

Pictorial Stories for Children

BHADRABAHU

A Living Library



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*** Pictorial Multicolor Story books**

Fill in the Blanks

01. I will try to pay homage to Jain monks at least once in a day, for constant _____.
02. I will listen discourse or story from a Jain monk /nun atleast once in a _____.
03. I will never be a _____ person.
04. I will never speak _____.
05. I will never _____ others.
06. I will never _____ my parents and elders.
07. I will recite the Jain sutras, phrases and poems with proper _____ and utmost faith.
08. I will help my _____ in need and shall share my best things with them.
09. I will not try to show off my knowledge and to become _____.
10. I will _____ for two minutes with closed eyes, everyday.

Edited / translated / written books by

**P. Muni. S. Nirvaanbhooshan. V. M.–
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- * 18. Hanuman's previous Birth
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INTRODUCTION OF BRAHMIN BHADRABAHU

About 100 years after Tirthankar (Lord) Mahavir's Nirvan, two intelligent Brahmin-brother lived in Pratishtanpur. One day the elder brother Bhadrabahu was studying a scripture and Varahmihir was writing. Two young men from the city came and greeted them. "Our respects to the brilliant Bhadrabahu." He welcomed them and asked "Where do you come from"? One young man replied "Gentlemen! The city has a festive look today. Hundreds of men and women are going towards the garden".

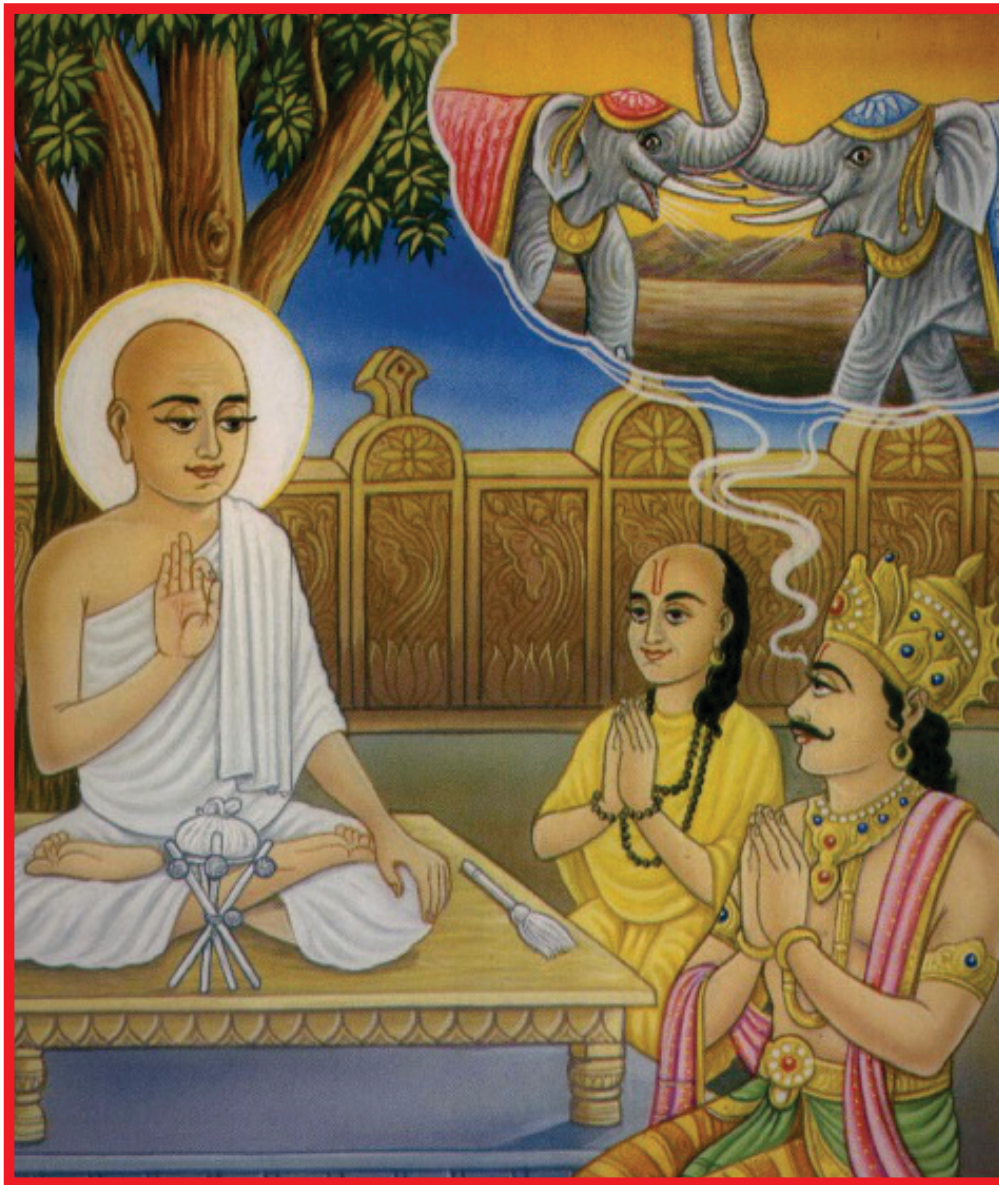
Bhadrabahu asked "Why? Is there a special ceremony." "I have heard that a great Jain 'Acharya' (head of monks), with his big group of monks has come in the (Udyan) garden." was the reply of the second young man and he further continued that the king of our city is also going there to pay homage. Bhadrabahu enquired what is the name of the Jain 'Acharya' "His name is Yashobhadra-Suri. It is said that he is Chaturdash Purvadar." (scholar of fourteen 'Purvas' or subtle canon).

With curiosity Varahmihir asked "Brother ! Who is a Chaturdash Purvadar ? The elder brother answered "As in our Vedic religion there is a course of fourteen subjects, in the Jain tradition there is the knowledge of fourteen Purvas. An intellectual of these, has knowledge of past, future and present".

Both the learned Brahmin became eager to meet the great Acharya Yashobhadra-Suri. They left for the garden with their disciples.

In the garden, expert Jain-Acharya was sitting on a grand pedestal under a huge Ashoka tree and delivering his discourse, "Scholars indulging in sinful activities like violence cannot avoid a bad end even through all their knowledge of many subject and languages. A person indulging in violence may consider himself to be a scholar but in fact, he is an ignorant". On hearing this Varahmihir asked his big brother "Brother! Are his comments directed at us? It appears that he is taunting our scholarship". Bhadrabahu told "Don't presume so. Let's meet him. There is a chance that we may defeat him in a debate. Then we will have whole Prathistanpur under the influence of our wisdom"

At the end of the discourse, the two clever Brahmins approached Acharyashri and the elder brother saluted “Convey my reverence to you. I am Bhadrabahu and he is my Younger brother and a great astrologer, Varahmihir. We are the sons of Brahmin Soma.” Acharyashri, with his divine knowledge knew that, both Brahmin were scholars.



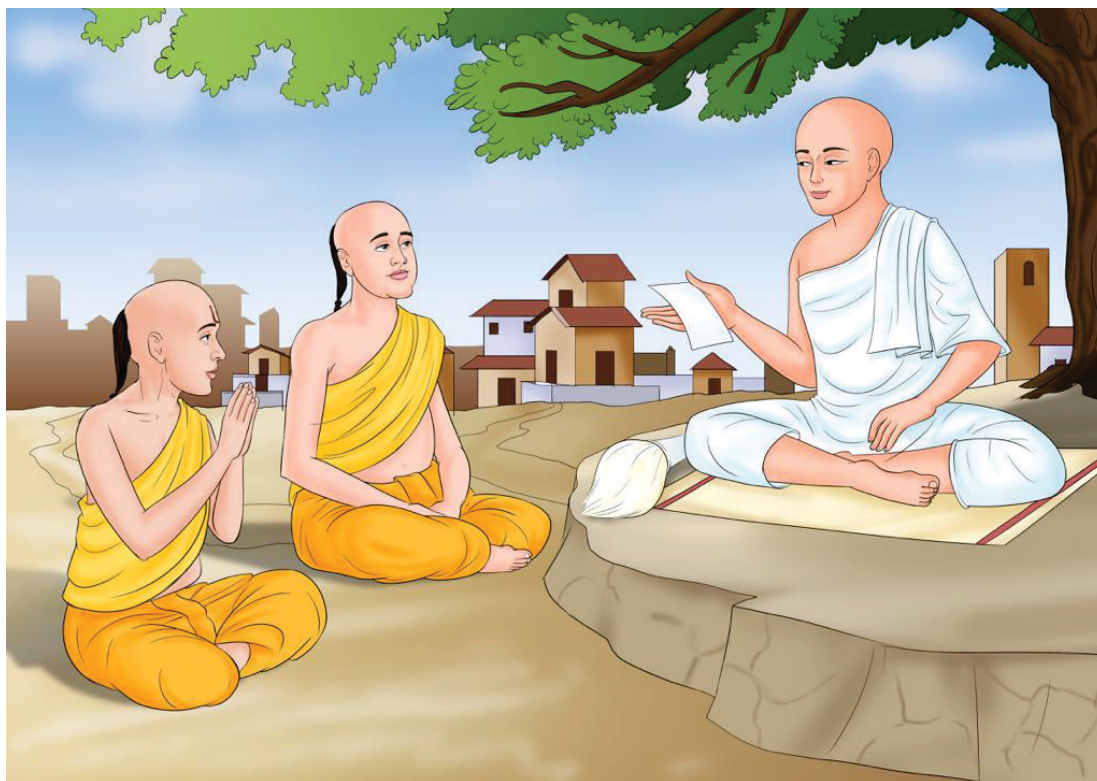
Varahmihir enquired “O sage! Did you taunt at our abilities. (A scholar indulging in violence is an ignorant) Yashobhadra suri stated Gentlemen! Why do you think so ? A Jain Shraman (monk) never taunts anybody. To taunt wisdom or a wise is a great sin.” Conversation continued between three intelligent person.

Bhadrabahu: “Then for what purpose did you recite that verse” Acharyashriji: “Wise Bhadrabahu ! These are the words of God Mahavir, the omniscient, the detached and the supreme soul. The words of the detached convey eternal truth only.” Bhadrabahu: “Would you kindly elaborate this topic?” Acharyashriji: “Why not! I would surely explain it, listen attentively”.

Explaining the text of Aagam (Scriptures) he said “It is good to acquire knowledge but knowledge alone cannot lead to spiritual progress. When knowledge turns into action then only it helps to attain virtues. For example a chariot cannot move with a single wheel. A bird cannot fly with just one wing. In the same way only practice of either knowledge or action can never lead to salvation.

Stating many examples, Acharyashri explained the secrets of Lord Mahavir's path of right knowledge and conduct to the two scholars. Bhadrabahu proclaimed “Great monk! My inner eyes are opened now. The spiritual progress that I could not acquire even after twelve years of my vedic studies, you have taught me in few moments. I am gratified.”

Wise kids! A blind man can walk but cannot see the path. A crippled person can see the road but cannot walk. When they unite they can reach their destination. In the same way you can become happy when knowledge and action are combined.



My Goal : I will try to pay homage to Jain monks at least once in a day,
for constant Fifteen days.

My Goal : I will listen discourse or story from a Jain monk /nun atleast once in a Week :

INITIATION OF TWO BRILLIANT BRAHMINS

Yashobhadra Surji saw ability in Bhadrabahu so he said to him Gentleman! your name is Bhadra (gentle). You should be gentle by heart and action as well. Enlighten the self and others with the lamp of knowledge. You are destined to increase the influence of Jain - order .”

Bhadrabahu requested him to make his disciple . Then he turned towards his younger brother “Brother ! I will become a Jain monk just now, go home and take care of our family .”

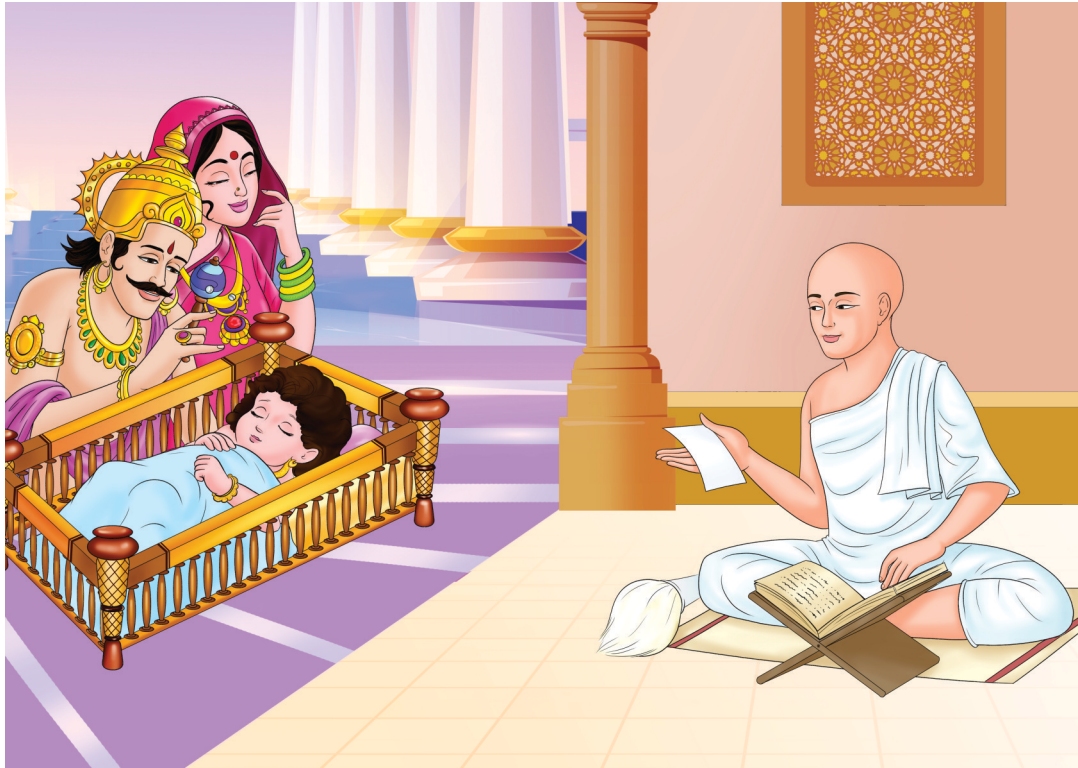
Varahamihir said “Great brother! would you deprive me of the best path you have got? I will also take Jain monkhood, with you”

Acharya Yashobhadra Suri initiated the two clever Brahmins. Daily ascetic Bhadrabahu devoted around fifteen hours for studies and meditation. Brilliant children ! how many minutes you spare for religious studies, everyday? With the intensity of his studies and meditation his intellect became so purified that he soon acquired the profound knowledge of the fourteen 'Purvas' and became a 'Shrut Kevali'.

Varahamihir was proud and hungry of worship. He started showing miracles to people after studying scriptures like 'Chandrapragnapti ' ' Suryapragnapti ' and ' Astaanga-Nimitt ' His life style was not suitable for ideal Jain monk.

Acharya Yashobhadra suri was sick due to old age. Realizing his end is near, one day he called four fold 'Sangh' (including lay men , women , monks and nuns) He announced “Among my disciples monk Vijay-Sambhooti and Bhadrabahu are the most suitable to expand the Jainism . I make both of them my successors.”

Listening, to this all became delightful except Varahamir. He started burning with jealousy. A devotee of him requested Acharyashri to make, him also a successor. Guru Bhagwant said “Varahmihir considers his little knowledge to be as vast as an ocean. He is not humble and polite “Giving an example Acharyashriji explained their attitude” Bhadrabahu is like a great fish that moves calmly and smoothly even in the vast water body of an ocean . His small brother is like a small fish with a rapid and swift movement in handful of water”.



Yashobhadra suri's frank opinion irritated Varahmihir. He raised his eyebrows and boldly said "Our Guru has shown partiality. I am smarter than my big brother. I will see them."

Then Varahmihir left Jain monkhood. He started impressing masses with his knowledge of astrology, spells, etc. Many so called learned rich and influential men became his devotees. So he became more proudly, greedy and deceitful. Once he announced in front of the people "I have spent twelve years in the orbit of the sun. The 'Sun-God' himself has taught me astrology. My predictions are always right".

He wrote a book on astrology and went to the king's assembly at Pratihasthanpur. He requested the king "My this book named 'Varaha Samitaa' contains the knowledge given to me by 'Sun-God'. Please give me some job".

Impressed by him, the king exclaimed "Oh! I have never seen such an intelligent person like you please work for the well being of my citizens. I give you the prestigious post of the state priest".?

On getting this best job Varahmihir became too happy. Now he moved around with a great pomp. In front moved bards singing his praise. Innocent people offered him gifts.

After some time Acharya Bhadrabahu arrived in the Udyaan (garden) of the city. The Queen had just given birth to a son. Joyous king asked his priest, Varahamihir about the future of his son. “This newborn child will live for hundred years. He will be more smart, clever, influential and brave than you” was the flattering reply of Varahmihir. Pleased king gave him many gifts.

People from different places came to congratulate the king and offered gifts to the new born prince. Seeing the proper time the envious Varahamihir whispered in the king's ears “Only, the Jain monk, Bhadrabahu has not come here. It seems that he is not happy, because of your son's birth.”

Suspicious king Jitshatru called his minister and ordered him to find out the reason. Modest minister approached the great monk, to make an enquiry. Politely he asked “Why an omniscient human like you didn't come to the king's assembly to greet him” Acharyashri replied in a calm but a firm tone” I am not ready to come again and again. On repeated requests from the minister, the learned monk spoke, “The bitter truth is that this new born son has a short lifespan. On the seventh day from now, he will die because of a cat. At that time I will come to console the king.

Amazed and frightened, the minister gave this message to the king. Hearing this, Varahamihir became red with anger. “This is a white lie. My knowledge of astrology can never go wrong”.

My Goal :- 1. I will never be a egoistic person.

2. I will never speak lies

3. I will never deceit others



PREDICATION OF AN ACADEMIC. ACHARYA FALLS TRUE

The king ordered to remove each and every cat out of the city. Likewise it was done by his gaurds. He appointed soldiers all around the place to safeguard the prince.

On the seventh day all of a sudden the inner door - bolt of a door fell on the newborn's head . The child uttered a weak shriek and died.

The king rushed as soon as he got the news. On seeing the dead child, lamenting he said “What the great sage Bhadrabahu had told has come true, the face of a cat is engraved on the edge of door bolt.”

With many Shravaks (Laymen) and disciples Bhadrabahu Swamiji went to sympathize the king. After this incident Varahamihir got ready to throw away all the astrological scriptures in the water. Acharya stoped him and said “You have gone against the Guru (teacher) and religion. That is why, your knowledge is incomplete and misdirected. “Once in the assembly Varahamihir told the king” At this particular time in this area it will rain. In the centre of the region a fifty two pal weighted (a measurement) fish made of ice will fall from the sky during the rain. “Bhadrabahu predicted that the ice-fish will fall at the corner of the region. Its weight would be fifty one and half pal. It happened so the next day when Varahamihir was on the street, people started taunting him “He is a mere fraud. He called himself to be the son of Sun-God but he can't predict the future of even a kid and ice fish. He is most decietful”.

When he reached the court , the king also insulted him. Angry king said, “Varahamihir! I considered you to be a gold but you have proved to be a scrap of iron. You cheated me don't show me your face again. Get lost....”

Saddened by this, Varahamihir straight away went to the forest. He became non-Jain mendicant. He wandered around without food and water.

One day in the forest his life came to an end and he was born as a Vanvyantar (a lower kind of celestial being)

One day, as a 'vanvyantar', with his divine knowledge, he saw his previous birth.



My Goal : I will never insult my parents and elders.

TROUBLES CAUSED BY VARAHMIHIR IN NEXT BIRTH

Driven by the enmity towards Jain Acharya and his followers, the evil god started showering fire and stones on the Jain temples

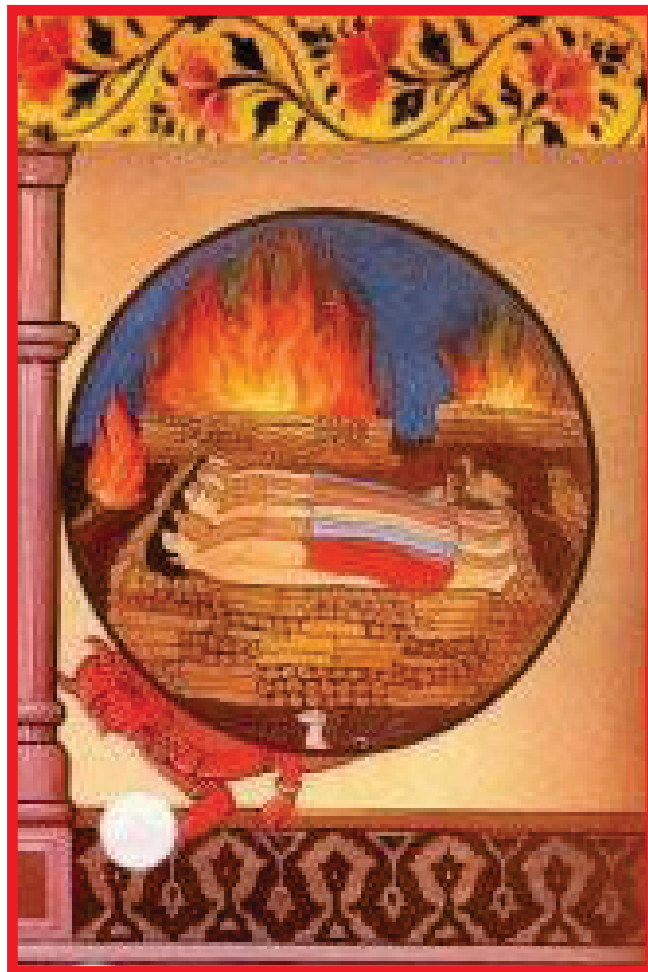
Not satisfied with this he spreaded the dreadful disease named 'Marki' in the city. Even the youngstars, teenagers and small children started dying. There was hue and cry all around and thousands of Jains were terror stricken.

The disturbed Jains came to Acharyashri and requested him to find a way out of this epidemic. Bhadrabahu, the epitome of knowledge meditated. He saw that the troubles in the city are caused by his younger brother of the previous birth.

Acharyashri concluded his meditation and told the people “The source of this affliction is the evil celestial being, Varahamihir. To protect everyone, I have composed a (Panegyric) based on the spell-science of the Jain scriptures. Everyone listen to it carefully.”

Then he recited the 'Uvasaggaharam' stotra After the recital the great monk sprinkled holy water on the audience. Pain and fever of the people vanished in a friction of a second.

Smart children, 'Jain scriptures and sutras have tremendous magical power also.



My Goal: I will recite the Jain sutras, phrases and poems with proper pronunciation and utmost faith.

JOURNEY TOWARDS NEPAL

Since that day, the practice of reciting miraculous 'Uvasaggaharam' stotra started. Wherever there was any affliction or disturbance it was pacified on reciting this stotra'.

After some days the people said to Gurudev. "It appears that the affliction is pacified. "One day Bhadrabahu swamiji decided to go to Nepal to do Mahapranayam Dhyana. This meditation requires, twelve years in an isolated place. He gave the responsibility of the 'Sangh' to a capable monk and left for Nepal.

After this, Eastern India saw a terrible draught, food and water became scarce. The streets were crowded with thousands of beggars door to door. Rich people ate behind closed doors. The guards on their gates would disperse beggars by hitting with batons.

Jain monks migrated to south India and other places which were free from draught.

It rained after twelve years and the land became green once more. Alms were easily available to 'Shramans' (Jain monks). The scattered ascetic organization once again gathered in Patliputra. They arranged a meeting. One elderly monk said, “During this terrible famine hundreds of senior ascetic scholars have died. The tradition of the knowledge of fourteen 'Purvas' is in danger. We are left with only one “Chaturdash Purvadhara” (Person having knowledge of fourteen purvas) But he is busy with his extra ordinary meditation”.

Senior preacher said, “We will send two Shramans to Nepal to inform Bhadrabahu Swami about the present condition.”

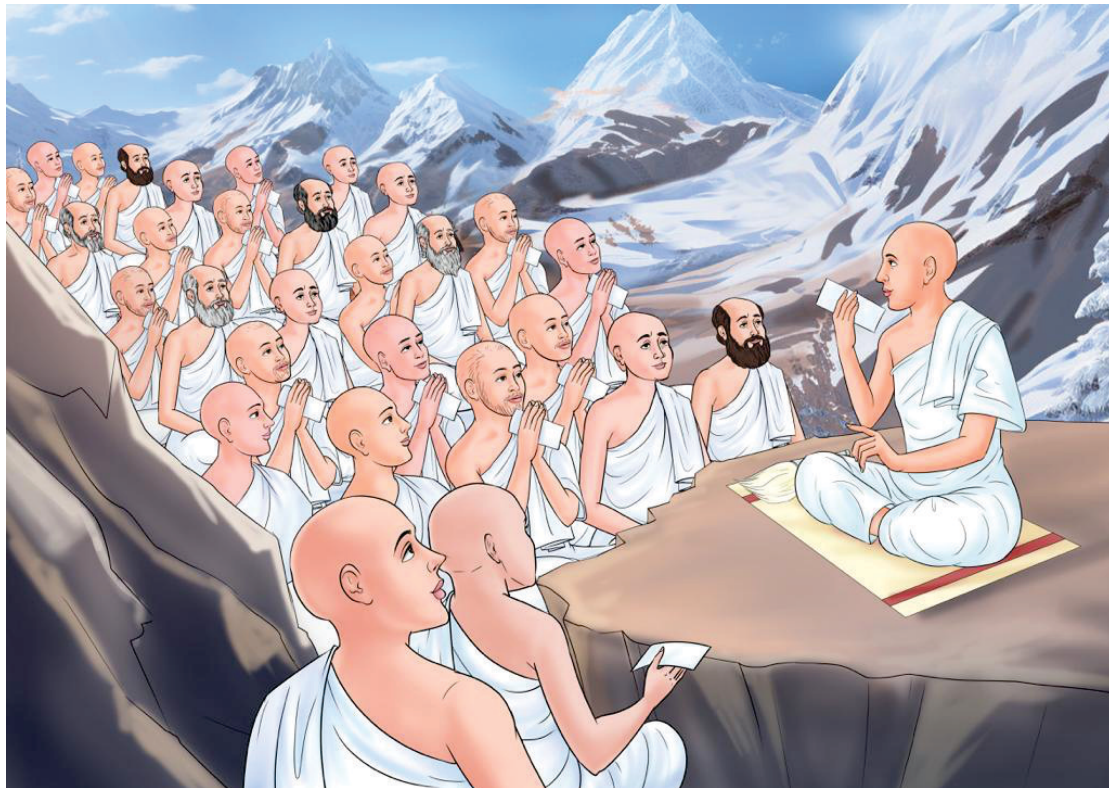


Two ascetics left for Nepal. The monks reached there and paid their homage to Acharyashri. They requested and said, “The Sangh has sent us here. Thousands of ascetics have died during the drought. Except you, no one bears the knowledge of 'Fourteen Purvas'. How can we save the tradition of Lord Mahavir's Path? Now it is in your hands to save the tradition of dwindling knowledge....”

Bhadrabahu Swami replied, “But I have decided to practice only spirituality. I have no concern for any other activity....” After returning back the monks said “This is a request from the 'Sangh' To reject the Sangh's request is a great insult to the Sangh. You are well aware of the penance prescribed for the person who insults it..”

Ascetics words touched Acharyashri's heart. He thought “They are telling the truth. Defying the order of the Sangh amounts to insulting the Lord. It amounts to a very big punishment, as prescribed in the scriptures. If the knowledge becomes extinct, it will cause a great harm to the Jain order.” After these thoughts he said What you said is true, I will impart the knowledge to deserving disciples, but at the same time I will not stop my, meditation”

With this message the monks returned to Patliputra. Five hundred disciples lead by Sthulabhadra were sent to Nepal.



My Goal: I will help my companions in need and shall share my best things with them.

BHADRABAHUSWAMIJI IS IMPARTING KNOWLEDGE

Crossing difficult hilly terrain, the group of Jain-monks reached Nepal. The intelligent ascetics including Sthulabhadra commenced taking lessons. Everyday Acharyashri gave seven Vachana (lessons). As the subject was very tough, monks started losing patience. They thought that it was beyond their capacity to grasp such a hard education.

One after another 499 ascetics left . Only Sthulabhadra took the lessons without a break. One day he asked to Acharyashri. “Guru-maharaj !!” How much I have learnt” ?. Bhadrabahu swamiji smiled at his words and said, “:You have just got a drop out of endless ocean of knowledge.”

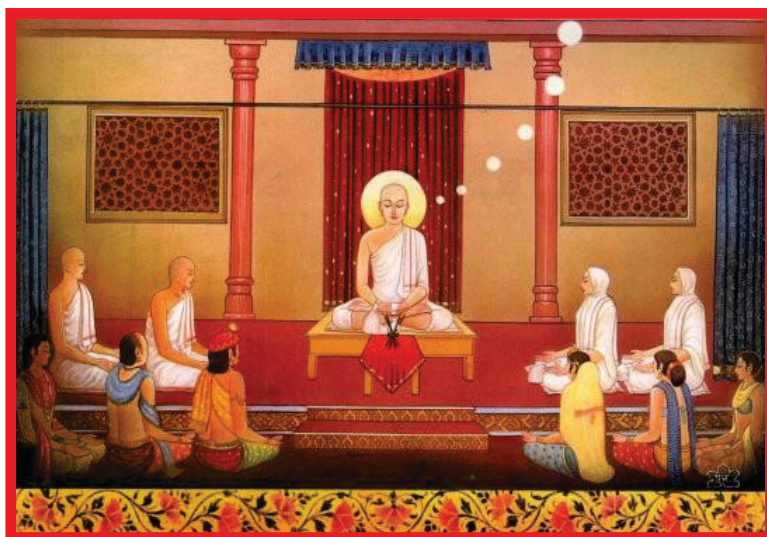
By the time, Acharyashri meditational mission was accomplished, sthulabhadra had gained the knowledge of ten 'Purvas' . Once seven sisters of Sthulabhadra who were Jain-nuns came and paid homage to Acharyashri. They also wanted to pay homage to their elder brother, Sthulabhadra. Bhadrabahu swamiji informed that he is meditating at the opening of the cave.

Nuns went there but they saw a lion seated. They thought unusual something has happened. The nervous nuns came to Acharyashri with this news. He meditated for sometime and said “Go there you will meet your brother.”

Nuns once again rushed to the cave. Ascetic Sthulabhadra was engrossed in his studies. Afterwards when he came to Acharyashriji the teacher said in a harsh tone, “Pride of knowledge blocks progress. You have acquired it but could not digest it. To boast your achievement, you became a lion today.

Understanding the Guru's indication he sought forgiveness but the teacher was firm, not to impart more knowledge to him. Other senior ascetics requested “At present only Sthulabhadra has the capacity to gain the knowledge of fourteen 'Purvas'. If you don't teach him, then the vast ocean of knowledge will extinct.

On repeated request, Bhadrabahuji agreed to give only the text (sutras) of the remaining four purvas but not its meaning.



My goal: I will not try to show off my knowledge and to become over-smart.

THE SUN OF KNOWLEDGE SETS

One day Acharya Bhadrabahu called the sangh and said “I feel that my end is near. I want to accept ultimate vow and abandon my earthly body. After me, the responsibility of directing the religious orders will rests with my successor, monk Sthulabhadra.”

In the presence of the Sangh Acharyashri commenced his meditation and introspection. The whole Sangh was chanting Navakar Mahamantra. Engrossed in the qualities of Lord (Arihant), he left his earthly body and went to the heaven.

After the completion of his heavenly life there, he will be reborn as a human-being and in a short-time shall attain liberation.



My goal: I will meditate for two minutes with closed eyes, everyday.

About the AUTHOR

The author puja Munishri Nirvaanbhooshanvijayji maharaja, before monkhood was studying in Jai -Hind college,(Mumbai),one of the top most college of India.Though staying in Walkeshwar, one of the richest area of India, left all the comforts & luxuries, to achieve high level of spirituality.When he was a teen – ager boy, influenced by the western culture started hating, not only Indian cultured & traditions but Jain religion also.He often went to Jain upashray, just to listen & read Jain stories.This also, helped him to give up his dream of going to abroad.Stories became a turning point in his life.After becoming monk, once he was suggested by his preacher ,Guru **H.H.P.A.D. Shrimadvijay Hembhushansuriswaraji Maharaja**, to make his English powerful.

He was too obedient to follow each & every order of his Guru.Hence he was given responsibility of giving 'pravachans' to children & teen-agers, during sanskar-shreni in just one year after attaining monkhood. Due to the grace of Guru-Bhagawants, he achieved mastery in English also.He gave many 'pravachans' created several poems e.t.c. in English also.He became able of compiling books & translating pravachan in English. He also helped his Guru M. in translating case papers of sammet-shikharji, Antarikshji e.t.c. He has a mastery of converting hearts of children, teen agers & young stars too. We have also experienced in our life. He brought us, near to Jainism.

We hope this story which is written in simple & lucid language, would help children, teen agers e.t.c. to study Jainism, who are facing language barriers.

Ketanbhai (C.A.), Hemang(C.A.)
Sagar(C.A.), Jinal(C.A.)
Arham. Aarya, Vinaybhai

Bhadrabahu, a learned-rich **brahmin**,
Listening Pravchan, he left all **sins**,
What else may I tell?
Like him, none was **seen**.

He made perfect **prediction**,
The king listened it, with **attention**,
What else may I tell?
He saved the king from **irritation**.

He saved thousand of **Jains**,
Among sutras Uvasaggaharam was **main**,
What else may I tell?
His creation was like 'Pushkaraavart' **rain**.

His best student, was **Sthulabhadra**,
He taught him fourteen **purvas**,
What else may I tell?
He created, the best **sutras**.

Listening, Arihant '**Dhooon**',
He left this world **soon**,
What else may I tell?
He expected "**Nirvaan**"-boon!

Bhadrabahu was a rich & learned Brahmin. Once
he listened the discourse. It creates a drastic
change in his life. He becomes a Jain monk.
His prediction never goes wrong. He created
magical sutras. He was a living library like a
sweet berry. He was the last person to possess
knowledge of fourteen purvas with meaning.
What were the the predictions?
What was the sutra's magic?
Why he was called, a living library?
How he saved thousand of Jains?
How he made the king, a follower of Jainism?
To receive this answer read '**Bhadrabahu**'.

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