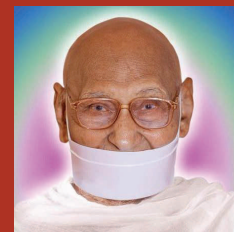




Ahimsa is Protector

Timeless Wisdom...

JVB Preksha Meditation Center Houston



Search Truth Yourself

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

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Akshay Pragyaaji



Vinay Pragyaaji

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Special Message On Mahavir Jayanti By H. H. Acharya Mahapragya

One aspect of celebrating Mahavir Jayanti is to remember one of the greatest souls whose teachings on Non-violence, Non-possession and Anekant (a multidimensional philosophy of Non-absolutism) are unique throughout the world.

Lord Mahavira observed, experienced, and realized, that deliberation on cause of violence is incomplete without deliberation on possession. Thinking on Non-possession is essential for thinking on Non-violence. We want to change action and outcome, but with less emphasis on cause of action success eludes us in such attempts. Violence is an effect, its cause is possession.

Violence is on increase in present day world. It's reason lies in attachment to material objects. Attachment is basic feature of possession. Lord Mahavira said "one can not be absolved of attachment without relinquishing the lust for attachment, and Non-Violence can not decline without relinquishing attachment."

Present age is materialistic. Present trend is to have limitless products and Mahavira's teaching is – "Limit the consumption of material objects". Lord Mahavira visualized and explained material objects and lust for material on the basis of Anekant philosophy. No living being can give up the material objects totally, but no society can experience the decline in violence through limitless use of resources.

Another aspect of celebrating Mahavir Jayanti is to remember him and pay obeisance to him. Instead his principles of Non-Violence, Non-possession and Anekant is finding less time for sincere thinking and implementation to solve the problems of present world. We should strive through sincere efforts to strike a balance between the two aspects. The fittest and successful celebration of Mahavir Jayanti can be possible by solving the present age problems by Non-violence, Non-possession and Anekant.

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JVB Preksha Meditation Center Houston launched the DVD of Sati Anjana Play on Mahavir Jayanti. The fanfare included recognition of cast followed by the premier show of the DVD in Samaniji's presence. To reserve a copy of this timeless presentation, please call the JVB Houston center at 281-596-9642, or send an e-mail to info@jvbhouston.org



Mahavir Jayanti Celebration At the JVB Houston Center

JVB Preksha Meditation Center Houston celebrated Mahavir Jayanti on Sunday, 04/20th, with Samani Akshay Pragyaji and Vinay Pragyaji. The program began with the recitation of Navkar Mantra by Samaniji. It was followed by kids program. Kajal Jain introduced the play, and the play began with the Shloka recital by JVB Gyanshala students. Hearing the children's pronunciations of the Sanskrit mantras, one could not believe that Sanskrit is not taught in the schools that they attend, in the US.



मंगलं भगवान वीरो,
मंगलं गौतमो प्रभु ।
मंगलं स्थूलिभद्राद्याः,
जैनधर्मोस्तु मंगलं ॥

The children of Gyanshala, enacted a superb performance of Lord Mahavir and his teachings, by playing a skit "Puniya Shravak". Puniya Shravak was a devotee and the message that we got through this play was, practice abandonment of worldly possessions, and the importance of Samayik (maintaining equanimity for a set period of time) with a heart full of devotion. Jain scriptures say that if someone donates gold every day and someone other performs Samayik, the one who donates gold cannot stand in comparison to the other who performs Samayik.

Samani Vinay Pragyaji's pravachan awakened the thoughts on why we need to celebrate Mahavir Jayanti. It is not for one day, or for one week to remember Lord Mahavir and his teachings. It is something to just listen to the Lord's teachings, and it is another to follow on the teachings. Our Sankalp (determination) should be to adopt a virtue and make it a part of our daily Aacharan (religious conduct). To move towards achieving permanent blissful state of one's self, one must adopt a virtue every year.



"Jiski Aaj Zaroorat" — Samaniji began by quoting the words of Acharya Mahapragyaji — the need for Lord Mahavir's teachings to be practiced is far greater today than in any other era or time. We all understand the ecological crisis faced by our planet but do not know how to save it. Jainism teaches us to protect nature and to understand the importance of plants, worms, animals and other creatures which help to maintain the ecological balance. The Jain dharma becomes Jan dharma by removing just a matra ("i") (accent).

Can I become Mahavir ? This was one of the questions posed to the participants of the "Test Your Talent" quiz.

"Yes, I can become Mahavir !.....", came the answer from the Darshan Team. As Lord Mahavir himself explained, that all souls are equal in their potential for infinite knowledge, power and bliss. The 4 participating teams were appropriately named, after the paths of Karma—1) Jnan Team (Knowledge), 2) Darshan Team (Faith), 3) Charitra Team (Conduct), 4) Tap Team (Penance). The format of the quiz was well mixed, with some easy

and some tough questions—Talk on a Topic, Rapid Round Questions, Dumb Charades, and Talent Round.





Tidbits

The Problem Solving Mantra

“Om Hrim Namo Uvajhayanam”

- Chant with focus on the Center of Heart (Ananta Kendra) and the color emerald while breathing deeply for 5-30 minutes .
- Benefit: Feeling of Bliss

Test your knowledge about Jain religion

The answers of last month's questions are as follows:

Q1. What is the pure nature of the self or soul?

Answer: Infinite knowledge, infinite intuition, infinite bliss, and infinite power – these all constitute the pure nature of the self.

Q2. What factors are decided during bondage?

Answer: Four things are decided during bondage of karma

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) <i>Prakriti</i> | Nature of karma |
| 2) <i>Sthiti</i> | Duration |
| 3) <i>Anubhag</i> | Intensity of giving fruit and |
| 4) <i>Pradesh</i> | No. of karma particles |

Q3. What is the first requisite for salvation?

Answer: *Samyaktva*: Right Vision is the first requisite for salvation.

Questions for this month are:

1. Does liberated soul come back in this world?
2. Can a hellish being practice spirituality?
3. Can a person with *samyaktva* go to hell?

Voice of the Omniscient

**Vadaniyamani dharamta, silani taha tavam ca kuvvamta
Paramatthabahiraj, nivvanam te na vidamti**

Those who are ignorant of supreme purpose of life will never be able to attain liberation in spite of their observance of the vows and rules of religious conduct and practice of celibacy and penance.

(Abstract From Jain Agamas)

Calendar of Events:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| ◆ Monday | 10:30 to 11:30 AM : Jainism |
| ◆ Tuesday | 08:00 to 09:00 PM : MA in Jainology Class |
| ◆ Wednesday | 07:15 to 08:00 PM.: Meditation
08:00 to 09:00 PM : Swadhyaya (on meaning of Pratikraman and Uttradhya Sutra) |
| ◆ Thursday | 09:30 to 11:00 AM.: Yoga and meditation for General Health & Mental Peace. |
| ◆ Saturday | 09:00 to 10:30 AM.: Yoga and meditation for General Health & Mental Peace. |
| ◆ Sunday | |
| 1. (1st and 3rd) | 10:00 to 12:15 AM : Gyanshala for Children. Meditation & Pravachan for parents. |
| 2. (2nd and 4th) | 10:30 to 12:00 AM.: Meditation, Pravachan & Bhajan |





The Darshan Team was announced the winner of the competition, when they won with a narrow margin, over the second best team, the Tap Team.

The presiding judges were Alok Jain and Ashok Jain. The “Ting-Tong” robot (Ruchika Bengani) kept the audience engaged from beginning to end. Mayank Jain kept the time.

Samani Akshay Pragyaji said the competition was designed to test the participants in their ability to demonstrate the skills and knowledge that they have learnt through the various programs conducted by the JVB Center. It is not a competition to win over a team, but a competition to win over our inner selves.

Jain ethics specify the twelve Vratas (vows) to be carried out by the householders, and Samaniji posed the question to the audience - “Do you remember the names of the twelve Vrata’s?”. Samaniji urged everyone to pick one vow from the list at the end of the program and make a Sankalp on this great occasion. She said, it is your visa to attain MOKSHA (freedom from life’s misery).

The audience was captivated and closed their eyes in silence to the Bhajans recited by Bhavnita & troupe. Samaniji appreciated their talents, and valued the family’s commitment to the JVB Center.

Ajay Khater, announced the launch of “Yoga and Pranayam” summer camps for children at Gyanshala, inviting children between 5 to 12 years to enroll for this camp.

Pramod Bengani, announced the award certificates to the actors and actresses, for their winning performances in the “Maha Sati Anjana” play.

Hasmukh Doshi, gave an update on the building fund and the progress of the building construction. The names of some of the contributions received during the annual retreat camp was announced. He invited everyone to contribute to this great cause. He led the way by making an immediate contribution to the JVB Center.

Hasmukh Patel, presented the vote of thanks to all for making this event a big success, and did not forget to thank the team of women, who sponsored the lunch for the event.

- By Shridhar

