



Inner Reflections

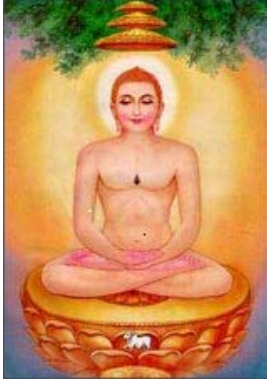
JAIN VISHWA BHARATI OF NORTH AMERICA

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THUS SPOKE MAHAVIR



*Jo sahassam sahassaanam
Samgaame dujjae jine
Egam jinejja appaanam
Esa se paramo jao*

One who vanquishes millions of warriors in an invincible war still loses out to another who has conquered his mind and senses - as the latter is the ultimate victory.

MESSAGE FROM ACHARYA MAHAPRAJNA

LOVE IN JAINISM

According to Jain philosophy, non-violence, sociability, compassion and peaceful co-existence



are the forms of love par excellence. In the context of worldly affairs, the meaning of the word 'love' is the feeling of attachment to and

affection for the body or material objects. A person unites himself or herself with another person only with the thread of love. Without physical love, the institution of family cannot come

into existence: the mother cannot care for her child, nor can the organization become strong. There is no doubt that love imposes its sense of unity on what is otherwise perceived as duality.

Yet bodily love often becomes a cause of conflict and malice among people. This kind of love does not belong to the 'pure category,' but, because it is inevitable for sustenance of life, it falls under the category of "mine-ness" (*mamatva*) or possessiveness. *Bhagwan* Mahavir has classified 'possession' into three types: 1. Love for body 2. Love for material objects 3. Possession of *Karmic Sanskars* (imprints of past actions on consciousness). The first two kinds of love fall into the category of '*mamatva*.' There is a concomitance between *mamatva* and fear. The apprehension that 'something wrong may happen to the body' or 'that whatever I have may be lost' generates tension, which continues to lurk over man knowingly or unknowingly. Therefore, in the category of *mamatva*, love is a mixture of both happiness and suffering.

Spiritual love necessarily implies submission and total absorption of the self into the ideal. There is extensive discussion about it in the Jain system of meditation and also in the Jain poems composed in the form of eulogy and devotion. The following verse from the *Kalyan Mandir* (one of the most famous eulogistic Jain poems) may be cited as a self-explanatory proof for it — "O Lord! When you are in my heart, all my bondages get shattered, all my problems get solved just as the snakes at once run away from the tree of Sandalwood with the arrival of the peacocks." One can only feel but cannot describe how much the heart of a devotee is replete with bliss and affection.

No individual with self-consciousness would like to become a peon, slave or a servant. In the Jain tradition, high-esteem is given more importance than humility. High esteem is towards one's ideal.

Humility is an explicit form of love. High esteem is an implicit form of love. An individual with devotion surrenders himself to the Ideal by dissolving his ego. There is a natural awakening of the feelings of submission in an individual who has an unshakable faith in his religion or his ideal. Love for religion and love for the ideal are sublime and spiritual. The wider the horizon of affection, the more is the development of consciousness and this ultimately leads one to the path of supreme welfare and real truth. "*Anuragat viragah*"—detachment is born out of affection. This saying points to this reality. The path of affection born out of worldly attachments leads towards materialism, while pure consciousness is the destination of love that arises from the dissolution of delusion. The affection born out of delusion creates illusion in human beings. Very often, people give utmost importance only to material objects, wealth and sexual lust. The affection for religion takes root only when delusion wanes. Although materialistic attachment is inevitable for sustenance of life, the affection for religion is imperative for truthful life.

One special characteristic has been mentioned for a *Shravak* (devotee) of Lord Mahavir: "*Atthiminjapemaanuraagaratta*" (*Bhagavati*, 2/94) - the devotees' affection for religion penetrates their bones and marrow. For absolute love and total submission, it is imperative that bones and marrow should be saturated with affection. Genuine love becomes deeply cultivated and gets transformed into *Sanskar* i.e., it is deeply imprinted on the mind. Only love that becomes deeply rooted penetrates the bones and marrow. Just as love born out of worldly attachment may penetrate the bone and marrow, so may spiritual love. One may ask: If love is dominated with worldly attachment, then how can worldly attachment and renunciation be made compatible?

We can trace out the source of compatibility between worldly attachment and renunciation by keeping in view the philosophy of *Anekant*. Both

renunciation and attachment are relative. When there is attachment towards materialism, detachment towards consciousness is created. When attachment towards consciousness exists, detachment towards materialism becomes natural.

Love that is defined by bodily attachment generates problems. It can lead a person towards a criminal life. At present many kinds of crimes are increasing due to this lust for physical attachment. On the other hand, spiritual love solves our problems and uplifts our consciousness. Renunciation of worldly attachment and sublimation are Jain practices that help solve the intricate problems caused by attachment to physical pleasure. Sublimation has the potential to bring down the graph of social crimes and open new dimensions for spiritual development.

JVBNA MISSION STATEMENT

- To spread the universal message of Jain philosophy and Jain wisdom to the world
- To cultivate an atmosphere that nurtures nonviolence, restraint and divergent perspectives, whereby leading to spiritual enlightenment for man
- To create an environment of unity and social harmony for all mankind

GOCHARI LABH

To arrange for Gochari Labh, please contact
Vijaya Daga at (732) 326-9018 or Varsha
Mehta at (732) 452-0630

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JVBNA Newsletter - Inner Reflections - is published quarterly. You can become a full (\$501) or a part sponsor (\$251) of the upcoming issues. Please call JVBNA at (732) 404-1430 for information.

THE EDITORIAL TEAM WISHES YOU SPIRITUAL BLISS ON PARYUSHAN & DASLAKSHAN

ADVISOR - Samani Muditpragyaji
ADVISOR - Samani Sanghapragyaji

EDITOR - Madhumita Sacheti
KIDS CORNER EDITOR - Arham Jain

JVBNA EVENTS IN THE RECENT PAST

JVBNA CELEBRATES MAHAVIR JAYANTI AND AKSHAY TRITIYA

Jains observe Mahavir Jayanti to celebrate the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Mahavir, the 24th Jain Tirthankar and Akshay Tritiya to honor that fateful day when the 1st Jain Tirthankar Bhagwan Rishabhdev accepted parna after a year of penance and fasting. JVBNA commemorated Mahavir Jayanti and Akshay Tritiya on April 15 with a special celebration at American Legion Hall in Iselin, NJ in the presence of Samani Muditpragyaji and Samani Sanghapragyaji. The program commenced with a melodious rendering of 'Om Rishabhaya Namah.' About fifteen enthusiastic children of JVB Gyanshala inspired the audience as they spoke about their personal take-home lessons from the life and teachings of Bhagwan Rishabhdev and Bhagwan Mahavir. The youngest Gyanshala kids regaled the audience with a song number extolling the virtues of the Tirthankars. The young also presented an interesting symposium on the life of Bhagwan Rishabhdev. This year's Akshay Quiz Contest, was once again, very well received with many enthusiastic participants and a very involved audience. There was a popular demand to hold this contest every year. Samani Sanghapragyaji talked about her thoughts on the subject of 'Who is Mahavir?' and Samani Muditpragyaji presented the life and teachings of Bhagwan Rishabhdev in a fascinating and lively manner. At the conclusion of the program, the participants took vows to render the day memorable. Sadharmik Vatsalya followed. The event was attended by a full house of members and guests from the tri-state area and was deemed a grand success.

Around this period of time, samanijis also traveled within New Jersey and to New York and Florida to participate and lead the Mahavir Jayanti functions organized by various local Jain associations, thereby advancing the cause of Jainism.

**THE APRIL 2006 ISSUE OF THIS
NEWSLETTER WAS PARTLY SPONSORED
BY RANVEER AND BASANTA JAIN.
THANK YOU!**

SAMANIJIS ON WJFF RADIO

Samani Muditpragyaji and Samani Sanghapragyaji participated in a radio program entitled 'Gift Of Peace' organized by WJFF radio of New York on May 18. This one-hour radio talk show was broadcast live wherein samanijis were interviewed on Jain Dharma and Preksha Meditation. Both the samanijis answered questions beautifully and enlightened the listeners on the relevance of Jain philosophy and religion in modern times and thereby advanced the cause of Jainism.

SAMANIJIS VISIT OLD AGE HOME

Samani Muditpragyaji and Samani Sanghapragyaji



visited the Alameda Center Old Age Home in New Jersey on June 1. This old age home is unique in that it has a wing dedicated

just for seniors of Indian origin, due mainly to the efforts of Dr. Mukund Thakur. Samanijis were very enthusiastically received at the home where they discussed how one could spend his/her old age in happiness & peace and blessed all for a happy future. On behalf of all the seniors Dr. Mukund Thakur expressed his gratitude towards the samanijis and implored them to visit again.

SAMANIJIS ATTEND INTERFAITH MEETING

On invitation from Pastor James Thomas, on June 3, samanijis attended an interfaith conference



organized at the First Presbyterian Church. Many religious leaders from varied faiths were also present. Here, Samani

Muditpragyaji presented her paper on the Importance of Jain principles. The pastor lauded samanijis for their commitment towards society.

SAMANIJIS BLESS CAL RETREAT CAMP

Samani Muditpragyaji and *Samani* Sanghapragyaji, accompanied by *Samani* Jayantpragyaji and *Samani* Sanmatipragyaji from Houston, led a three-day retreat camp from June 9-11 in California. The camp was organized by Jain society of California and was attended by Jains and non-Jains alike. The sessions ran from six in the morning until ten at night and portrayed the modern man's growing interest in *Yoga* and *Preksha* Meditation.

SAMANIJIS GRACE THE INAUGURATION OF SANYAS ASHRAM SPIRITUAL CENTER

Samani Muditpragyaji and *Samani* Sanghapragyaji graced the inauguration of *Sanyas Ashram* Spiritual Center at American Legion Hall in NJ, on June 18. *Swami* Vishweshvaranandaji, *Swami* Nityanandaji and *Swami* Hariprasadji also blessed the occasion. *Samani* Muditpragyaji expressed her wishes for the growth and success of the center.

JVBNA PRAJNA DIWAS CELEBRATION

H.H. Acharyashri Mahaprajna is one of the most prominent spiritual leaders in the world. He is not only a seer but also a great scholar and philosopher. He has authored more than 250 books. JVBNA celebrated *Pragya Diwas* (Wisdom Day) on June 25 on the occasion of the 87th birthday of H.H. Acharyashri Mahaprajna at



Knights of Columbus in Iselin, NJ, under the auspices of *Samani* Muditpragyaji and *Samani* Sanghapragyaji, and the eminent presence of

Mahamandaleshwar Swami Vishveshwaranandji. In capacity as the master of ceremony, *Samani* Sanghapragyaji led the program beautifully enlightening the audience with bits and pieces of Acharyashri's life. The program was held in conjunction with *Gyanshala* Graduation (For details on *Gyanshala* Graduation Ceremony, please see Kids Corner) and began with *Mangalacharan* and comprised presentations on Acharyashri's teachings and contributions by prominent members

of the Jain community. JVBNA *shravaks* regaled the audience with a beautiful *Geet* celebrating *Pragya Diwas*. *Samani* Muditpragyaji addressed the audience and stressed the importance of emotional growth along with intellectual development in children and adults alike. She inspired the audience to strive to develop balance in personal traits and lives. *Gyanshala* Graduation and *Sadharmik Vatsalya* followed.

JVBNA FAMILY NEWS

JVBNA WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE

Shashi Jain, son of Sampath & Dolores Jain on his graduation with an MS in Electrical Engineering from Cornell University

Sandeep Jain, son of Sampath & Dolores Jain on his graduation with honors and a BS in Computer Sciences from Carnegie Mellon University

Sunil Jain, son of Sampath & Dolores Jain for making the Dean's List at Carnegie Mellon University - Tepper School of Business

BECOME A JVBNA MEMBER

Jain Vishwa Bharati of North America, by virtue of its permanent center in Iselin, New Jersey is able to host *samanijis* year round, who provide you with spiritual guidance and promote the Jain way of life. Please show us your support by becoming a member and donating generously.

□	Supporting Member	\$501
□	Life Member	\$2,101
□	Sponsor Member	\$5,001
□	Founder Member	\$11,001
□	Patron	\$25,101
□	Chief Patron	\$51,001
□	Special Donor	Any Amount

In addition, you can help maintain the JVBNA center by participating in the *Tithi Yojna* and/or help make JVBNA *Gyanshala* financially autonomous by participating in the newly instituted *Gyanshala Yojna*. All your donations are tax deductible. Please contact the center for more information.

JVBNA UPCOMING EVENTS

Family Preksha Meditation & Yoga Camp - August 4-7 - Siddhachalam

Our 3rd Annual Family *Preksha* Meditation & Yoga Camp will begin Friday, Aug 4 at 7pm and will conclude on Sunday Aug 6 at 12noon. The camp will be held at Siddhachalam Jain *Tirth*, 65 Mud Pond Road, Blairstown, NJ and will be conducted by *Samani* Muditpragyaji and *Samani* Sanghapragyaji. The camp will focus on aura and *mantra* based meditation. The minimum age for participation is 5 years and the fee, which includes boarding and lodging is \$75 for adults and \$50 for children. Space is limited and registration is being accepted on first come first served basis.

Paryushan, Samvatsari & Daslakshan - August 21-September 5 - Sheraton Edison

JVBNA will celebrate *Paryushan* and *Daslakshan Parva* from August 21 to September 5 under the auspices of *Samani* Muditpragyaji and *Samani* Sanghapragyaji. The program will be held at Sheraton Edison Hotel Raritan Center, 125 Raritan Center Parkway, Edison, NJ and will consist of daily *pratikraman* and *pravachan*. All are invited to attend. The details are as follows:

Paryushan - August 21-27 - 7:30pm to 9:30pm

Samvatsari - August 28 - 7:30pm to 9:30pm

Daslakshan - August 29-September 5 - 8:15pm to 9:30pm

Kshamapana Diwas - September 23 - Venue to be announced

JVBNA will celebrate *Kshamapana Diwas* 2006 on Saturday, September 23, 11am-2pm. The program will feature group *Kshamayachana*, discourses by *samanijis*, children's cultural program and guest speakers. Details about the venue will follow. All are invited to attend.

JVBNA Gyanshala Year 2006-07 Begins October 1 - First Presbyterian Church, Iselin

The 2006-07 year of JVBNA *Gyanshala* for children is slated to begin Sunday, October 1, 2006 under the guidance of *Samani* Muditpragyaji and *Samani* Sanghapragyaji. The sessions will be held Sunday afternoons from 3pm-6pm at the First Presbyterian Church, 1295 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, NJ and will include sessions on *Yoga & Preksha* Meditation, Jain religion & Philosophy and the Hindi Language. For more information and to register you child(ren), please contact the JVBNA center.

JVBNA MEMBERSHIP PLEDGES - April-June 2006 - THANK YOU!

Founder Members Converting to Patron Status

Rajesh & Jayashree Dugar

New Founder Members

Anonymous JVB *Shravak*

Life Members Converting to Founder Membership

Virendra & Neena Jain, Anonymous *Shravak*

Life Members Converting to Sponsor Membership

Kalpendra & Poonam Jain

KIDS CORNER

Gyanshala News

Gyanshala Final Exam Results

Gyanshala children passed with flying colors. We had a passing rate of 96%. We hope to make it 100% next session.

Gyanshala End of Year Party

Gyanshala session ended in style with its "End of the Year" party. Everyone enjoyed the delicious *dhokla* and pizza and lots of other goodies.

Graduation Graduation

Gyanshala Graduation ceremony was held on June 25 at Knights of Columbus Hall in Iselin. It was a beautiful sight to see all Gyanshala children and teachers decked in Gyanshala T-shirts occupying almost half of the audience space. The ceremony started with *Samani* Sanghapragyaji emceeing the program that added another dimension to the event.



Mahamandaleshwar Swami Vishveshwaranandji distributed the recognition awards to Gyanshala teachers. JVB Orlando Chairman, Mr. Kamlesh Shah distributed the certificates to children who attend Hindi class



in Gyanshala. Siddhachalam Jain Center's president, Mr. Raman Daga and various other prominent members of JVBNA distributed the certificates to Gyanshala children. The highlight of the ceremony was when all of the Gyanshala children came together to present a nicely choreographed song in Hindi. *Samani* Muditpragyaji and *Samani* Sanghapragyaji are the inspiration behind the Gyanshala and the results of their selfless and tireless efforts were clearly evident on this day.

Upcoming Events

Gyanshala Session – 2006-2007

The new school year of Gyanshala will start from October 1, 2006. The sessions will be held on Sunday afternoons from 3-6pm at the First Presbyterian Church in Iselin, NJ. As before the children will be divided into three age groups and there will be sublevels within each depending upon skills. Registration for the upcoming session has already started. There is a \$101 registration fee per child per year. There is no tuition fee. Books will be distributed at no charge to all children attending Gyanshala. Please register by contacting the JVBNA center.

Greed, Jealousy, and the Ipod

By Priyanka Kothari

Anuj was a hardworking teen – he did well in school and was kind to everybody he met. However, the best thing he did was that he went to a nursing home every weekend. By staying there and helping the people, he became their friends. This month, the nursing home was going to have a renovation and was short of \$400. Since nobody in the community had that much money anymore, Anuj decided to take the responsibility of it. He had a savings account and he knew he could easily earn money every week by doing extra chores.

The determined teen got to work and was saving money every day. A couple of weeks later, he reached his goal – he had accumulated \$400. The next day at school, he was about to tell his best friend, Jay, about the money, when he saw a crowd of boys around his friend. “Hey Anuj,” he called. “I just got an iPod yesterday! It’s like the greatest thing in the world.” The whole day, this was the only thought that ran through his mind- iPod, iPod, iPod... Anuj had to get one. Watching his best friend have an iPod was tortuous; jealousy was taking over him.

Not realizing what he was doing, Anuj went to a store and bought the iPod, with the money for the nursing home. He stared at it, the most wonderful thing that could happen – he had his own now. Nevertheless, he considered one more fact – he needed the accessories. He went back to the store and used up the remaining money he had on more things for the iPod. He thought to himself, “Mine will be cooler now!” The next day, he went to school and became as famous as Jay had. Feeling ecstatic inside, he believed nothing could be better. On the other hand, the idea of helping the nursing home had vanished and there was no thought about the deprived people who didn’t even have their own house.

The weekend came, and as Anuj was listening to his iPod, it struck him that he had to give money to the nursing home. His heart drooped and he finally snapped out of the greed and jealousy. He realized that the old Anuj had disappeared, the one who cared for others and not himself. “Oh look what I’ve done now! I saved all of that money for them, and I became selfish and bought myself an unnecessary item. Will they ever forgive me?”

Anuj went to the nursing home and asked for forgiveness. “It’s ok,” one of the men there said. “You have already done so much for this place; I think you deserved a reward for yourself. How about we all try to pitch in and earn that \$400?” That’s what happened. Everybody worked and they all retrieved \$400 easily. Anuj still felt horrible that he made others work, but he was relieved that he was forgiven. He learned a valuable lesson in those few weeks and he never forgot it all his life.

Moral: Jealousy can make smart people do stupid things.

Kids Write!

By Arham Jain

Oops! I didn’t get any responses. This section is the Kids Write! Section, in which all the kids can speak out about how they feel about Gyanshala. You can give suggestions to me for what to do in the Kids Corner. You can even give suggestions to make Gyanshala better by telling us what can be improved. I will publish as many responses as I can fit on a page! Please e-mail me at: arock3756@aol.com or give me the response at Gyanshala classes. This is the second issue and I have not received any responses so far! Please do hurry up and send any suggestions you have for this section or Gyanshala!

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Directions to JVBNA Center

* Take GSP exit 131 towards Iselin, turn left onto NJ-27/Lincoln Highway, turn left (North) onto Middlesex Avenue, and pass Oak Tree Road. JVBNA Center will be on your left a little after Subzi Mandi.

* From US-1 (South), turn left onto Plainfield Avenue, turn right (North) onto NJ-27/Lincoln Highway, turn left onto Middlesex Avenue, and pass Oak Tree Road. JVBNA Center will be on your left a little after Subzi Mandi.

TO

JVBNA REGULAR SESSIONS - July - September 2006

Samani Muditpragyaji and Samani Sanghapragyaji will conduct the following sessions. For updated information call (732) 404-1430, email jvbnj@yahoo.com or visit the JVBNA's new site at www.jvbna.org

MONDAYS 9:30AM - 10:30AM	Yoga for General Fitness	JVBNA Center 151 Middlesex Avenue, Iselin, NJ
TUESDAYS 6:30PM - 7:45PM	Yoga for General Fitness	North Edison Public Library 777 Grove Avenue, Edison, NJ
WEDNESDAYS 6:30PM - 7:45PM	Yoga For Stress Management	First Presbyterian Church 1295 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, NJ
THURSDAYS 7:30PM - 9:00PM	<i>Bhaktamar</i> <i>Jeev/Ajeev Swadhyay</i>	JVBNA Center 151 Middlesex Avenue, Iselin, NJ
SATURDAYS/SUNDAYS Various Times (Call for details)	<i>Pravachan</i>	Various Locations (Call for details)

JVBNA Gyanshala is in recess for the summer months. The 2006-07 Gyanshala year begins October 1 and will be held Sundays from 3-6PM at the First Presbyterian Church, 1295 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, NJ.

JVBNA WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE SPONSORS OF THIS ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER

BACCHUBHAI & MADHUBEN MEHTA AND BIMAL & TEJAL DOSHI