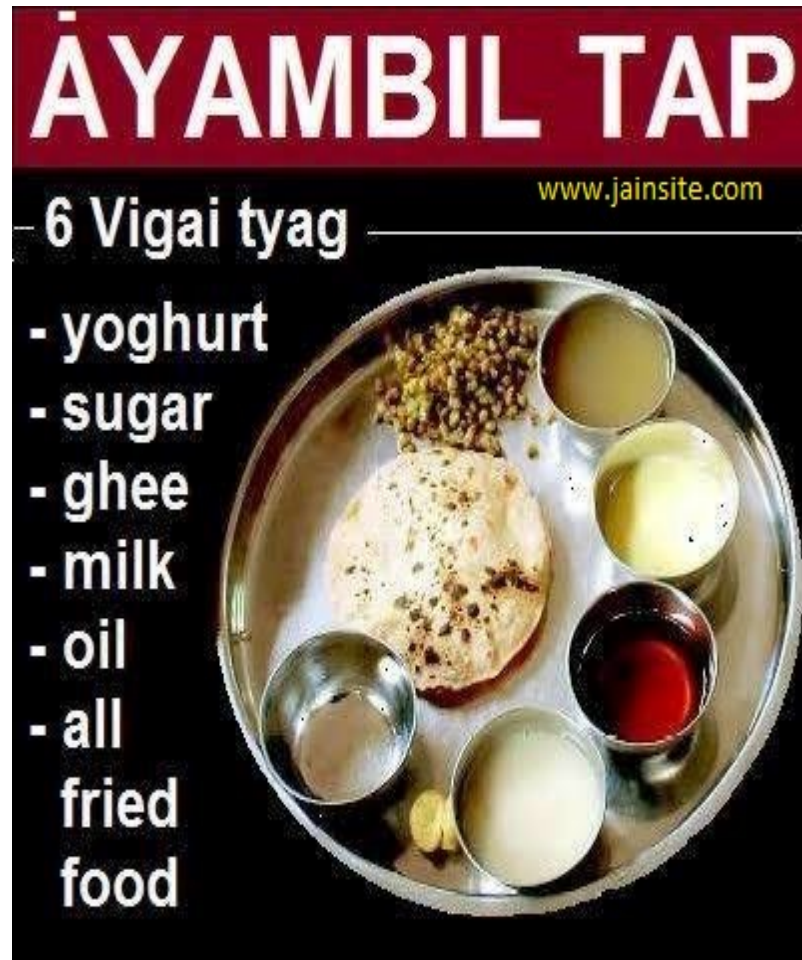
“I choose not to make a graveyard of my body for the rotting corpses of dead animals.”

[George Bernard Shaw](#)



Rituals & Fasting

Ayambil-Upavas-Worship

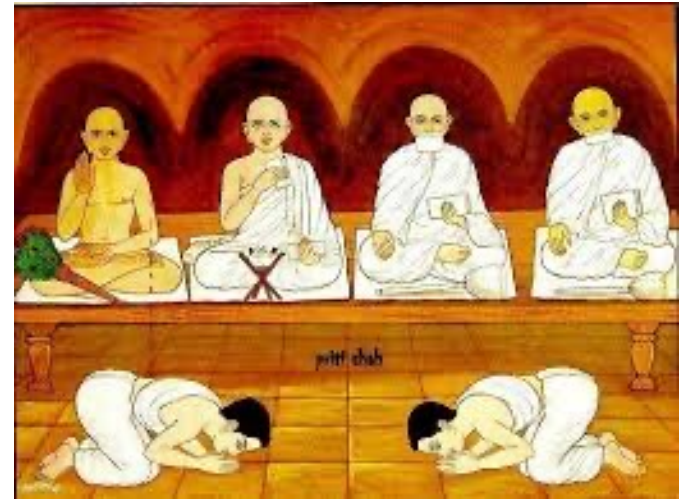


- Mostly Faith based practices
- Traditional and Collective
- Very soothing for common *Sadhak*

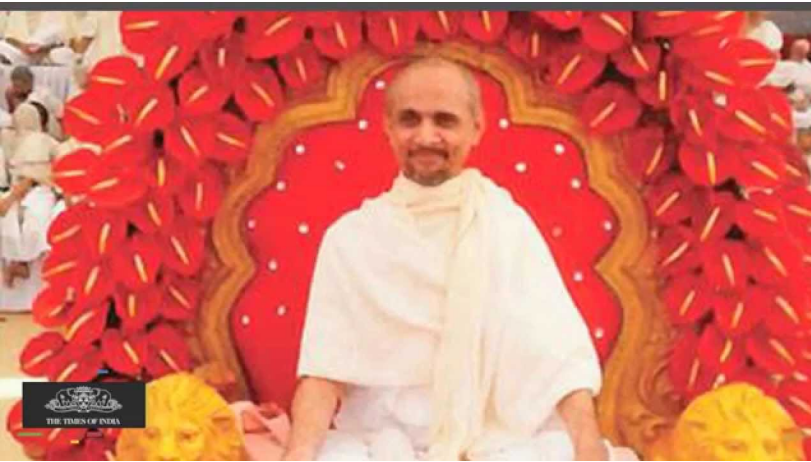


Jain Monks- Unparallel

Vows	Meaning
Ahimsa	Non-Injury
Satya	Non-Lying
Asteya	Non-Stealing
Aparigraha	Non-Possession
Brahmacharya	Chastity



Penance-Tapa



- Hansratnavijayji M S doing 423 days of fasting in 494 days creates history

- Do as per your capacity
- Train your body for long fasting
- Take care of health- Good health is necessary for spiritual growth
- External & Internal penance

Jaina Way Of Happy Life

Mental Happiness- Control Kashays

- 1. *Krodh* - Anger - *Kshama* -Forgiveness**
- 2. *Maan* - Ego/pride - *Namrata* -Egolessness**
- 3. *Maya* - Deceit - *Saralata* -Straightness**
- 4. *Lobha* - Greed - *Santosh* -Satisfaction**

Jain's Meditative Practices- Equanimity



Samayik
Pratikraman
Kausagg
Dhyan

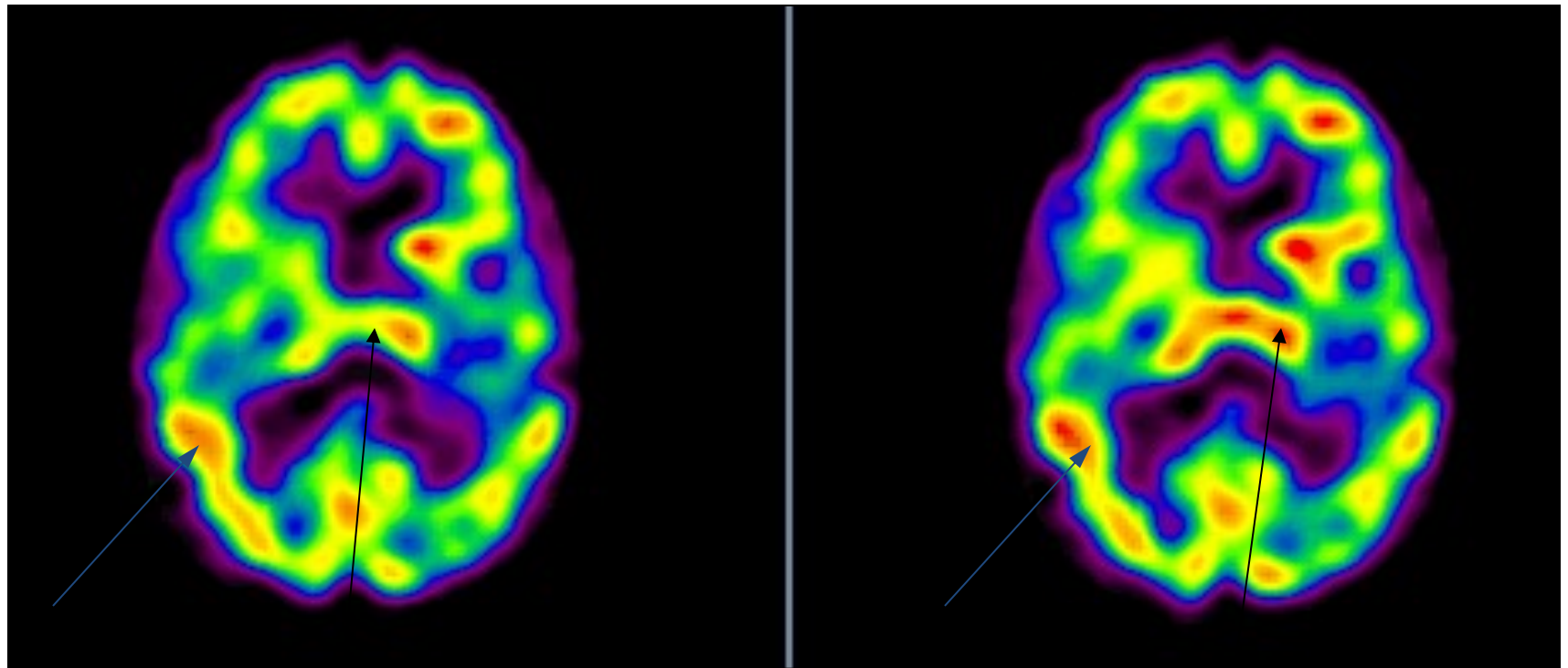
RELEASES STRESS
GIVES MENTAL PEACE
SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Comparison of Baseline to Prayer scan

Limbic inhibition

Baseline Scan

Prayer Scan



LIMBIC

LIMBIC

Happy living with others- 4 Bhavanas

1. *Maitri* (Friendship)
2. *Pramod* (Appreciation)
3. *Karuna* (Compassion)
4. *Madhyasta*(Equanimity)

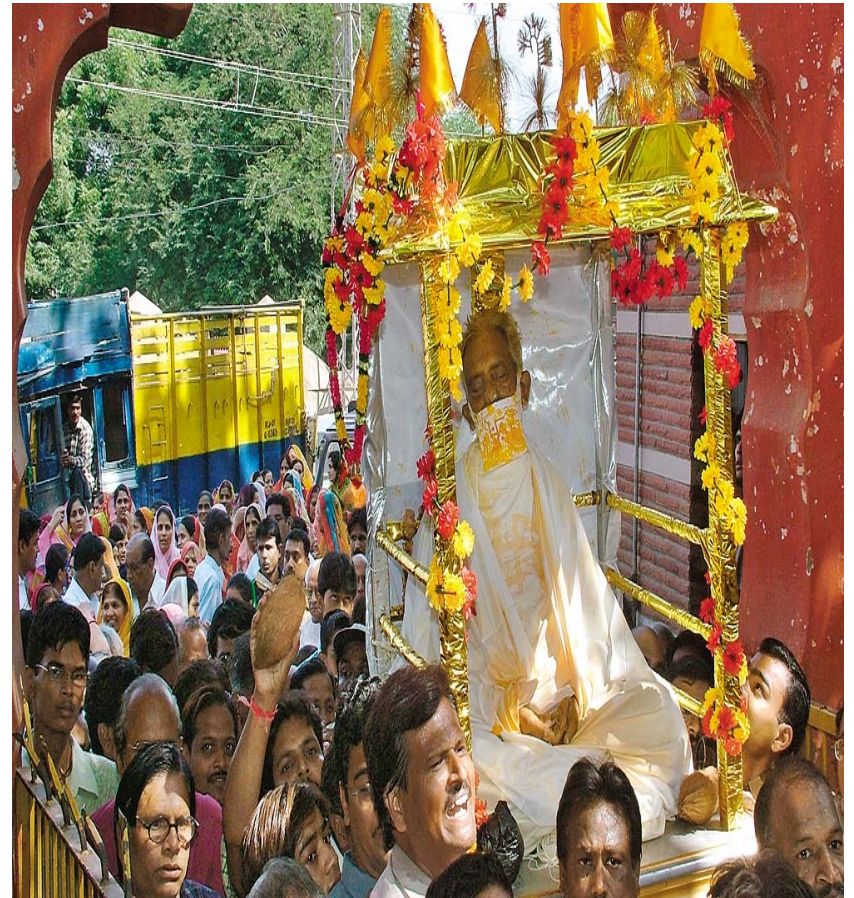


We cannot always
change circumstances
but
we can change our
attitude

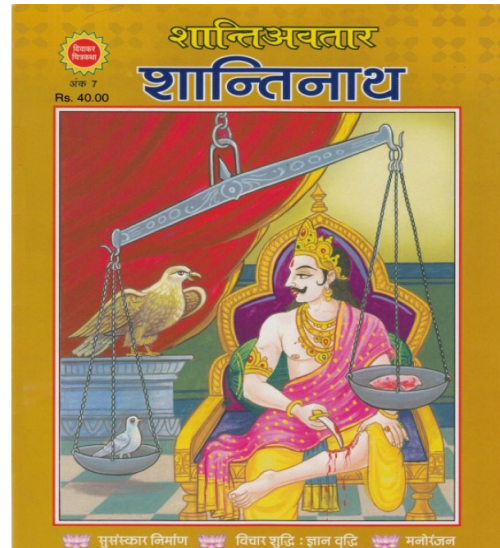
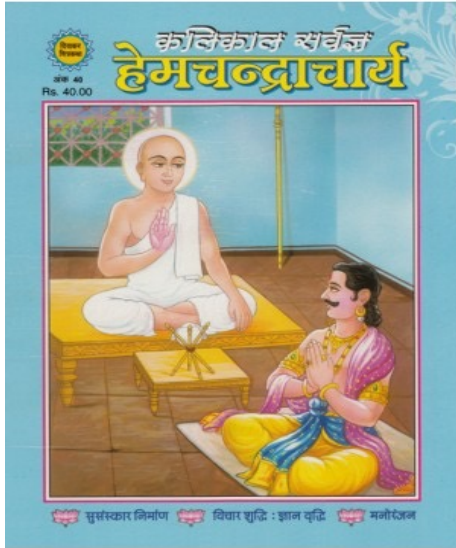


Art of Dying- Peaceful Death (Santhara)

When a person is having very old age or incurable disease, with permission of family and *Sadhu Bhagwant* decides to end his life leaving all his *Kashays* (Passions) and gradually leaves food and water till the end of his life, to die peacefully and with equanimity. This is a spiritual vow and not suicide.



Some Glories of Jain Tradition



Emperor Akbar 's Farman



- *Emperor Akbar* issued a '**FARMAN**' in the year 1592 to pay respect to **Acharya Hirvijaysuri** of **swetamber** sect.
- He declared the possession of **Siddhachal, Girnar, Taranga, Kesariyanath, Abu, Rajgir, Sametshikhar** and all the places of Jain worship and pilgrimage to Jains.
- He **prohibited slaughter** on these places.
- He **abolished the tax** at the places of Jain pilgrimages.

Bhamashah And Rana Pratap



- Today word “Bhamashah” is synonymous word for a great donor.
- Bhamashah’s great help to emperor Rana Pratap to fight Moguls is well recognized in the history for his attempts to save Indian Religions and Culture.

Virchand Gandhi



In 1893, in his lecture about 'The Jain Philosophy' he said, "You know my brothers and sisters, that we are not an independent nation. We are subjects of Her Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria the 'defender of the faith', but if we were a nation in all that, name implies with our own government and our own rulers, with our laws and institutions controlled by us free and independent, I affirm that we should seek to establish and forever maintain peaceful relations with all the nations of the world".



Jain Art & Architecture



First rock inscription in Marathi Language is of Jains

The oldest inscription in Marathi language, written in 981 CE is at the feet of the giant statue of **Gomteshwara** at **Shravanbelgola**.



Ranakpur Temple – 5th Century

- This temple was built under the kingdom of ‘**Rana Kumbha**’ by great Jain merchant ‘**Dharnasha**’.
- It is interesting to note that 90% of Jain temples are gift of **one single wealthy individual**.



Khajuraho Jain Temples - 9th Century



This temple was built by **'Candelas dynasty'**.

King Bhoj - 9th Century

- King of Kanoj
- Preached and propagated Jainism under the influence of **'Acharya Govindsuri'**.

Ellora Caves – 9th Century



These ancient cave temples suggest that Jains were influential in Maharashtra.

Indra Sabha (Courtyard)



Ellora Caves, Maharashtra 8th-10th Century

Delwada Temples – Abu

10th to 12th Century



In 12th century AD. **'Vastupal and Tejpal'** – Jain Ministers of Baghelas constructed these magnificent Jain Monuments.

Most ancient Rock inscription in Maharashtra is that of Jains



“Namo Arhanta” is the rock inscription found in Jain Caves at Pale(Paaley) at Naane Ghatt in Pune district

Jain's Contribution to Indian languages

Many classical texts are in **Sanskrit** (Tatvartha Sutra, Puranas, Kosh, Sravakacara, mathematics, Nighantus etc)

संस्कृत

தமிழ்

Great ancient **Tamil** books titled Silapathigaram, Seevaka Sinthamani, Manimegalai, Naaladiyar, etc. were written by Jain scholars

The works of Jain writers Adikavi Pampa, Sri Ponna and Ranna, collectively called the "three gems of Kannada literature", heralded the age of classical **Kannada** in the 10th century

ಕನ್ನಡ

ગુજરાતી

The earliest known Gujarati text, Bharat-Bahubali Ras, was written by a Jain monk. Some important people in Gujarat's Jain history were Acharya Hemacandra Suri and his pupil, the Chalukya ruler Kumarapala

Jains as philanthropists



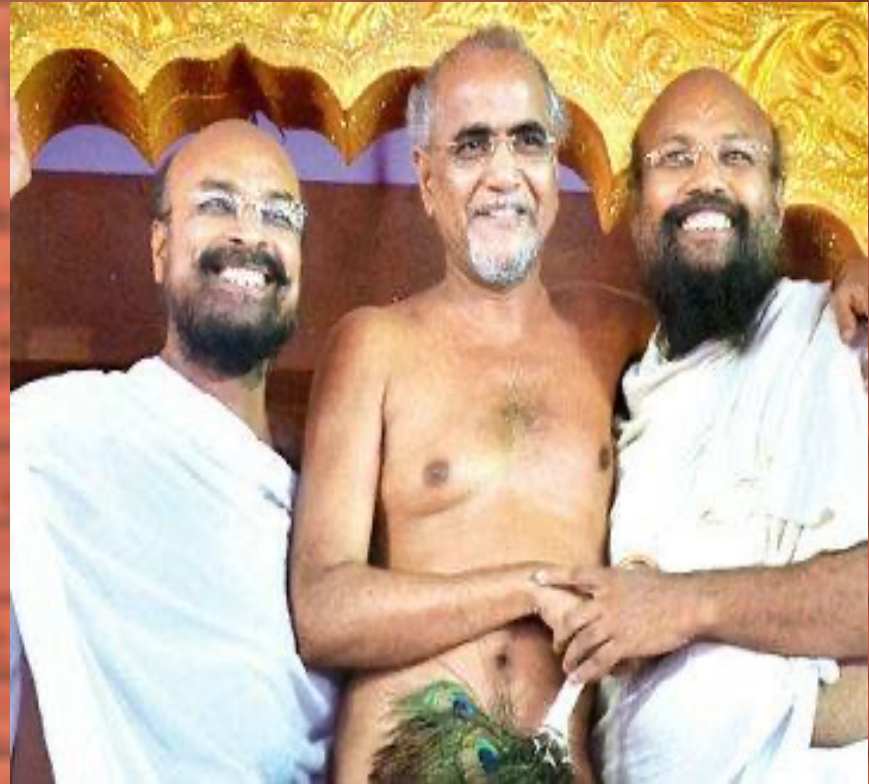
Natural Disasters- Jains Ready to Serve



MAJOR JAINA SECTS

Unity in Diversity

- *DIGAMBARAS*
- *MURTIPUJAKS*
- *STANAKVASI*
- *TERAPANTHI*
- *SHRIMAD RAJCHANDRA*
- *KANJISWAMI*



Yes, Jains have proved their commitment of Universal Welfare

Save our planet



We believe in

- Equality
- Non-violence
- Trusteeship of Wealth
- Tolerance to diverse views
- Environment Protection

Uniqueness of Jain Tradition in brief

- Ancient tradition -3000 years

Historically

- **Non-Prophetic, Non-Vedic and living tradition**

- No creator or Gods that governs, operates or destroys the universe

- **Anyone can become God (Parmatma)**

- Equality of all living beings

- **Non violence to minutest living beings including earth, water, air and plants**

- No discrimination at any level

- **Equanimity to most possible level**

- Minimalism

- **Eco Friendliness (Respect to earth, water, air, plants and all living beings)**

- Tolerance to multiple views

- **Strong believer of theory of Karma**
I am writer of my own destiny

- **Unparallel Monkhood**

- Vegetarianism and veganism

- **Enormous contribution not only to India but worldwide in spite of being minuscule in numbers**

(Economical. Cultural, Art & Architect, Literature, Languages, Philanthropy any more areas)

- **Truly Scientific- Believes in laws of nature, even law of Karma is law of nature**

THANK YOU

