

Our Great Persons



Dedasha, Pethadsha, Zanjhansha, Krishna & Devki`s **sons** Hir-Sen Bappa Bhati Suri, were Great **ones** In Jinshashan`s sky, they were like rising **suns** what else may I tell ? It`s a fact, like them there was **none**. Above great persons uplifted Jainism through their intellectual powers & virtues. They faced difficulties in removing darkness, spreaded in Jainism, How the above persons removed darkness ? How they spreaded the light in Jinshashan`s sky ? How some were able to reach the most joyful, cheerful, delightful, gleeful, blissfull, place known as “**Nirvaan**” to receive this answer, read **OUR GREAT PERSONS**

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Great Faith

Dedasha, Pethadsha and Zanjhansha were influential father – son trio in the Jain history. After attaining Swarnasidhi (process of turning iron into gold). Dedasha colored his life with the colors of devotion towards the Almighty God Thamban Parshwanath. When the king, inspired by ear-splitting imprisoned Dedasha, who got absorbed in the thought of Almighty God Thamban Parshwanath lost his attachment towards body and place . Suddenly a horsemen entered the prison door at late night and said “ Dedasha ! Why are you sitting? Get up “ Dedasha was amazed to see such a miracle. Jailers were left rubbing their eyes and they crossed the border of the country on horseback. Looking back with the desire to welcome the horseman , neither the horse nor the horseman were seen by Dedasha. Adisthayak (presiding deity) of Parshwa prabhu solved the problem.

On his deathbed he said to his son, “ Pethad ! it is my desire to give away (donate) my entire wealth in the seven realms. "Noble Pethadsha said “Father ! you are the owner of the entire property and can do as you like . There is no question to ask .

By giving the process of swarnasiddhi to Pethadsha, Dedasha gave a great ideal by donating his entire wealth in seven fields. (Jinmandir-Jinaagam-Jinmoorti-Sadhu Sadhvi-Shravak-Shravika)

My aim :- I will donate 10 Rupees to poor, everyday.

“For, who are you waiting ? ... “ For you “.

A dukulvastra (precious cloth) was gifted to Shriman Pethadsha Mantriswar (minister). Shraadhratna Shri Bhimshreshthi of Khambat appreciated the vratdharis of Chaturthvrat (vow of celibacy) . Shri Pethadshah used to fold hands in front of 'Dukulvastra' , three times in a day . His wife shrimati Prathamini , used to see this everyday .

Once she asked why , you are not using this gift (cloth) and what do you think with your folded hands, everyday ? Minister said 'I am not authorized to use this 'VASTRA' (cloth) because I have not taken the vow of celibacy !'

For, who are you, waiting ? was the question of Prathamini .“For you” ... was the reply . Minister's wife said . ' I am ready ' At the young age of thirty two , both took the vow of celibacy for entire life , from Guru-bhagwant and started using the garment.

The dukulvastra of minister , spreaded purity . be it the plagues of ghosts, ghouls or the anxiety of murderous sufferings , the mere touch of the garment cured ,not only humans but the large bodied elephant also felt healthy.

My aim:- I will not see more than one movie in a month.



Appreciable Zonzhansha

The influence and glory of the ancestors is able to keep the present buzzing . Shripethadsha's son, Shri Zanzhansha was more appreciable than his father .

Once a king of Karnavati (present Ahmedabad) sent a message to Zanzhansha , that he should come there for a meal with 5000 elite religious people from his 'Sangh' of Chittogarh to Siddhagiri (Palitana) ' All are elite religious people in the sangh so how can I have discrimination " was the reply of Zanzhansha .

The king said . ' It is next to impossible to prepare meal for lacs ." Seth said " Our Majesty ! I didn't said, for it but it is impossible for me to separate them . All of them are the devotees of god and guru ."

The impatient king said . ' I am the king of Gujarat , can you prepare meal for entire country ? Zanzhansha accepted that without a moment's delay. Invitation was given and within four days with respect and pomp , he fed the whole country . When the king was invited to see the storehouse , he was amazed to see heaps of sweets .

The name and work of these religious heroes would remain imperishable .

My aim :- I will consider , my coreligionist as the best person in the world and will not say their mistakes for six months.



Blessed Surivara Re

'Nirmal – sayami ' Acharyashri was the head of eighteen hundred monks . Shri Tirthankardeva was remembered by his pure sermons . He did not felt shame , anywhere in the topic of statement of the true and accurate thing . He was like a wandering Tirthankar for the devotees of real path and was like an apple of the eye for those , who were critics of Jain religion.

The presence of this Acharyashri pierced the class (critics) like a particle in the eye. They made preparation for his departure , from this world . As a part of such preparation an assain sent by them entered the 'Upashray'. Acharyashri was also asleep at late night . An assain took the knife in his hand but at the same time Acharyashri needed to change is ides. Like the living idol of ' Jayana ' , he turned his Rajoharan (Ogha) on the Santhara (bed) so that by mistake also , not a small creature should be hurted . This sight change the killer's mind . A silent sound of 'Dhanya Surivara ' appeared fom his heart . He sat down , introduce himself to the Acharyashri in the morning and took his leave . The name of that Mahatma, a 16th century Yugapurush, is engraved in golden letters as Shri Somasundara Surishwarji Maharaja

My aim :- I will see down, while walking to save also the tiny creatures for two months.

Saiyam- Priti

Tapagachaadhipati Acharya Shri Dharmaghosh suriswarji maharaja was considered as their guide and guru by Mandavgard's General minister Shri Pethadsha and Zanzansha . Acharyashri was a great man of pure austerity .

Once a black poisonous snake bit him . The poison spreaded . Being reluctant , Acharyashri embraced the spirit of not taking medicine . Shrisangh , very insisntly made him agree to take the medicine and asked what medicine is suitable for this .

Sitting in the 'upashraya' the divine Mahatma said ' Now a woodcutter is coming at the gate of the town with a load of wood . A small creeper in it is a best remedy.

Without a moments delay, the devotees went and prepared the medicine . Within moments the influence of the poison subsided . Acharyadevashri became healthy . But from that day , he took a vow to renounce six vigai (milk,ghee,oil,curds,jaggery and snakes(spiced pulses etc)]for life , and abstained from food other than millet bread (Rotlaa of Jowar) and butter milk. This was the austerity of these glorious ancestors of ours . They were able to keep Jain-shashan safe through their big powers of penance, 'tyaag' and austerity.

My aim :- I will not eat, outside food (prepared in hotel , laari , restauarant, etc) for three months.

“ Powers of the followers of Jainism “

Vastooopal and Tejpaal , this brotherly couple proved unparalleled in the political field with their intellect and arm strength. Inherited by the wonderful 'sanskaar' of mother, they were staunch devotees of Jainism . Once , while returning from the pilgrimage , they stayed overnight at'dharamshala' of Dholkaa , which was capital of Gujarat country .

The king , ShriVeerdhawal and his son Vishaldev were concerned with the question of the boundaries of the kingdom . At night, the ruler of the state (kooldevi) instructed both the father and the son and even the royal priest to pacify the borders of the state by handling the country to two brothers , residing in 'dharamshala'.

Trio requested to accept ministership and generalship . Both the brothers gave maximum priority to religion in their life . How could they be confused by these dignitaries ? They boldly said "Maharaj ! You are ready to give us 'Mudra' (post) but listen carefully that we have first surrendered our life at the feet of Shri Arihant . Therefore we will not accept your command against their command. We will also not accept those commands that are harmful for citizens or are against the honor of the royal throne." Being pleased , the king , insisently awarded the post of minister and general . Both were not greedy for power , so were able to maintain their religion and serve the interest of the king and the people . Who else can do like these except a true believer ?

My aim :- I will not accept any post or anything which is harmful for my country and religion for life.



“Guru of Akbar the emperor of India”

After the death of mother and father, young brother was brought to her home in Patan by sister, Vimalaa . This child who came with the best rites (Samskar) of birth was enlightening in his childhood with devotion towards the Almighty Lord.

When P.A Shri Vijay Daansooriswarji Maharaja reached Patan , Heerji seemed to have got fruits. He became too glad and happy on seeing Guru-Bhagwant Vijayji. He accepted initiation at a tender-age and became Munishri Heer-Harsh Vijayji. Devoted to knowledge and action, he progressed in the field of meditation, austerity and restraint. He gradually became Shri Vijay Hirsuriswarji, a distinguished Gachadhipati.

He was a leader of two thousand monks. He was a staunch practitioner of renunciation and self-restraint. Mughal emperors, like Akbar became calm under his influence . Akbar became renouncer of the heinous sin of hunting and carnivorousness throughout the life under his disciples influence also. Akbar also gave orders, of not to kill animals, birds e.t.c. throughout India for an ample time.

Pujya-Acharyadevshri strengthened his self restraint by abstaining not more than 12 items during Ekasna e.t.c , abstaining from five 'Vigais', 'Aayambil' on the day of the first-darshan of the 'Jainmandir' (temple) in the new village or town or sacred (Tirth) places. It is famous in the history that how much they have had to endure from the traitorous class.

Who can sing the success story of that glorious man who always remained reluctant, and obliged us by giving the gift of a jewel like Shri Sensuriswarji.

My Aim:- I will not eat at night (after sunset) for three months.

Dedicated Bhimshreshti

Bhimshreshti of khambat city was not superior only by wealth but generosity, magnanimity e.t.c were also the qualities of his life. Devotion towards Guru was particularly shining in his life.

Shri Vijay Devandrasuriswargi Maharaja, the composer of the "Karmagranths" new was his dharma guru. Apart from taking the vows of Shrivaka-dharma, he specially took the vow of celibacy for life. He

was one of the best shravaka. He prepared the best type of Dukulvastra (cloth) to appreciate those who took the vow of celibacy all over the country. By giving it to all the dignitaries as a garment (Prabhaavnaa) he made the glowing flame of 'E' vrat Jagmaa Divo' spread across the horizon. Though the minister of the country, didn't took the vow of celibacy, but as a special kind of influencer, gift of Dukulvastra was sent to him also. The minister, Pethadsha accepted the vow of celibacy with his wife at the young age of thirty two years after his regular darshan of Dukulvastra.

When Shri Bhimshresthi got the news of the kaal dharmā' (death) of his brilliant Guru, he gave up eating 'food-grain's item' for twelve years. He was devoted to God & Guru & its importance was established his heart.

My aim: I will do Guru Vandan everyday for four months.

The composition of the Seventeen faced Pooja..

The period of "Jagadguru Shri Hirvijaysuriswary Maharaja, (who was the guru (guide) of the emperor Akbar) was one of the best.'Upadhyay Shri Sakalchandrajī Maharaja was a strict follower of rites & a learned monk.

Once he had his stay, just beside a potter's yard, in a village. There were many donkeys in the yard. During the day & night, he often heard the tumultuous sound of the donkeys.

The "Upadhyashri" was engrossed in reciting verses of religion, throughout the day & night. Once he took a vow at night to remain in "Kausag mudra' (stand-still) until the barking of the donkey is not heard. He stood steady as a pillar & composed seventeen-faced pooja.

The night passed. & the dawn came, but the barking of donkeys was not heard. In fact, it happened like that, the potter left for beside village with all the donkeys on the previous evening. It was coincidence that the potter brought donkeys, when the composition of seventeen faced pooja was completed by the great monk in stand still position, Donkey's sound (barking) fulfilled the vow of the intelligent monk.

Such a clever smart brilliant & intelligent monk were there. Sattar bhedi-pooja is sung frequently since ancient times.

It is only because of such great persons who have a wonderful combination of knowledge and action that the Jainism has been glorious. These glorious stories of the ancestor are enough to shake our pride.

My Aim :- I will try to recite-learn verse(gatha) for atleast seventeen minutes in a day for seventeen days.

Lord of Goodwill

The Jain history of the last 400-500 years belongs to the unique creation in Gujarati language of stavan-sajjay-thoys-hymns-raas and verses. Among the composers, certified by Jainachariya Vijay Sensuriswarji Maharaja, the famous pioneer 'Kavi Shri Rishabdasji' or ' Kavi Rikhavdasji' seems to be the only Sadgruhastha (a lay-man). Mostly, the works of 'Jainacharyas or of monks are considered as certified. But 'Rikhavdasji' is said to be such a great worship-singer that his hearts feelings in the form of hymns and other phrases were also sung by the great monks of Jainism.

One of the best intellectual, Pujyashri Hemchandrasuriswarji Maharaja , who created three and a half crore verses, was singing the hymns composed by Srisiddhasensuriswarji who was not able to create even lacs of verses.Amazed ,King Kumarpal asked about this reason. Pujya Shri Hemachandrasuriswarji Maharaja said that each and every creation is jawdropping.It seems that Shri Vijay Sensuriswarji Maharaja may have permitted the creation of Shri Rikhavdasji in the essential rituals (Kriya), by seeing his best worship, towards God and Guru.

Though Rikhavdasji was not a monk but the feelings flowing in his composition made it authentic.

Almost it is not yet known that another shravak(a lay-man) has been given such a status. Some individuals are created to be unique.

My Aim:- I will sing stavan everyday in temple for a week.

Unstoppable Warrior

The title 'Sawaisuri' and 'Sawaihirji' was given by Shri Akbar (emperor of India) to a great monk leader Shri Vijay Sensuriswarji Maharaja.

Having been initiated as Munishri Jaymalla at a young age, he became the successor of 'Jagadguru' Shri Heervijaysuriswarji Maharaja. Even a Muslim emperor who was impressed by the asceticism and austerity of 'Jagadguru' asked, 'Who will give me sermons after, you do 'Vihaar'. The name of his holiness Vijaysensuriswarji Maharaja was also given by 'Jagadguru'.

The emperor was surprised to see the biography .Impressed emperor gave him above both titles.

On receiving the news of 'Jagadguru's unwell health, with the emperor's consent he started 'Vihaar' in the ongoing monsoon (chaturmass) from Lahore towards Gujarat. On reaching Anhillpur, Patan city of Gujarat he listened, the sad news of demise (kaaldharma) of his guide ; philoshopher , and 'Guru'. Only God knows, that what last inheritance was to be given by 'Jagadguru' to his successor by calling him. Looking at the history, it seems that the great man P.A. VijaySen.m.s who was busy with the effort of substaining the big monk-group had to go through a severe test of poison. It seems that he was given poison, by his opposisers.

He was an unstoppable warrior of Jainism who left this world in Akbarpura near Khambat. He made utmost effort to uplift Jainism in the hearts of people.

My Aim :- I will try to obey my parents every orders for atleast 10 days.

:- You will become the best celibate.

There was a close friendship between prince Aam and Bappabhattikumar. At the age of nine , Bappabhatti became a jain monk. Chronologically, 'Aam ' became a king. Remembering the former friendship, King Aam invited Shri Bappabhatti monk (muni) to the town. Entered ceremoniously in the royal court, the king begged him to be enthroned on the golden throne.



As he himself was not an Aachaarya (leader) he refused to sit on the golden throne, so the king requested his Gurudevshri to appoint Munishri as an 'Aachaarya'. Knowing the reason for the special benefit, Gurudevshri decided to give the principalship to Munishri Bappabhattachi, a twenty-one year old youth. What is the grandeur of the ceremony of 'Padapradaan' of those who are worshipped even by the gods and the king by his virtue of austerity? On that occasion, each and every person were too happy but suddenly lines of worries appeared on Gurudevshri's face.

Brilliant Muni Bappabhattachi was smart enough to understand his Guru's mind. Then also, he appeared at the feet of Gurudevshri and asked 'Bhagwan! What are you worried about? 'Dear Bappabhattachi! You are young and king is your devotee. I am worried about your future.' Munishree understood the benevolent concern of Gurudev's heart. Immediately he said 'Be free from your worries. From this day onwards, give me vow to abstain from six 'vigai' and devotee's household food and water, for life.

A happy minded Gurudev happily gave the pledge and said, you will become a great celibate and influencer of Jainism. Pujya Bappabhattachisurisaraji Maharaja influenced the king 'Aam' to follow the right path. He also used to memorized 1000 (thousands) new sagas (verses) daily. This life story of the glorious ancestor teaches us a special lesson. Salutations to 'Brahmamurti (celibate). Salutations to Sushisya, a devotee of the Supreme Guru.

My Aim: - I will memorize atleast one gatha (verses) in a day, for twenty-one days.

Three equal plows.

After the death of Shri Krishna, Shri Balabhadraji who was enlightened about the impermanence of life became a recluse. Lord Shri Neminath dada sent A Shri Dharmagosh and thus Balabhadraji became 'Munishri Balabhadraji'. In spite of all restraint and performing severe austerities the contours of his elegant body did not fade.

Once to acquire food, he went to a village. Jain monks take those food items and water, which are not prepared for them. A woman who had come draw water from well saw the Mahatma, coming from a distance. The woman who forgot at his amazing appearance, instead

of putting the rope trap in the pot to draw water from the well, started putting it around the neck of her child.

The great monk saw this and thought that his handsome looking (form) is harmful. He decided to go back at that moment. He also decided not to go to any village or town after this and to stay in the forest.

He used to collect Gochri (food and water) from the passers-by in the forest. Through the influence of austerity and restraint, carnivorous, forest animals like tigers, snakes and lion etc. became his foot-grabbers, so he got the title of 'Narsinha'.

A deer became his strong devotee. As soon as he saw the passer-by opening his lunch box and sitting down, he would approach the ascetic Balabhadraji and give him the idea with a gesture.

The wood cutter, sitting under the branch of a half-chopped tree, is giving alms (Gochri) to 'Munishri', invited by the deer. Munishri is in high spirits of austerity, high life thinking, while the wood-cutter is giving alms with good spirit. Just then the branch broke. All three completed their lives and went to fifth heaven together.

This incident has been sung for ages, evoking the saying "karan-karaavan ne Anumodan, tin sarkha phal pave".

My aim:-I will request, for gochari to Guru-bhagwant, atleast for one month.

The ideal of celibacy

The nobility of the upper line age and 'sanskar' of past births are the reasons for the 'Naravatars' (great people) like Vijay seth & Vijaya sethani

Hearing the glory of celibacy from 'Guru', Vijay seth in his childhood made a life long vow to observe celibacy in 'Krushnapaksh' (dark half of lunar month)

Vijaya kumari took the vow of celibacy for whole life in 'Shuklapaksh (bright half of lunar month)

Acceptance of such vows is easy while to follow it is too difficult. Co-incidentally, the parents of these two dignitaries, married them with the pomp and fanfare.

On the first night of marriage eager Vijaya kumari reached his husband's bed chamber. Seth calmly said 'I know your desire but I have taken the vow of celibacy in 'krishnapaksh'in my childhood. Three days are still left so we will sleep together and enjoy after it.'

Listening this, Shrimati Vijaysethani became astonished for a moment and then said 'I too have taken the pledge of celibacy for life but in 'Shukla paksh'. Now I will follow celibacy for life while you can marry another better girl and follow your vow in 'Krushnapaksh'.

Happily Seth said ' Oh! Its wonderful! Now we will both follow the vow of celibacy, secretly. When our parents will come to know about this, we will accept 'Diksha' (renunciation).

This couple, who set the ideal of chaste celibacy despite constant cohabitation at a young age, has become a unique example.

'Kevali' bhagwant also appreciated the grandeur of Vijay-Sethani and the self-control of Vijay Seth.

This example is too helpful in today's strange environment to awaken ourselves.

My Aim :- I will take a small vow also for one year from Guru-Bhagwant.

Celibacy is the best vow.

Once Jindaas shravaak (a lay person) desired to donate food and water to eighty four thousands monks. But at the same time question arised in his mind. How can so many monks meet or stay together? & if found how to get such food and water suitable for Jain monks? (because they don't take or accept food & water which is prepared for them) He became worried at this thought.

Once he asked a 'Kevali' (Omniscient Lord,who knows about future present and past of everybeing and object of the world)" How to fulfill my wish.' The Almighty lord said "Dignity ! Your emotion ('Bhavanaa') is the best but it is too difficult to fulfill your desire.

Emotional Jindaas asked 'What is the remedy, I will try my best.' Kevali said " This can be fulfilled by honorably workshipping Vijaysheth & Vijayshethani living in the country of kutch."

Knowing the importance of celibacy from kevali bhagwant (Lord) celibacy is the best vow started echoing in jindaas heart .

Jindaas searched for Vijayseth in the country of kutch. After getting the address of Vijayseth ,Jindaas made aware to the Sangha and the family about the greatness of distinguished couple.

Couple decided to take 'Diksha' (renunciation) because on the first night of marriage they had dediced that when their parents would come to know about their vow of celibacy they would take 'Saiyam' (monkhood)

They practiced monkhood in a best way by self restraint.They made their name worthy by achieving victory in the war (inner) against 'Karmraj' (bad feelings of an atma).

They attained Sidhigatti (moksh) the most happy joyfull cheerfull sacred holy pious gleeful pleasant blissful place .

Salutation to these mahatmas (pious souls) who bore the prefixes (upsarga) with a smile and attained perfect place forever

My aim :- I will offer my food to my co-religionirt atleast once in aweek for one month.



Best positive thinker - Shri Krishnaji.

During the time period of the 22nd Lord Shri Neminathji- (thirtankar), Shri Krishna was the best follower of Jainism. Though he had 16,000 (sixteen thousand) countries, in his hand, his faith in God

was excellent. His fame was not only spread on the earth but reached in Devlok Cheaven) also.

Once the king (Indra) of Devs said "Krishna does not fight ugly (unsuitable) battles & does not see vice (negativity) in anyone". Devs tried to test him.

Once Shri Krishnaji was going to pay homage to Lord Neminathji. Suddenly one Dev came & kidnapped his best horse. Dev gave him an offer to fight with dirty (lower) organs to get the horse but Shri Krishnaji was ready to give up the horse. He refuse to fight which was not suitable for a gentleman. Brilliant children! **Do you fight with your companions?**

In the second incident, when Shri krishnaji was going to bow down to Shri Lord Neminathji with his large army, a rotting dead body of a black dogess was there. A very bad smell was polluting the whole environment. Though, the unpleasant smell & look of that dead body, Shri Krishnaji said 'Oh! wonderful white teeth-like buds are so good!' Devs were astonished by both incidents.

They showered flowered on Shree Krishnaji and handed back his best horse. The qualities of this great personality, who is considered 'kshaayik Samkiti (best faith-holder) tells us lot. If you want to ascend the path of religion, you should become a positive thinker. We should see qualities in others & see our faults.

This wonderful quality of Shri Krishnaji is also worth cultivating.

My Aim: I will not see the faults of others for atleast 22 days.

Who are these sages ?

The fate of Bhaddilpur city was blessed like the moonlight of full moon day. 22nd Lord Shri Neminathji had arrived here. The news of his arrival spread like wildfire.

All citizens were going in the same direction to pay homage to Lord. In 'Samavasaran' the mighty voice of the lord filled everyones heart with a pang of excitement. Six sons of merchant, Aniyasen etc also attended 'Deshna' of Lord. Six handsome brothers who appeared as ' Devkumar' were awakened. They decided to take 'Diksha' (monkhood). They requested 'O Lord ! After receiving parental permission, we want to leave worldly pleasures by taking 'Diksha.'

The Lord said 'As you like. Cross the obstacles (against taking 'Diksha'). With a bluish-bright body, black and curly hair, shining forehead, large eyes with a happy face, the six brother's were identical. They looked so same that anyone would create confusion. intelligence, those dignitaries obtained possessing permission by persuading their parents. They came back to the Lord & accepted initiation. At the same time they requested to the Lord, to give them a lifetime pledge to do Chatta on Chatta (to do two Upvaas consequently without a two days gap between it). They became self-restraint.

These dignitaries became great scholar with a high level of austerity also. Being absorbed in meditation they began to wander with the Lord. Their indifference between soil & gold et.c. became attraction for common people. They performed rites and rituals in a proper way. They were 'Charamshariri (acheivers of Moksh in that birth).

Once Lord reached, Dwarika city with eighteen thousand monks, he stayed in Sahasram-ravan (a big garden of mangoes's trees). Aniyasena et.c. six brothers received the Lord's permission to for "Gochri' in a group of two.

Wandering in different sections, because of their handsome look like king Krishnaji, the monks made the citizens of Dwarika, astonished. Everyone started thinking "who are these great Sages?"

My aim:- I will atleast, leave to eat onion, potetoes etc.



"Reflection of Lord Shri Krishna".

Looking around the palace, Devakimata saw two munis Coming to her courtyard. She became too happy Going seven steps in front of munis, bowing them with devotion, she requested two munis, to give her "laabh of Gochri. She offered fresh Sinh-Kesaria Modak (best sweet) made for her son, Shri Krishna. Two monks migrated. to other places after giving religious benefit (Dharmalabh)

In a few moments, another group of two monks arrived. Devkimata, happily welcomes them and takes laabh' (gives) of Sinha-Resaria Modak, but a doubt arises in her mind. In Dwarika, charitable and happy religious people are staying in large number then why they (monks) are coming at the same house for Gochri, again and again. (Normally Jain-monks don't go at the same place for 'Gochri' but collect little-little food from different houses). There are more than crore houses inside the city & outside the fort of the city . Gochri is not rare. Will be spirit (Bhavnaa) of people be low? May be monks have returned by mistake?" Devki was absorbed in thoughts & suddenly a third pair of monks -arrived at her courtyard, after the departure of second pair.

Awakened by the sound of Dharmalabh, Devkiji was very happy with a benefit of Gochri's laabh'.

She again donated, ' Sinha-kesari-modak' with utmost good feelings ('Bhavnaa'). At the same time, the arrival of same monks for the third time raised a needle of doubt in her mind. She asked calmly "Why you have to come to same house for Gochri again and again"?

The austere munivaras (monks) immediately realized the truth and told that "We are brothers. Because of your good-luck coincidently, we arrived at the same place only once but our same appearance made you confused."

Devkiji thought, fortunate lady is she, who gave birth to these six identical (same) sons like my son Krishna. Eagerly she asked "Bhagwant! Before Diksha, where, you were living? What is the name of your parents? Devkiji became worried knowing that they were six brothers, the sons of Nagsh-resthi & Sulsa-shraavikaa of Bhaddilpur city.

My aim:- I will become happy, when I will see Jain monks/nuns.



The seed of the new pain.

Devkiji became astonished when she heard from monks that 'We are the sons of Nagashresthi and Sulsa-shravikaa. We are also the cause of attraction & curiosity for all as we are identical in appearance color & intelligence. In the Samavasaran of Lord Neminath, we became detached after listening his discourse (pravchan). We were the lords of thirty-two wives. Along with that, we got all the comforts and luxurios item in the number of thirty-two. Many servants, served us. There was the loving warmth of the parents but the Lord's speech painted us with the color of dispassion, so we took the initiation with the permission of the parents. From the day of our 'Diksha', we are doing consequently two Upvaas. Devkiji appreciated the wonderful devotion and self-sacrificing ascetic life of these monks. The indifferent monks wandered elsewhere but the seed of new pain was planted in devkiji's heart.

Though Devkiji was a supreme worshiper of Jainism got amazed & worried after listening this incident. She thought that these sages have made their handsome & wonderful form successful through excellent austerity & restraint. There is no one, handsome like this six monks except my son, Krishna. It is really a matter of wonder, that one rich family has such happy six children & all of them renounce the best worldly pleasures. What situation would have been created, when six-identical brothers had taken Diksha!

Lost in the sleep of that thought, Devkiji reached an occasion of the past & her sorrows became incalculable. She was drowned in the sea of sorrow.

"Karma" plays amazing games

Drowning in the ocean of sorrow, the sea of love is tossing up & down in Devkiji's heart. Devkiji thinks that "Sachi ek maya re jin angarni." I too have a devotional love for monks & nuns but I don't understand why I feel so much affected towards these monks? When I see or remember them, my only son Krishna comes in my mind.

In a refreshed memory of the past she remembered about the sayings of Sri Atimuktaka Munivar (monk) in her childhood. "You will be the mother of eight-eight handsome & meritorious sons".

The prophecy of Jain-monks never goes wrong. It happens any how but alas! today I have only one son named Krishna" Devkiji became depressed with this thought.

Immediately, she remembered that Lord Shri Neminathji is in the park of Dwarika. She decided to reach there & seek satisfaction from the Lord. Servants were commanded to do arrangements for procession, with great pomp, & many maid-servants, she reached near the holy feet of the Lord.

She performed three circumambulations (Pradaksinaa) around the lord as a form of respect. Then she stood in a solemn manner in front of Lord & said "Lord! You know everyone's future, past & present, so please clear my doubts, which are pinching my heart." Even the clever, smart, intelligent & brilliant. people of Dwarika became astonished when Almighty Lord revealed the matter, which was secret till today. Who can challenge 'karma raj '? In his eyes all are equal, may be a beggar or a king. If you have accumulated it, previously, by bad activities or by bad thoughts then you have to face bad results.

As you sow, so you reap.

The Lord said 'Devaki ! Nagarshreshthi and his wife Sulsa both very pious, live in bhaddilpur town. Both are religious and wealthy also. Aniyasen etc six brothers were brought up there in a very prosperous environment. These six dignitaries who are today my disciple are infact your own sons. You are the mother of seven handsome sons.

In between Devkiji exclaimed "How"? Lord said " If you accumulate karma then in future you have to face bitter results. It happened like that when religious "Sulsa" was in her childhood she was also a devotee of her kooldevi and Harinaygamaishi Dev who is the commander in chief of 'Indra'. Sulsa prayed God and Guru with utmost devotion.

Once she came to know from one astrologer that because of her previous bad 'Karma' she was pained. After marriage, she placed an idol of 'Harinaygamaish' Dev at her home. Sulsa used to pray 'Dev' also everyday. Once, Dev came and asked her "Why you are praying me? How, can I help you?". Sulsa told her grief.

Dev said "I am also unable to reverse (change) your 'karma'."Sulsa pleaded him to avoid, stigma of being barren. God reassured her by using his Avadhigyan (a special knowledge which also helps to see future also).

Dev knew the bad effects of karma, which would create unbearable pain in the life of yours. He also knew that at the time of your marriage, your sister-in-law drunked wine too much. She misbehaved in a very bad manner with her brother in-law, who was a Jain-monk named Atimukta.

In anger, the great sage said that the seventh womb of Devaki will kill your husband and father. Jeevyashaa became amazed & astonished.. She regain her senses, because of fear. She told this incident to her husband named Kansa.

Kansa & your husband, Vasudev were freinds from a long-time. Once, at a proper occassion, kansa asked Vasudev for your seven wombs. He agreed it because he had many children from his other wives. Dev made you and Sulsa pregnant at the same time by his special powers, and abducted your six sons at the time of birth & placed Sulsa's dead children with you. Sulsa brought up your six sons. Those are my six clever disciples named Aniyasen etc.

Gajasukamal takes Diksha'

Devaki became too glad after knowing that her sons are now, the jewels of Jainism. She was satisfied with her son, Krishna but at the same time, now she got lost in new thoughts. She thought that, I am fortunate to be the mother of seven precious sons, but I am

unfortunate too because I was not able to raise my single son also. Those mothers are fortunate, who have nursed their children and heard their babblings. When she was lost in negative thoughts, at that time, her son, King Krishna, who ruled over 16,000 countries, came with his family to bow here.

"Clever, smart brilliant! intelligent! good children! Today, how many young stars bow their parents every day? I am confident that you bow your parents atleast twice a day.

Krishna saw mother with a worried face. The mother even didn't faced him. Shri Krisnaji asked "Maa ! O Maa! Are you worried today? Normally, when I come, you become too happy. Today, you are not even seeing towards me !!? "Mother Devaki shared her worries & thoughts. She also shared, the sayings of the Almighty as Lord. She cursed herself that "how unfortunate I am because I was not able to brought up even my one son also."

Matru Bhakta Shri Krishna humbly said "Mother! Don't worry! I will try my best to make you happy! Then he remembered Shri Harinaygamaishi Dev while sitting in Pousadhshala (a holy place) on Darbhasantharo (dried grass' carpet) He engrossed himself in utmost meditation, which created, a large power to attract 'Dev' also towards him. Dev appeared & told in detail" A great virtuous soul will become your youngest brother but he will take Diksha at a tender age".

Krisnaji with a happy face gave this news to his mother. After some time, Devaki became pregnant. She saw a lion, entering in her womb from mouth in dream, which represented that the child would be brave like lion against inner enemies (anger, greed, ego etc) **Brave children! You should fight against inner enemies.**

At a proper time, she gave birth to a son, whose palate was soft like an an elephant, so he was named "Gajsukumal". He was engaged with a daughter of 'Somil' Brahmin, who played with a golden ball . She was too beautiful and rich also.

Gajsukumal became monk after hearing single Deshna (lecture) of Lord Neminath. He seeked the permission of his parents, but Shri Krishna insisted to accept his kingdom for a day. He was made king with much funfair.

Shri Krisnaji requested the new king, to give orders to him, Gajsukumal, ordered to bring restraint devices (Diksha's

upkaran)and call the barber. Shri Krishna solemnly surrendered his brother at the feet of Lord Shri Neminath. Lord initiated Gajsukumal. Intelligent children? What orders, you would give, if you become king or prime minister of India?

My aim : I will tell this stories atleast to my five friends.



He has reached, the most happy place.

The newly initiated Shri Gajsukumal-monk got the primary training from senior monks. In the evening he requested to the Lord "Please give me permission to meditate at night in "Mahakal' crematorium." After receiving the permission of the Lord, he became meditative in a noble manner.

Brilliant children! Do you meditate every day? Bones of human beings were seen here & there but he was fearless. How can external fear haunt those who are afraid of 'Bhava'?

Somil brahmin, who had went out for his work saw the great Gajsukumal-monk. He became too much angry because of the

thought that this 'Mahatman (munivor) had spoiled my daughter's life. He spreaded sticky clay around the Munivar's head, which was shaved today. He also filled it with embers, burning in the crematorium and ran away.

Sinners are always afraid. Innocent person never have fear in heart. Munivar's meditation remained intact. He didn't loose his concentration. He destroyed all his karma & reached the most happy, joyful, cheerful, delightful, sacred, holy pious, gleeful, pleasant, blissful place known as 'Moksh' (Liberation).

At dawn, Shri Krishna came to pay homage to Lord with his parents. He asked. "Lord! Where is munivar (monk)" Gajsukumal" Lord replied "Krishna! He has reached 'moksh" Krishna exclaimed "How"? Lord said "Today, when you were coming here for 'Vandan,' you helped an old brahmin to collect bricks for his home & his work was too much speeded up because following you, your army also helped that man. In the same way, Gajsukumal monk soon got a helper in consuming all the karmas and he reached Moksh. ('Nirvaan'.)

Krishna asked "How can I know the helper? Lord said"The Brahmin who dies at the sight of you, while entering the city would be the helper."

Krishna, who was delighted by his brother-monk's salvation & was sad also because of his separation, entered the city. Somil brahmin, coming from the front door saw him, he got so scared that his heart stopped there. Shri Krishna recognized him as the killer of Gajsukumal monk.

The entire Dwarika city was filled with anger & grief. Judicious, pious & holy people, distraught by this event, took shelter of the Lord. They all took 'Diksha'. Shri Gajsukumal attained salvation in only one night after being surrendered to Lord Neminath. Dear children! Do you want to attain salvation?

My aim: To acheive Diksha at a tender age, I will stay, atleast for one month with Jain monks / nuns.

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Fill in the Blanks

- 1) I will donate.....to poor, everyday.
- 2) I will not see more than.....one movie in a.....
- 3) I will consider, my coreligionist as the.....in the world and will not say their mistakes for six months.
- 4) I will see down,.....to save also the tiny creatures for two months.
- 5) I will not eat,..... (prepared in hotel, laari, restauarant, etc) for three months.
- 6) I will not accept any post or anything which is harmful for my.....and religion for life .
- 7) I will not eat.....(after sunset) for three months.
- 8) I will do.....everyday for four months.
- 9) I will try to recite-learn verse(gatha) for atleast.....in a day for seventeen days.
- 10) I will sing.....everyday in temple for a week.
- 11) I will try to obey my parents every orders for atleast.....days.
- 12) I will memorize atleast.....(verses) in a day, for twenty-one days.
- 13) I will request, for.....to Guru-bhagwant, atleast for one month.
- 14) I will take.....also for one year from Guru-Bhagwant.
- 15) I will offer my food to.....atleast once in aweek for one month.
- 16) I will not see the faults of others for atleast..... days.
- 17) I will atleast, leave to eat.....
- 18) I will become happy, when I will see.....
- 19) I will tell this stories atleast to my.....
- 20) To acheive.....at a tender age, I will stay, atleast for one month with Jain monks / nuns.

Inspiration / Guidance :-
P. Muni Nirvaanbhuoshan Vijay. M.



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About the Translator

The translator Pujya Munishri Nirvaanbhooshanvijaji 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 aged boy, influenced by the western culture started hating, not only Indian cultures & 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 **Hemhushansurishwarji** 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-Bhagwants, he achieved mastery in English also. He became able of compiling books & 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 of 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.)

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The Gujrati book named `Prataapi Purvajo` is translated by munirajshri Nirvaanbhooshan Vijayji, which is now in your hand. It is next to impossible to give justice to the moral events of our ancient great persons but it is our duty to use our strength in good work. With this thought, an attempt is made, which would become a landmark for me & everyone. I am ending with the expectation, that we would gain from the life of

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