

JAINISM

Founded by Lord Mahavira in the 6th century BCE

❖ LIFE OF LORD MAHAVIRA & JAIN TENETS

- Lord Mahavira's birth in Kundagrama (Vaishali, present-day Bihar, India) in 599 BCE
- Renunciation and spiritual pursuit at the age of 30
- Attainment of Kevala Jnana (omniscience) after 12 years of intense meditation
- Sermon of the First Discourse (Sutrakritanga) at Jambhiyavalli
- Jain principles: Non-violence (ahimsa), truthfulness (satya), non-stealing (asteya), celibacy (brahmacharya), and non-

possessiveness (aparigraha); **4 principles** derived from earlier Tirthankara but Celibacy was added to the list by **Mahavira**.

- Belief in the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth (**samsara**) and the liberation of the soul (**moksha**)

❖ THREE JEWELS & FUNDAMENTAL TEACHINGS

- **Three Jewels** (Ratnatraya): **Right faith** (Samyak Darshan), **right knowledge** (Samyak Jnana), and **right conduct** (Samyak Charitra)
- **Five Vows** (Mahavratas): **Ahimsa** (non-violence), **Satya** (truth), **Asteya** (non-stealing), **Brahmacharya** (celibacy), and **Aparigraha** (non-attachment)
- **Doctrine of Karma**: Belief in the accumulation of karma through actions and its influence on **future rebirths**
- **Jain ethics**: Compassion towards all living beings, vegetarianism, and environmental stewardship

❖ JAIN COSMOLOGY & PHILOSOPHY

- Belief in an **eternal** and **uncreated universe** with cycles of time
- **Six substances** (dravyas): **Jiva** (soul), **Ajiva** (non-living matter), **Punya** (merit), **Papa** (demerit), **Asrava** (influx of karma), and **Samvara** (cessation of karma)
- **Theory of karma**: Different types of karma determining one's experiences and destiny

- Doctrine of non-absolutism (**Anekantavada**) and relativity of truth
- **Syadvada**: Theory of multiple perspectives and non-one-sidedness

❖ FIVE GREAT VOWS OF JAIN MONKS & NUNS

- **Monastic Sangha**: Ascetic community of monks (Sadhus) and nuns (Sadhwis)
- **Five Great Vows (Mahavratas)**: Ahimsa (non-violence), Satya (truth), Asteya (non-stealing), Brahmacharya (celibacy), and Aparigraha (non-attachment)
- Strict adherence to ascetic lifestyle, self-discipline, and detachment from worldly attachments
- Practices of fasting, meditation, self-control, and study of Jain scriptures (Agamas)

❖ JAIN SCRIPTURES & LITERATURE

- **Agamas**: Canonical scriptures containing the teachings of Lord Mahavira
- **Angas**: Commentaries and explanations on the Agamas
- **Tattvartha Sutra**: Jain philosophical text by Acharya Umaswati
- Prakrit and Sanskrit texts by Jain scholars and philosophers
- **Jain poetry and literature**: Writings by Jain poets and scholars

❖ JAIN SYMBOLS & ICONOGRAPHY

- **Jain emblem**: Ahimsa (hand with a raised palm)

- **Tirthankara images and statues:** Depicting enlightened beings in various postures (asanas)
- **Symbolism of Jain art:** Serene expressions, non-violence, auspicious symbols (swastika), and Jain cosmology

❖ JAIN CONTRIBUTIONS & IMPACT

- Influence on Indian philosophy, ethics, and religious practices
- Promotion of **non-violence**, compassion, and environmental sustainability

ASPECT	SVETAMBAR	DIGAMBAR
Clothing	White-clad monks and nuns wear white clothes.	Sky-clad (naked) monks believe in the practice of nudity as a form of austerity. Nuns wear white clothes.
Scriptures	Accept a larger set of Jain scriptures, including texts	Accept a smaller set of Jain scriptures, written only in Ardhamagadhi.

	<p>written in Ardhamagadhi and other languages.</p>	
<p>Belief in Female Monks</p>	<p>Allow the ordination of female monks (sadhvis).</p>	<p>Do not believe in the ordination of female monks, considering it impossible due to the requirement of nudity.</p>
<p>Sect Origin</p>	<p>Originated from the teachings of Sthulabhadra, after the Jain Council of Vallabhi (3rd century CE).</p>	<p>Claim to follow the original teachings of Lord Mahavira and believe that their sect predates the Svetambar tradition.</p>
<p>Art and Images</p>	<p>Allow the creation and worship of images of Tirthankaras.</p>	<p>Reject the use of images for worship, as they believe Lord Mahavira forbade it.</p>

Sect Population	More numerous and widespread.	Smaller in numbers and mainly found in South India.
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<u>EVENT</u>	<u>BUDDHA</u>	<u>MAHAVIRA</u>
Place of Birth	Lumbini, present-day Nepal	Kundagrama (Vaishali), India
First Sermon	Sarnath, present-day Uttar Pradesh, India	Magadha, present-day Bihar, India
Death	Kushinagar, present-day Uttar Pradesh, India	Pawapuri, present-day Bihar, India

Philosophy

Buddhism

Jainism