



Inner Reflections



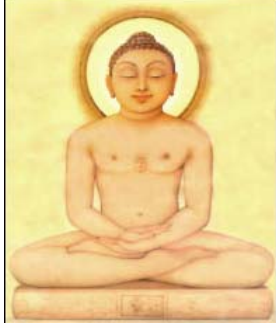
Jain Vishwa Bharati of North America

Volume III

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Jan 2005

THUS SPOKE MAHAVIR



(1) धम्मो मंगलमुत्तिकट्ठं,
अहिंसा संजमो तवो।
देवा वि तं नमसंति,
जस्स धम्मो सया मणो।।

*dhmmo mangalamukkitttham
ahimsa samjamo tava
deva vi tath namasanti
jassa dhamme sayā maṇo.*

Religion is the supreme auspicious. Non violence, self-restraint and penance are its characteristics. One who remains always absorbed in religion even the gods bow down before him.

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

"Anekanta & Democracy"

By Acharya Mahaprajna

Variedness is a part of human nature. Even tastes and ideas differ from person to person. Nor is ordinary behavior identical. There are number of languages and sects. To keep them all united, democracy follows the principle of equality of fundamental rights. Democracy does not divide people on the basis of inequality. On the other hand, it seeks to forge unity among diverse groups on the basis of

equality. Democracy cannot project a glorious image without balancing the claims of diversity and unity. The philosophical basis of this balancing system is Anekant. According to Anekant, nothing is

altogether disparate or identical. A general characteristic lends identically to things and a specific characteristic makes them disparate. Absolute insistence on identity destroys usefulness. For then individual specific characteristics cannot be put to use. Absolute insistence on disparateness makes things devoid of their basic generality. It is for this reason the Anekant posits the following:

An object is perhaps identical – from a certain point of view all objects are identical.

An object is perhaps disparate – from a certain point of view all objects are disparate.

Unity can be strengthened on the basis of identity. Disparateness can be used to utilize an individual's specific qualities. Therefore, it is necessary to know the limitations of both identity and disparateness. A mechanical insistence on identity robs a nation of its meritorious and talented people. An absolute insistence on disparateness becomes the cause of nation's disintegration. Therefore, there is need to develop a philosophy which balances and harmonizes identity and disparateness. Unity involves belonging to a common geographic region. No one who lives within that region can be discriminated against in terms of their need for food, clothing, housing, etc. Everyone has equal opportunity to develop. A democracy can be given a healthy base only by appreciating reality of both identity and disparateness.

****JVBNA EVENTS since Oct****

Kshamapana Diwas 2004

As *Jains*, we are constantly striving to shed our karmas and to purify our souls in the quest for that final salvation. Shedding our egos, accepting our mistakes and humbling seeking forgiveness may be the first steps towards this goal. Jain Vishwa Bharati of North America embarked on this noble journey in the 18 days of *Paryushan* and *Daslaxan*. And the members and guests gathered on 10th October at the St. Andrews Catholic Church in Avenel, New Jersey to carry this journey forward - to celebrate this shedding of ego – to seek forgiveness and to forgive – for injuries physical, mental, intellectual and spiritual – inflicted upon each other and on all life forms throughout this universe.

JVBNA's *Kshamapana Diwas* 2004 celebration began with *Namaskar Mantra* recital led by *Samani* Mangal Pragyaji and *Samani* Amit Pragyaji. Master of Ceremony Madhumita B Sacheti welcomed the audience followed by a speech by *Samani* Amit Pragyaji, who very appropriately talked about the value of forgiveness. *Samaniji* encouraged the audience toward introspection, to forget and to forgive and to start life anew. JVBNA president Pratap Jain welcomed the members and guests followed by a very heart warming 'Forgiveness' song performed by Jyoti Puglia.

A colorful cultural program performed by JVB *Gyanshala* kids and ably compered by Kavita Kothari, followed. This program consisted of *Namaskar Mantra* recital; *Tirthankar Stuti* choreographed by Rupal Bhandari and Supriya Bothra; *Veer Stuti* dance choreographed by Suba Parmar; and a play entitled '*Maitri* on Wheels' choreographed by Kavita Kothari. The play depicted a fictional eight day train journey, '*Maitri* On Wheels', where each day

represented one of the eight days of *Paryushan* and one of the eight virtues of Jainism namely *Swadhyay*, *Samayik*, *Khadya Sanyam*, *Vani Sanyam*, *Anuvrat*, *Dhyan*, *Jaap* and *Kshama*. The talented students of Subhanjali School of performing arts presented the classic Shankaracharya poem '*Maithreem Bhajatha*' in Bharatnatyam style, which was choreographed by Suba Parmar. Nina Jain introduced JVB *Gyanshala* and talked about the new horizons it is reaching.



A group recital of *Kshamayachana* among those present and led by *samanijis* followed the cultural program. JVBNA vice president Sheel Chowdhary delivered the State of JVBNA address. Chief Guest, Dr. Raman Daga, the current president of Siddhachalam Jain Tirth, praised JVBNA for the work it is doing and called for the unity of the entire *Jain* community for the greater good. Guest of Honor and New Jersey Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula, an inspiration for the entire Indian American community, spoke about the inspiration he has continued to

derive from *Jain* principles and philosophy. Pukhraj Lunia and JVBNA secretary Ramesh Parmar presented the guests with tokens of appreciation. Special guests Dr. Raman Daga and Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula, along with JVBNA vice president Sampath Jain, treasurer B.C.Jain, former treasurer Suparas Nahata, Property Management committee chair Raj Sodhia, and Program committee chair Neena Shah distributed prizes among the participants of the 'My Jainism' art and craft contest, 'Ahimsa and the Survival of Mankind' essay contest and among the performers of the cultural program.

Members of JVBNA women's wing presented a beautiful *geet* composed by Acharya Mahapragya. JVBNA's immediate past president Mool Singhi implored the audience to get more involved with JVBNA and its activities. Samani Mangal Pragyaji addressed the audience and compared life to a vehicle that requires the oil of forgiveness for efficient operation. *Samaniji* went on to say that without the two syllables of the word *Kshama*, life in fact becomes lifeless. The element of *Kshama* is essential to revitalize life. She added that to boost friendship – *Maitri* – one needs to appreciate the qualities of others and have compassion. She said that time and tide wait for none and implored those present to stop losing any more time and light the candle of forgiveness in their hearts. JVBNA's souvenir editor Sweta Daftari spoke next and thanked all the co-editors, volunteers and sponsors for helping make the 2004 souvenir a reality. The chair of the Process Development & Audit committee, Sanjay Jain delivered the Vote of Thanks and congratulated all who helped make the *Kshamapana Diwas* 2004 a grand success. The program concluded with *Mangal Path* led by *Samani* Mangal Pragyaji and *Samani* Amit Pragyaji and was followed

by *Sadharmik Vatsalya*. Over 350 members and guests attended the program.

Diwali celebration

A spiritual Diwali celebration was held in the morning on November 13th (the next day to Deepawali) on the first day of Jain Samvat 2531 at Nutley Post Hall Iselin, program was well attended by 150 members.



The program started with prarthna by members. Art & craftwork done on various aspects of

Jainism by young students of JVBNA gyanshala during the preceding year was put on display. A novel way of appreciation of their work & collecting charitable contributions for the gyanshala were adopted. Each of the children were called to display & explain details of their art work, followed by this each of the item was put for auction. There was significant interest to understand the work & generous contributions were made by members & guests to buy each of the work through an open auction. Gyanshala coordinator Neena Jain gave an account of working and also explained children's food collection drive for charity to needy kids.

Spiritual program started with recitation of Mantra of Lord Mahaveer & Gautamswami. There after respected *Samaniji's* pravachan explained religious significance of Diwali in context of Jainism. Program concluded with *Sadharmik Vatsalya*.

Chaturmasik Pratikaman

On Kartik Purnima, the day of culmination of Chaturmas on Friday November the 26th ; Pratikaman & Sangeet Sandhya was held at M.T. I., Edison This program was attended by about 100 religious aspirants.

The evening started with pravachan by Respected *Samani* Mangal Pragyaji, explaining relevance of that day to Jains and followed by participants Pratikaman along with Samayik with great reverence.

There after bhajans & stuti songs were presented by various singers with great enthusiasm & devotion. Thus three hours of devotional evening concluded with Mangal Path & Kshmapana.

Proclamation by US Congressman to honor Acharya Shri Mahapragyaji

US Congress-man Gregory Meeks from Queens, NY issued a Congressional Proclamation to honor His Holiness *Acharya Shri Maha* Pragyaji for his quest for peace and human welfare. The proclamation was



presented to *Pujya Samani* Mangal Pragyaji and *Samani* Amit Pragyaji – as his holiness' representatives – in a gala

ceremony held in Royal Albert Palace in Fords, NJ. The celebration was organized by World Business Forum (WBF) at the initiative of Mr. Kiran Mehta, C.E.O. WBF & Dr. Pukhraj Lunia. The Proclamation was presented by Dr. Sudhir Parikh, Dr. Krishna Jhaveri, Sh. Kiran Mehta, Dr. P.C. Lunia & Dr Pratap.S. Jain to *Samanijis*. Other JVBNA officers and members present in the function were Jay Dugar, Mool & Shanti Singhi, Suparas & Kiran Nahata, Sanjay & Kiran Jain, Ajay Dugar, Kusum Jain, and Ratna Lunia.

JVBNA FOOD DRIVE

JVBNA conducted its first Food Drive to mark the occasion of Thanksgiving. An enormous response was shown by JVBNA members. Half of the food collected was donated to the Food Pantry at First Presbyterian church in Iselin. Other half of the food was donated to the Soup Kitchen in Red Bank.

'Science of Living' at Kennedy Park & Avenel School



A one-month training program of Science of Living was held for students of Kennedy Park Elementary School and Avenel School. Dr. Mansfield, Principal of the Kennedy Park School and Jil Os, Principal of the Avenel School, took keen interest and spearheaded the effort of arranging the whole program. Many students and teachers participated in the weekly session held after school. All participants highly benefited from the 1-hour class given by *Samani* Mangal Pragyaji. An appreciation letter was given to JVBNA.



WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
AVENEL STREETLY SCHOOL, LLC
Avenel, New Jersey 07001
(732) 432-8591

Jil Osborne
Principal

Date: December 14, 2004

To: *Samani* Mangal Pragyaji
Jain Vishva Bhawan of North America

From: Jil Osborne
Principal Avenel St. School

Re: Yoga Class

Dear *Samani*,

Thank you so much for volunteering to teach yoga classes at our school. It was a new endeavor for many of us! Seeing the students copying the exercises into their notebooks is justification that they understood the importance of relaxation and proper breathing.

Once again, thank you for bringing this worthwhile experience to our school. We look forward to seeing you in the spring!

Sincerely,

Jil Osborne
Jil Osborne and the Yogatons
Yogi Anand Heather Boley
Shruti Duvvuri
Stephanie Salvador
Branna Rios
Justin Henriquez
Nicole Dominguez
Lauren Bredowski
Alshya Howard

NY temple Key Handover



Samani Mangal Pragyaji and Amit Pragyaji attended the Key Handover Ceremony Of Ithaca Street Building to Jain Center Of

America From Jain Community Of Diamond & Colorstone Industry.

Visit of Pushp Jain, MP



Pushp Jain, MP, from India, visited the JVBNA center in Iselin on Nov. 28, 2004 and expressed his views about Jain

philosophy and *Ahimsa Yatra of Acharya shree Mahapragyaji* and appreciated the work of JVBNA .

Samaniji from JVB Houston visits JVBNA



Two & two makes four mathematically but not so in the field of affection & love.

The affection & humbleness received & greeted by two multiplies manifold. This was apprehended in JVBNA when *Samani* Mangal Pragyaji & *Samani* Amit Pragyaji expressed their warm welcome to *Samani* Sanmati Pragyaji & *Samani* Unnata Pragyaji. On this occasion *Samani* Amit Pragyaji convened the program. The president of JVBNA Dr Pratap Jain and Mool Singhi expressed their hearty welcome. *Samani* Sanmati Pragyaji expressed her humble emotions. She articulated her experience of solace in the gracious presence of her senior. She said the vibrations of the center were as

pure as the white snow spread all around. *Samani* Mangal Pragyaji delivered her auspicious speech on the importance of right vision. Further she related it to one's life and said ego works as a barrier in the vision. The hassles are part and parcel of ones life, which cannot be avoided. It is only the change of vision, change of outlook that would help man. The closing was by the soothing and devotional song presented by *Samani* Sanmati Pragyaji.

Yoga at Iselin Library

Samanijis have been conducting Yoga class every Saturday at Iselin Library in Iselin, NJ. The session has been well attended and appreciated by members and non-members.

Around Town: Visit from Samaniji

Samani Mangal Pragyaji and *Samani* Amit Pragyaji conducted *pravachans* at following JVBNA members' residences: Pratap & Kusum Jain, Surendra & Sumitra Kankariya, Bachubhai & Madhu Mehta, Ashok & Jyotsna Shah, Navnit & Manjula Shah, and Shrenik & Rupal Talati.

General Body Meeting

JVBNA held its annual General Body meeting on Jan. 2nd, 2005 at American Legion Hall in Iselin. JVBNA Executive Committee members presented the JVBNA activities and plan for 2005. Audience were given opportunity to express their opinion and to ask questions.

Send-off Function

Samani Mangal Pragyaji and *Samani* Amit Pragyaji are leaving for India on Jan. 3rd, 2005. JVBNA held a Send-off function for them on Jan. 2nd, 2005. JVBNA members presented an emotional goodbye to *Samanijis*. Gyanshala kids presented a small program and expressed their affection for *Samanijis*.

JVBNA Family brief news

JVBNA would like to bless the young couples:

Harsh (s/o Bhikamchand & Asha Jain) got married to **Sharan** on 26th Nov., 2004.

Manish got married to **Vishalaakshi** on Oct 22, 2004.

Bijal (s/o Nagji & Indu Vira) and **Anjali**, tied the knot on Dec. 26, 2004.

JVBNA would like to congratulate:

Nitu & Arvind Bhandari on the birth of a baby boy **Yash**.

Rajiv & Pratibha, are also blessed with a baby boy.

Rajiv & Jyoti, are also blessed with a baby boy **Rishabha**.

Dinesh & Sonia Doshi are also blessed with a baby boy **Ansh**.

Madhu Parmar (D/o Ramesh & Suba) gave her first public vocal concert in Staten Island. The concert was 1 hour long. Way to go, Madhu!!!

With all the good news, **JVBNA** had its share of heart broken and sorrowful news too.

JVBNA sends its condolences to **Sanjay Jain** and his family on the sad demise of his father

JVBNA expresses deepest sympathies to **Nina Shah** and his family for the sad demise of her mother.

JVBNA sends its deepest sympathies to **Madumita Sacheti** and his family on the untimely death of her father in India.

JVBNA sends its condolences to **Sunil Mehta** and his family on the untimely death of his mother in India.

With mixed feelings JVBNA announces the demise of mother of **Kamala Dugar**. She left this world in a state of *Santhara*. This is a rare achievement for a *shravak*. We should all be proud. Our prayers and well wishes are with Dugar family.

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 to man.

To create an environment of unity and social harmony for all mankind.

Become a JVBNA Member

Jain Vishwa Bharati in Iselin, New Jersey, a permanent center for our well being has to be generously supported to carry out different activities.

	Life Member	\$2,101
	Founder Member	\$11,001
	Patron	\$25,101
	Chief Patron	\$51,001
	Special Donor/Any amount	

Please make check payable to JVBNA. Fed tax exempt ID # EIN -22-3687190

JVBNA new Life Members

Mehta	Bachubhai & Madhu	New York
Jain	Kalpendra & Vimala	New Jersey

Thank You for your support!

Computer&2Blankets	Madhu Kothari, VA
TV	Ajay Surana, NJ
Dehumidifier& Lamp	Sheel Chaudhry, PA
DVD Player	Ramesh Parmar, NJ
LCD Projector	Hemant Maru, Champshi Dedhiya Hansmukh Chedha
Blinds for Kitchen	Pawan Gupta
2 Sleeping bags	Neeraj Bothra

Need of JVBNA!

Laptop, Digital camera, Digital Camcorder

Gyanshala News

On Oct 15, 2004, JVBNA started its Gyanshala for kids and youth of Jain community under the guidance of Samani Mangal Pragyaji and Samani Amit Pragyaji.

JVBNA Gyanshala offers classes for kids aged 3-18 years in Jainism, Yoga & Meditation, and Hindi. Classes are held once a week on Fridays from 8-10pm at MTI office in Raritan Center in Edison, NJ

JVBNA is pleased to announce following volunteer teachers for Gyanshala:

Group 1 (ages 3-6):

Supriya Bothra & Shalini Jain

Group 2 (ages 7-11):

Sushma Sodhia & Kavita Kothari

Group 3 (ages 12 & above):

Anu Khandelwal & Raj Sodhia

Hindi: **Sunil Bapna & Anita Goel**

JVBNA would like to express its deepest gratitude to **Dr. Rajiv Vaish** and **Sanmati Vaish** for lending their office space for holding the Gyanshala classes.

JVBNA is blessed to have benevolent donors like **Mr. Jay Dugar** who has donated \$500 for Gyanshala and **Mr. Ajay Dugar** who has donated \$1000 for Gyanshala. Thanks for your generous support!

Art & Craft Auction

JVBNA recently held an auction of the art and craft items. These items were made by our children for the *Kshamapana Diwas* celebration. The auction money was earmarked for Gyanshala.

We are very happy to announce that JVBNA managed to raise \$1800 from the auction. *Stay involved!*

Gyanshala & Cultural Committee

Chair : Neena Jain

Kavita Kothari,
Supriya Bothra,
Sunita Jain,
Anu Khandelwal,
Suba Parmar

Children's Corner

THE FRUITS OF GOOD WORK

Once, there was a lion living in the forest. One day, a thorn got stuck in his paw. He tried his best to pull it out, but he could not pull it. The lion went with difficulty to a sheep boy. The sheep boy was afraid to see the lion coming towards him, but he did not run away and sat there quietly. The lion did not roar but sat quietly near the sheep boy and put his paw in front of him. He saw the thorn in his paw and pulled it out. The lion went quietly towards the forest. After some time, there was a theft in the King's palace. Some enemies of the sheep boy said to the king that he was the thief. Hearing this, the King became very angry and ordered the sheep boy's house to be searched. They did not find any stolen things in his house. The King thought that he had hidden the stolen things somewhere else. Therefore, he ordered to put him alive before a lion. When the sheep boy was thrown before the lion, it sat still. The sheep boy recognized it immediately. It was the same lion that had come to him. The king was very surprised when he came to know of the lion's gratefulness to the sheep boy. Then the king ordered the sheep boy to be set free. A fierce animal, like the lion, never forgets the good deed done to it.

But the human beings who forget the good done to them are worse than animals.

Jain Vishwa Bharati of North America
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Holi Celebration (Chaturmasik Pakhi)	: March 2005
Mahavir Jayanti and Akshaya Tritiya	: May 2005
Pragya Divas Celebration & JVBNA Picnic	: July 2005
Preksha Meditation Camp	: September 2-5, 2005

New session for Preksha Meditation & Yoga classes will start from March 2005. Please enroll.

PARTICIPATE IN *TITHI YOJNA*

Help maintain the New Jersey Center of JVBNA. Sponsor a day (\$101) to celebrate that special someone, sponsor a week (\$501) or sponsor a month (\$1101). Visit the center on the said *Tithi* for *Jaap*, *Swadhyay* and *Gochari Labh* under the auspices of *Samaniji*. For additional information call (732) 404-1430, email jvbnj@yahoo.com or visit www.jvbna.org. Your contribution is tax deductible.

GOCHARI LABH

To arrange for *Gochari Labh*, please contact Mrs. Vijaya Daga at (732)326-9018

Please check www.jvbna.org for latest information and venue directions.

This newsletter is sponsored by Mrs. Kamala Devi (W/o Jaychandlal) Dugar & Family in the memory of her mother Mrs. CHHAGANI DEVI (W/o Late Shri Manmalji) Sethia of Sri Dungargarh (Raj.), who left for heavenly abode on December 18, 2004 in 42nd day of her SAMADHI MARAN - SANTHAARA (total continuous fasting of 52 days).

*** YOU CAN SPONSOR THE NEWSLETTER FOR \$251, PLEASE CONTACT JVBNA CENTER