# Jainism

# Diwali

To the Jains, it has a whole different meaning. For them, Diwali is the day when the last of the Jain Tirthankaras, Lord Mahavira, attained nirvana, also known as complete knowledge and enlightenment. Lord Mahavira established the dharma followed by the Jains worldwide. It is celebrated at the same time as the Hindu festival of Diwali. Diwali marks the end of the year for Jains, and it likewise commemorates the passing of their twenty-fourth Tirthankara Mahavira and his achievement of moksha. Both religions have various cultural practices and festivals spread throughout the year. They all serve a specific purpose based on the God or deity they celebrate. One common practice and festival is Diwali. It is celebrated as an important religious festival by both Hindus and Jains. In Jainism, Diwali was first referred as dipalika or splendour of lamps, in the Harivamsha Purana written by Acharya Jinasena. In his words, The Tirthankars illuminated Pavanagari by lamps to mark the occasion. Since then, on Diwali, the day when Mahavira attained nirvana, is celebrated with lamps.

# festival marhaviri

According to Jains, Mahavira was born in 599 BCE. His birth date falls on the thirteenth day of the rising moon in the month of Chaitra in the Vira Nirvana Samvat calendar era. It falls in March or April of the Gregorian calendar, and is celebrated by Jains as Mahavir Janma Kalyanak. Mahavir Jayanti is celebrated with great fervor by Jains around the globe. They carry out processions(rath yatra), visit temple, give offerings to the poor, meditate, and chant hymns in praise of Lord Mahavirs on this auspicious occasion. After Mahavira, one of his disciples Sudharma Svami is said to have taken over the leadership. He was the head of Jain community till 600 BCE. After his death, Jambuswami, a disciple of Sudharma Svami became the head of the monks. He was the head till 463 BCE.

Mahavir was born in 599 B.C. as a prince in Bihar, India. At the age of 30, he left his family and royal household, gave up his worldly possessions, including clothing and become a monk. He spent the next twelve years in deep silence and meditation to conquer his desires and feelings.

# Paryushana

Paryushana is an annual holy event for Jains and is usually celebrated in August or September in Hindi calendar (indian calendar) Bhadrapad Month's Shukla Paksha. Jains increase their level of spiritual intensity often using fasting and prayer/meditation to help. The five main vows are emphasized during this time. Seven days are days of attainment and the eighth day is one of fulfillment or achievement. It is at this time that Jains embark on their respective annual pratikramana - a reflection on their spiritual journey for the past year.

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