

Jain thought on

NONVIOLENCE

JAIN CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
722 South Main Street,
Milpitas, CA 95035

TELEPHONE
(408) 262-6242

EMAIL
PR@JCNC.ORG

WWW.JCNC.ORG

e-library - www.jainlibrary.org

अहिंसा परमोधर्म ॥

“nonviolence is the supreme virtue”

“Nonviolence and kindness to living beings is kindness to oneself.”
- Mahavir

KEY TENETS

NONVIOLENCE OF THOUGHT AND ACTION

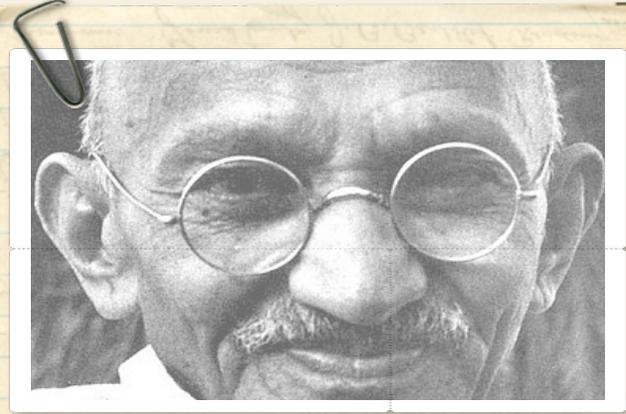
To hurt any living being in one's thought, speech, or action constitutes violence. This definition is not just limited to what someone does directly to cause violence but extends to influencing others to commit and approving of others' violence.

VEGETARIANISM

Vegetarianism is a way of life for a Jain, originating from having compassion for living beings. Practice of vegetarianism is an instrument for exercising nonviolence and peaceful coexistence. Our being depends on other life and the environment, all of which we must care for and protect.

NONPOSSESSIVENESS

The Jain concept of nonpossession is tightly tied to nonviolence. It signifies that limiting desires and accumulation gives rise to nonviolent behavior. Craving more possessions cause indulgence in violence with deeds, words and thoughts.



"No religion of the world has explained the principle of nonviolence so deeply and systematically as discussed, with its applicability in life, in Jainism.

As and when this benevolent principle of nonviolence will be sought for practice by the people of the world to achieve their ends of life in this world and beyond, Jainism is sure to have the uppermost status and Bhagwan Mahavir is sure to be respected as the greatest authority on nonviolence."

- Mahatma Gandhi

“Nonviolence is nothing but the observance of equality, the realization that just as I do not like misery, others also do not like it.”

- Sutrakrtanga Sutra 1/1/4/10