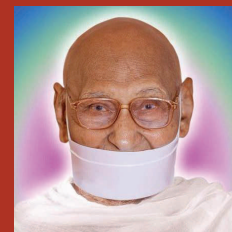




Ahimsa is Protector

Timeless Wisdom...

JVB Preksha Meditation Center Houston



Search Truth Yourself

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4

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Spiritual Solution to Economic Problems

Acharya Mahapragya

(Published in The Economic Times on 04/20/2009)

The sources of problems lie both in the material world as well as in the intrinsic world of consciousness. Bhagwan Mahavira was a mantradata — a preceptor of short-cuts to precise solutions to intricate problems. One of his mantras to solve problems was based on the principle of bringing harmony between two extremes. So he said, “One who is cognizant of the intrinsic is cognizant of the extrinsic; one who is cognizant of the extrinsic is cognizant of the intrinsic”. Hence, the intrinsic correlates with the spirituality, while the extrinsic with the external or physical conditions.

Now, there are some people who assert that the spirituality holds the key to all problems, while others insist on bringing about change in the external conditions for solving all problems. In fact, a holistic approach would be that it is imperative to change the external conditions as well as the internal ones. The two great challenges of the present day world are unlimited personal wealth and unlimited consumption.

On account of limitless individual possession, one section of the society is becoming more and more affluent, whereas another section of the society is becoming deprived and reeling under the agony of extreme poverty and hunger. For solving these two prime challenges, two mantras enunciated by Bhagwan Mahavira can prove extremely effective.

Put a limit on one's possessions: The first and foremost vow of the code of conduct for a householder is to put a limit on one's own accumulation of wealth. The vow of non-possession cannot be prescribed for a householder, for an individual totally devoid of possessions cannot make material and economic development, nor can he solve the problem of hunger.

Put a limit to one's consumption: The second vow is to put a voluntary limit to one's individual consumption. One of the main causes of the environmental pollution is overconsumption or unnecessary consumption. Attachments to sensuality, the exhibition of pomp and show, expansion of the mentality to seek more and more comforts and the like — all these have led to imbalances in Nature. Scientists and heads of nations are striving hard to solve the problems of the external world. But little change is visible.

Now, if efforts for bringing about internal change are coupled with those for external one and training is started to a change in the human consciousness, then better results can be gained in attaining success in solving the problems.

IN THIS ISSUE

Spiritual Solution to Economic Problems

By: Acharya Mahapragya

Golden Page in the History of Jains:

Pratishtha of Jain Temple in Miami, Florida

By: Miami Newsdesk

Samanijis Visit to Rice University, Houston, Texas

By: JVB Newsdesk

Tidbits

- Mantra: The Problem Solving
- Test Your Knowledge
- Voice of the Omniscient
- Calendar of Events

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Pratistha Mahotsav in Miami



In the series of Pratishthas of Jain temples in USA, one more name added on 17th April, 2009. The 3-day celebration was grand & with pomp & pressure. The celebration started with Digambar puja on Friday, 17th April. Later on Samani Charitra Prajna gave an inspirational lecture on “Unity in Diversity”. She expressed her views by saying that Miami Jain temple stands unique in itself as for the first time in the history, all the denominations of jains are brought under one roof.

On Saturday in the opening ceremony of wall engraved with the Navkaar Mantra Samani Param Pragyaji stated the importance of mantra. The speech was concluded by the recitation of navkaar mantra in different soothing tunes. On Sunday, Pratishtha was blessed by the presence of eight samanijis and one Mumukshu of Jain

Vishwa Bharati centers of USA. During the opening of the Bhaktamar Stotra, engraved in the wall, its glory was articulated by Samani Akshay Pragyaji.

The Pratishtha Mahotsav with its pompous rituals had a celestial celebration of inauguration of the photo of Gurudev Shri Tulsi and Acharya Mahapragya in the Pathshala room of the temple. This was a dream of Shashi and Kusum Jain (Baid), native of Ladnun, residing in Miami, a very dedicated and devoted family to Gurudev Tulsi and Mahapragya. When asked, why he chose the pathashala room to be named as “Gurudev Tulsi Pathshala”? He said, ‘Acharya Shri’s focus was educating and building the character of our younger generations’. To make this dream true, this was the perfect occasion.



The inauguration of the “Gurudev Tulsi Pathashala”, started off with Bhattarakji’s speech. Bhattarakji shared his memorable experiences when he met Gurudev Tulsi in his home town Shimoga in Karnataka. He articulated that, Gurudev Tulsi, a revolutionary Acharya was famous for his nonsectarian spiritual movement, labeled “Anuvrat Movement”. He wanted humans to come together and build the character of the nation, rather than fighting for sects. Gurudev Tulsi was beyond the limits of mineness and orthodoxy. Bhattarakji also emphasized, that in the whole of Jain congregation, the discipline of the Terapanth is unique and unparallel. Further talking about Acharya Mahapragyaji, he briefed his great philosophical contribution to the Jain congregation and his in depth knowledge. Samani Mudit pragyaji, highlighted the great contribution of Gurudev Tulsi to the community, like Saman order, Mumukshu education system (Parmarthik Shikshan Sanstha), Jain Vishwa Bharti University (the only jain university in the world), Science of Living, Preksha Meditation, and lot more to name. He was a key instrument in changing the life of women in Jain Community. He was a great visionary and a revolutionary saint. Further Samani Chari-



tra Prajna concluded by sharing a short intro of Gurudev, which he himself gave. When asked “who he was,” he would say, “I am first a human being, then a monk and then an Acharya.” This revealed his humanness and non-sectarian approach, a charismatic power which bound everyone who met him.

The Jain Community of Miami, Orlando, West Palm Beach and many more, participated in the ceremony which was concluded with a musical recitation of jaap of Gurudev Tulsi, followed by the song, “Mahaprana Gurudev” composed for Gurudev and a song composed by Gurudev Tulsi himself.

The other highlights of Pratishtha Mahotsava were the installation of Idols, opening ceremony of wall engraved with Atma Siddhi. Sunday evening was made memorable by a fabulous play named “Shalibhadra”, prepared by Samanijis and Mumukshu. The play involved all three generations, kids, youth and adults. The outstanding performance of the team has made the day blissful. Days come and go but the memories of special events shall last forever.

- By Miami Newsdesk





Tidbits

Mantra to increase memory power

“Aum namo arahantanam vaad vaad vagvadini swaha”

- Chant this mantra by doing 1 rosary (108 times)
- Benefit: you will increase your memory power, memory will become sharp

Test your knowledge about Jain religion

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

Q. What are the types of “GATIS” ?

A. There are four type of GATI's—Dev Gati, Manushya Gati, Triyanch Gati and Narak Gati.

Q. What type of “GATI” do we fall under ?

A. We fall under Manushya Gati as we have the ability to think and decide right from wrong.

Q. What are the five great vows of Jain Monks and Nuns ?

A. They are 1) Non-violence/Ahimsa 2) Truth/Satya 3)Non-stealing/Acharya or Asteya 4) Celibacy or Chastity/Brahmacharya 5)Non-attachment or Non-possession/Aparigraha.

Questions for this month are:

Q. Who was the founder of Jainism?

Q. Is there any one principle above all which characterizes Jainism?

Q. Do Jains believe in reincarnation?

Voice of the Omniscient

Appanameva jujjhaahi, kim te jujjhena vajjhao

Appanameva appanam, jaittaa suhamev ya.

Fight with your soul. What will you achieve with external combat? Man achieves real bliss only when you conquer soul.
(Abstract From Jain Agamas)

Calendar of Events:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| ♦ Tuesday | 07:00 to 08:00 PM.: Yoga & Pranayam to Relieve Stress |
| ♦ Wednesday | 07:00 to 07.45 PM.: Pranayam & Meditation for Healthy Life & Positive Thinking |
| | 08:00 to 09:00 PM.: Swadhyaya (on Sambodhi: A talk of Lord Mahavir and Megh Kumar) |
| ♦ 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 (1st ,3rd) | 10:00 to 12:15 AM.: Gyanshala for children |
| ♦ Sunday (2nd,4th) | 10:30 to 12:00 AM.: Meditation, Pravachan & Bhajan |

Upcoming Events:

- ♦ Children Summer Camp: June 8-11, from 9am-3:30 pm Age 5-15 years
- ♦ Mother's Day Special Pravachan: Mother...The Source of Life, 05/10th from 10:30 to 12:00 noon
- ♦ 90 th B'day celebration of HH Acharya Mahapragyaji: June 21, Sunday at 10:30 am





Samaniji's Visit to Rice University, Houston

By: JVB News Desk

Andrea, who is teaching Jainism, invited Samanijis at Rice University to teach 'Terapanth Tradition and the Role of Samanis'. The session was concluded by Preksha meditation. Following are a couple of feedbacks from the attendees.



The Samanijis' presentation to the class clearly explained the place of the Terapanth tradition within Jainism and the role and necessity of the Samanis within the broader framework of the Terapanth tradition. The Samanijis effectively and efficiently presented their lifestyle, explaining both in religious terms and in practical terms what it means to be a member of their order. The importance of meditation and discipline was made clear, and the benefits made possible through their application were discussed insightfully.

- Erik Tanner

Until the Samanis visited our class, I had not fully grasped the complex organization that makes the spread of religious and philosophical ideas possible. They clearly showed not only the religious beliefs but the ways in which the community operates and is guided by Acharya Mahaprajna. Religion can operate in the abstract so easily that to stop and see the realities of the Samani life brings us all back down to earth. I also appreciated being reminded of the importance of breathing awareness during the most stressful part of the semester.

- Alice Townes



Donations of the month:

Swatantra & Bimla Jain	\$10,001
R S Patel & Sushma Patel	\$10,001
Ashok & Vijay Dhingra	\$10,000
Arun & Vinnie Verma	\$7,000
Alok & Ritu Jain	\$5,500
Bijay & Manju Banthia	\$5,210
Ash Leena Shah	\$5,000
Ajay and Ranjana Khater	\$5,000



Tilak and Manju Agarwal	\$5,000
Parimal & Pratima Desai	\$3,000
Harkishan Bhambani	\$2,000
Sudhir and Monika Daga	\$1,000
Samir Parakh	\$1000
Yash and Renu Bhandari:	\$1001

