



1. Why do they live naked ?

The Jain saints concentrate on purification of the soul. Any possession mislead them from their purpose. Even the clothes create attachment and hinder the process of self-purification. They endure the harshness of different weathers smilingly and continue their penance. Jains believe that complete celibacy & highest degree of non-possessiveness is essential for cultivating non-attachment which eventually helps them to attain the eternal bliss (Moksha). Complete detachment also includes giving up attachment to family, wealth and all types of worldly possessions.



2. What is the purpose of “Pichchi” (The peacock feather whisk) and “Kamandalu” (The water pot) in their hands?

As they believe in ‘ahimsa paramo dharma’ which means nonviolence is the supreme religion, they keep the peacock feather whisk as it is the softest in the world and doesn’t harm any living being. The saints clear everything, be it floor or a scripture, before sitting or touching it so that if there is a being, it can be shifted peacefully.

They keep the water pot to wash their hands and for other hygiene matters. These two are said to be a saint’s only possessions or we can say, these two are the symbols of purity in their action.

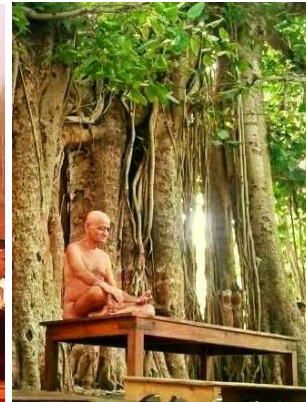
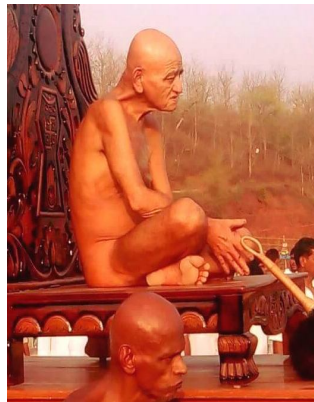
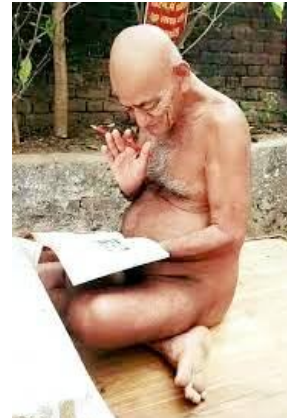
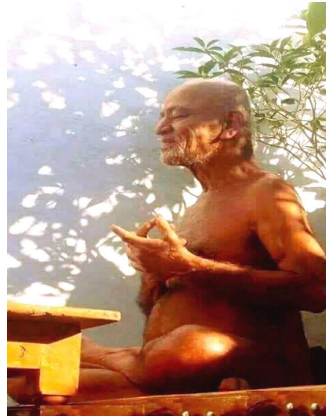


3. How do they take food?

They take food & also water, once a day. As they give up everything, they renounce even the utensils & take food in a standing posture using their hands. Food which is given to them by the Shravakas (the laymen/followers/devotees), those amongst the followers, who always refrain themselves from non-vegetarian food and alcohol. This indicates that they depend on the laymen even for their food as they don’t eat for taste but merely to live and to concentrate on achieving the goal of ‘Moksha’ (liberation/highest self-realization).

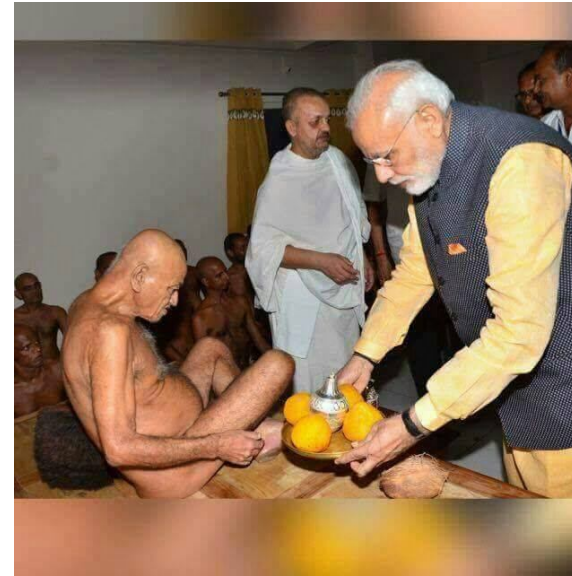
4. Why don’t they use any transportation?

Following the supreme religion of nonviolence and in the quest of renouncing everything they do not use any kind of transportation as any vehicle harm innumerable beings during its movement. They move very cautiously, always keeping an eye on their footsteps to avoid even the tiniest harm to the living beings like ants, insects etc. Each of their action is filled with immense compassion and the intent of not to harm any being through their mind, speech or action.



5. What are the unique features of Jain Philosophy?

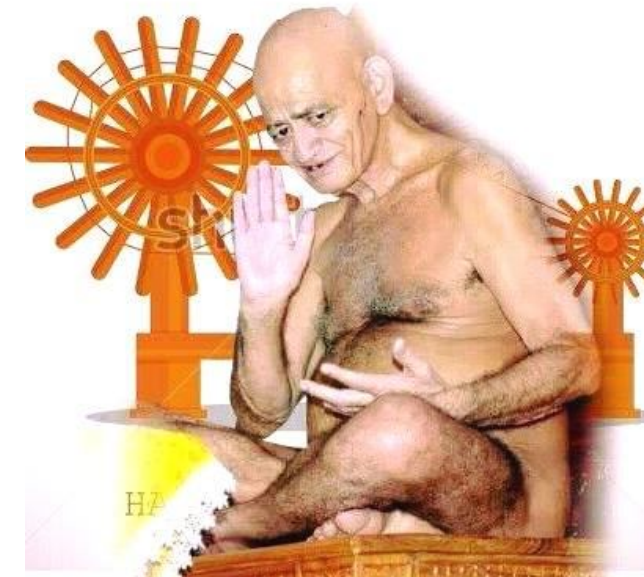
- ❖ Jainism believes that universe, with all its substances (or entities), is eternal. It has no beginning or end with respect of time. The Universe runs on its own cosmic laws, be it karma, death or rebirth. All substances change or modify their forms continually. Nothing can be destroyed or created in the universe.
- ❖ There is no super-power, or God, to manage the affairs of the Universe. Hence Jainism does not believe in God as a creator, feeder or destroyer of the universe. However Jainism does believe in God as the perfect being as according to Jainism Godhood is a state of the best human possibility. And that perfect being has no interference in any happening of the universe, be it good or bad.
- ❖ When a person destroys all his 'karma' he becomes omniscient and omnipotent. He becomes the liberated soul. He lives in a perfect blissful state of Moksha forever. As all souls are same, every living being has



the potential to become God. In Jain philosophy God is the supreme manifestation of human excellence.

- ❖ The universe is made up of six eternal substances namely: Jiva (consciousness), Pudgal (matter), Akash (where all the six substances reside), Dharma (medium of motion), Adharma (medium of rest) and Kala (time).
- ❖ God is the Atman, free from all bonds of Karma. The cause of bonding karma with the soul is caused by 'raga' & 'dvesha' (attachment & hatred)) and ignorance of the self. Atman in its pristine state, is purest consciousness, absolute intelligence, perfect strength, and all knowledgeable. Nothing can be mightier, more divine or more powerful than the consciousness in its pure, pristine state.
- ❖ The process of self purification is Jain Dharma, which is practiced by the Jain saints & which requires conquering of the senses, practicing non-violence & compassion in each of their deed, an intricate feeling of non-possessiveness & utmost celibacy.

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"JAIN SAINT" ACHARYSHREE VIDYASAGAR JI

A TEACHER OF
SELF RELIANCE
AND SELF PURIFICATION
BE NATURAL - LIVE NATURALLY

THESE ARE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS
ONE MAY HAVE IN MIND
WHILE VISITING JAIN MONKS