Tirthankar Adinath Children's Magazine

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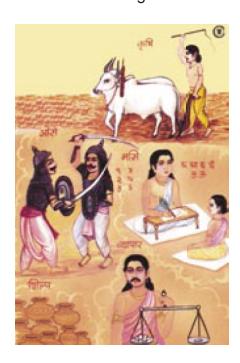
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Chapter 1: Tirthankar Adinath: Key Life Events



Dear Children, do you know who was the very first Tirthankar of this current era (Avasarpini Kaal) in this infinite cycle of time? He was Tirthankar Rishabhdev, whom we all respectfully and lovingly call Tirthankar Adinath. 'Adi' means 'first' or 'the beginner'. He was not only the first Tirthankar who showed us the path to liberation (Moksha), but he was also the first great man who taught humanity the art of living in a civilized manner.

- * **Birth:** He was born in the holy city of Ayodhya to King Nabhiraya and Queen Marudevi of the Ikshvaku dynasty. At the time of his birth, a divine light spread everywhere, and the entire city was filled with joy and celebration, as if heaven itself had descended upon earth.
- * **Change of an Era:** During his time, nature began to change gradually. Previously, there were 'Kalpavrikshas' (wish-fulfilling trees) that fulfilled all the needs of the people. But now, the things obtained from them started diminishing. People began to struggle for food, clothing, and shelter.
- * **Giver of Life Skills:** Then, the farsighted Prince Rishabhdev understood the people's suffering. Through his own contemplation and then by teaching everyone, he gave society a new direction. He taught farming (Krishi) to grow grains, reading and writing (Masi) for the exchange of knowledge, wielding weapons for self-defense and protecting society (Asi), and also 72 arts like pottery, weaving, house building (Shilp), and trade (Vanijya). In this way, he taught people living disorganized lives how to live in a cultured and organized society.



- * **Marriage and Family:** He was married to Yashaswati (also known as Sumangala) and Sunanda. From Queen Yashaswati, he had 100 sons, the eldest being Bharat Chakravarti, and a daughter named Brahmi. From Queen Sunanda, an extremely strong son named Bahubali and a daughter named Sundari were born. His son Bharat became so illustrious that our country came to be known as 'Bharatvarsha' after him. Princess Brahmi invented the 'Brahmi script', which marked the beginning of writing, and Princess Sundari imparted the knowledge of 'arithmetic' to the people.
- * **Renunciation and Initiation (Diksha):** He ruled skillfully for a long time. But one day in the royal court, a celestial dancer named Nilanjana was performing. While dancing, she suddenly died as her lifespan ended. Seeing the reality of this transient life, a deep sense of detachment and renunciation arose in Tirthankar Rishabhdev's mind. He immediately decided to renounce the kingdom. He divided his kingdom among his sons (Ayodhya to Bharat and Takshashila to Bahubali) and took Jain initiation (Diksha) himself to walk the path of self-realization. Along with him, about 4000 other kings and people also took Diksha.
- * **First Meal (Paarana):** After taking Diksha, Tirthankar Adinath became engrossed in deep penance and meditation. He observed complete silence for a year and did not consume any food or water. At that time, people did not know the method of offering food to ascetic monks (Aahar Charya Vidhi). They thought about what their former king might need and started offering him elephants, horses, gems, jewelry, etc., which the Tirthankar did not accept. Thus, about 400 days (13 months and 9 days) passed without food. Finally, while wandering, he reached Hastinapur. There, his great-grandson (grandson of Bharat), Shreyans Kumar, attained recollection of his past lives (Jatismaran Jnan). He remembered the need for pure and sattvic food for monks. He then devotedly offered sugarcane juice to Tirthankar Adinath, which the Tirthankar accepted in his cupped hands. This was the Tirthankar's first meal after initiation. In memory of this great event, the festival of 'Akshaya Tritiya' is celebrated even today, and people break their 'Varshi Tap' fast with sugarcane juice.
- * **Omniscience (Kevaljnana):** After performing rigorous penance and meditation for a thousand years, on the eleventh day of the dark half of the Falgun month, while meditating under a Banyan tree in the Shakatmukh garden of Purimtaal town near Prayag, he attained 'Kevaljnana' complete and infinite knowledge. Now he became the all-knowing and all-seeing Omniscient.
- * **Establishment of the Religious Order (Tirtha):** After attaining Kevaljnana, the Tirthankar began delivering sermons to show the path of liberation from suffering to the beings of the world. He established the four-fold religious order (Tirtha or Sangh)

comprising monks (Sadhu), nuns (Sadhvi), laymen (Shravak), and laywomen (Shravika). This Sangh continues to uphold the flag of Jainism even today.

* **Liberation (Nirvana/Moksha):** Finally, at the end of his lifespan, Tirthankar Adinath attained Moksha – the state of eternal bliss – by destroying all karmas through cessation of all activities (Yoga Nirodh) on Mount Kailash (also known as Ashtapad) on the fourteenth day of the dark half of the Magh month. He became forever free from the cycle of birth and death.

Chapter 2: Important Lessons from Tirthankar Adinath's Life



Tirthankar Adinath's inspiring life teaches us many important things for living a happy and meaningful life:

- 1. **Ahimsa (Non-violence):** This is the supreme religion. It means not causing harm to any living being, small or large, through mind (thinking ill), speech (speaking harshly or falsely), or body (hitting or causing pain). For example, we should not trouble animals, kill insects unnecessarily, or fight with or tease our friends or siblings.
- 2. **Satya (Truthfulness):** Always speak the truth, no matter the circumstances. Lying breaks trust and pollutes the soul.
- 3. **Achaurya (Non-stealing):** Not taking anything that belongs to someone else, whether it's fallen, forgotten, or simply not given. It is a symbol of honesty. Taking someone else's pencil or eraser at school without asking is also a violation of the vow of Achaurya.

- 4. **Brahmacharya (Celibacy/Chastity):** Controlling one's senses, especially the mind, and staying away from unnecessary indulgence. For students, it means focusing their attention on studies and good deeds.
- 5. **Aparigraha (Non-possession/Non-attachment):** Not accumulating more things than necessary. Limiting one's needs and living a simple life. For instance, not insisting on more new toys if we already have enough, or giving away our old clothes or books to the needy is practicing Aparigraha.
- 6. **Karuna (Compassion):** Having feelings of kindness and love towards all beings, whether they are humans, animals, birds, or plants. Understanding the suffering of others and trying to help them.
- 7. **Importance of Knowledge:** The Tirthankar himself attained Omniscience through rigorous penance and inspired everyone to acquire knowledge. Knowledge alone dispels the darkness of ignorance and shows the right path. His daughters Brahmi (script) and Sundari (mathematics) played a significant role in spreading knowledge. We too should study diligently.
- 8. **Purusharth (Effort/Endeavor):** He taught people to give up laziness and work hard (like farming, crafts, trade, etc.) instead of just relying on fate. Making efforts in the right direction is crucial for achieving success in life.
- 9. **Samabhav (Equanimity):** Remaining calm and stable in all life situations like happiness-sorrow, profit-loss, respect-insult, success-failure, without getting disturbed. This helps maintain mental peace and balance.

Chapter 3: Teachings of Tirthankar Adinath



After attaining Kevaljnana, Tirthankar Adinath, in the Samavasaran (a special divine assembly), showed all beings the precious path to living a happy life and achieving the ultimate welfare of the soul, i.e., Moksha. His main teachings are as follows:

- * **The True Path of Self-Welfare:** He explained that lasting happiness is not found in external things like wealth, position, or material pleasures. True and infinite happiness lies in recognizing one's own soul, purifying it, and becoming free from the bondage of birth and death (karmas).
- * **The Doctrine of Karma:** This world operates on the law of karma. The thoughts we think, the words we speak, and the actions we perform bind karmas to our soul. Good (Punya) karmas result in happiness, and bad (Paap) karmas result in suffering. We have to experience the fruits of these karmas in this life or future lives. Moksha can only be attained by completely removing karmas from our soul.
- * **The Path to Moksha: Triratna (Three Jewels):** The only way to attain freedom from karmas and achieve Moksha is to follow the 'Triratna' or the Three Jewels:
- * **Samyak Darshan (Right Faith):** Having true faith in the Deva (God), Shastra (Scriptures), and Guru (Teacher), and believing in the true nature of the soul.
- * **Samyak Jnana (Right Knowledge):** Acquiring correct and doubtless knowledge of the elements like Jiva (soul), Ajiva (non-soul), Karma, etc.
- * **Samyak Charitra (Right Conduct):** Acting correctly according to the knowledge, i.e., observing vows, rules, penance, etc., and abstaining from sins like violence, lying, stealing, etc.

- * **Social Structure and Livelihood:** When the Kalpavrikshas began to disappear, it was the Tirthankar who taught people to live in a society and learn the six essential occupations (Shatkarma) for sustenance: 'Asi' (defense), 'Masi' (writing, accounting), 'Krishi' (farming), 'Vidya' (learning knowledge and science), 'Shilp' (arts and crafts), and 'Vanijya' (trade). Human civilization developed from these.
- * **Establishment of the Chaturvidha Sangha (Four-fold Order):** To follow the path of religion and propagate it, he established the four-fold Sangha:
- * **Sadhu:** Men who renounce home, family, and worldly attachments and follow rigorous vows.
 - * **Sadhvi:** Women who renounce home and family and follow vows.
 - * **Shravak:** Laymen who follow the religion while living a householder's life.
 - * **Shravika:** Laywomen who follow the religion while living a householder's life.

This four-fold Sangha is the foundation of Jainism even today and inspires us to walk the path of truth, non-violence, and righteousness.

Chapter 4: Akshaya Tritiya: The Immortal Story of the First Meal



Dear children, have you ever wondered how monks and saints eat? They don't cook their own food. They go to the houses of laypeople (householders) and ask for pure and sattvic food, which is called 'Gochari' or taking 'Aahar'. But how did this tradition begin? Its story is connected to Tirthankar Adinath and the day of Akshaya Tritiya.

The Difficult Time After Initiation:

As we read, Tirthankar Rishabhdev renounced his kingdom and took Diksha. Many others also took Diksha with him. After Diksha, the Tirthankar became engrossed in deep meditation and penance. He observed complete silence for a year and did not consume any food or water (Aahar). He wandered from village to village, city to city.

The People's Ignorance:

At that time, people had forgotten the lifestyle (Charya) of monks and the method of offering them food. When Tirthankar Rishabhdev stood before a house for alms, people recognized him as their former king, but they didn't understand what he needed. They thought perhaps the king was missing his kingdom or wanted some valuable items. So, people started offering him gold, silver, diamonds, pearls, gems, beautiful clothes, elephants, horses, and even their daughters! But the Tirthankar was detached (Vitaragi); what did he have to do with these worldly things? He remained silent and moved on without accepting anything.

A Year-Long Fast:

In this way, a whole year (399 days) passed! The Tirthankar continued his penance without food or water. The radiance of his body was increasing, but physically he became very frail (weak). Many monks who had taken Diksha with him could not endure the hunger and thirst and strayed from the path.

Arrival in Hastinapur:

Wandering, the Tirthankar reached Hastinapur. At that time, King Somprabh ruled there, who was the grandson of Tirthankar Rishabhdev (son of Bahubali). King Somprabh's son was named Shreyans Kumar.

Shreyans Kumar's Jatismaran Jnan:

When Tirthankar Rishabhdev arrived in Hastinapur for Aahar, Prince Shreyans Kumar was watching him from his palace window. Upon seeing the Tirthankar, immense devotion welled up in Shreyans Kumar, and he gained recollection of his past lives (Jatismaran Jnan). He remembered how he had offered pure and faultless food (Aahar) to monks in previous births. He immediately understood that the Tirthankar needed pure food to sustain his body at this time, not any royal gifts.

The First Meal: Sugarcane Juice:

At that very moment, farmers had crushed fresh sugarcane in Shreyans Kumar's courtyard, extracted its juice, and kept it in large vessels. Shreyans Kumar rushed down, wore clean clothes, and with extreme devotion, brought those vessels of juice

before the Tirthankar. He properly (with Navadha Bhakti - ninefold devotion) requested the Tirthankar, "O Tirthankar! This Ikshuras (sugarcane juice) is pure and Prasuk (free from living organisms), please accept it and grace me."

Tirthankar Rishabhdev saw that this boy knew the correct method of offering Aahar and that the juice being offered was also pure. Then, cupping both his palms together (making an Anjuli), he accepted the sugarcane juice offered by Shreyans Kumar.

The Significance of Akshaya Tritiya:

This was the Tirthankar's first meal (Paarana) after about 400 days (one year, thirteen months, and nine days) of rigorous penance. The day this historic event occurred was the third day (Tritiya) of the bright half (Shukla Paksha) of the Vaishakh month. Due to the Tirthankar's Paarana, Shreyans Kumar bound immense merit (Punya), and wealth and grains rained upon his house. Devas from the heavens also cheered, showered flowers, and praised the glory of this donation. They proclaimed, "Aho Danam, Aho Danam! This offering is Akshaya (imperishable); its merit will never perish (Kshaya)."

Since then, this day became famous as **'Akshaya Tritiya'**. From this day onwards, the method of offering food to monks (Aahar Charya) restarted. Even today, Akshaya Tritiya holds great significance in Jainism. People perform charity and meritorious deeds on this day, and those who observe 'Varshi Tap' (fasting on alternate days for a year) break their fast with sugarcane juice on this very day.

This story teaches us how important and meritorious a donation made with right knowledge, discretion, and pure intention can be.

Chapter 5: Let's See How Much We've Learned! (Quiz)

Choose the correct answer:

- 1. What was the name of Tirthankar Adinath's father?
 - (a) Bharat
 - (b) Nabhiraya
 - (c) Bahubali
- 2. Where was Tirthankar Adinath born?
 - (a) Hastinapur
 - (b) Ayodhya
 - (c) Mount Kailash
- 3. What skills did Tirthankar Adinath teach the people?
 - (a) Only dancing
 - (b) Only singing
 - (c) The six essential occupations like agriculture, writing, defense, etc.
- 4. Who facilitated Tirthankar Adinath's first meal (Paarana)?
 - (a) King Bharat
 - (b) Shreyans Kumar
 - (c) King Nabhiraya
- 5. Where did Tirthankar Adinath attain Omniscience (Kevaljnana)?
 - (a) Under a Banyan tree in Ayodhya
 - (b) In a sugarcane field in Hastinapur
 - (c) Under a Banyan tree in the Shakatmukh garden of Purimtaal town near Prayag
- 6. What are the Three Jewels (Triratna) of the path to Moksha?
 - (a) Charity, Virtue, Penance
 - (b) Right Faith, Right Knowledge, Right Conduct
 - (c) Non-violence, Truthfulness, Non-stealing
- 7. With what did Tirthankar Adinath break his fast on Akshaya Tritiya?
 - (a) With Kheer (rice pudding)
 - (b) With Sugarcane Juice
 - (c) With Fruits
- *(Answers: 1. (b), 2. (b), 3. (c), 4. (b), 5. (c), 6. (b), 7. (b))*

Chapter 6: Word Search

Find the words listed below in the grid and circle them:

- * ADINATH
- * RISHABH
- * MARUDEVI
- * NABHI
- * AYODHYA
- * BHARAT
- * BAHUBALI
- * BRAHMI
- * AHIMSA
- * KEVALJNAN
- * KAILASH
- * SHREYANS
- * SUNANDA
- * SUNDARI
- * AKSHAY
- * TRITIYA
- * IKSHURAS (Sugarcane Juice)

SUNANDAKAILASH HBRAHMIRSMARUD RAHIMSAHUBALIE EHRISHABHITYVV YAAYODHYASARII ATKEVALJNANTDK NSHUNABHITRITS SBHARATNDARIYH AKSHAYDINATHAU IKSHURASLMBBNR

Chapter 7: Math Quiz

Let's solve some math problems!

- 1. How many sons did Tirthankar Adinath have from Queen Yashaswati? (Hint: See Chapter 1)
- 2. For approximately how many days did Tirthankar Adinath's fasting penance continue after his initiation? (Hint: See Chapter 4)
- 3. If Tirthankar Adinath had two daughters (Brahmi and Sundari) and 100 sons, how many children did he have in total?
- 4. If Shreyans Kumar offered 5 Anjulis (assume each Anjuli holds 150 ml) of sugarcane juice for the Tirthankar's Paarana, how much juice did he offer in total?
- 5. The Tirthankar performed penance for 1000 years. There are approximately 365 days in a year. So, for how many days did he perform penance in total?

(Answers: 1. 100, 2. Approx. 400, 3. 102, 4. 750 ml, 5. 365,000 days)

Chapter 8: Story: True Help (Comic Strip Style)



^{**}Panel 1:**

Text: After taking Diksha, Tirthankar Rishabhdev was performing severe penance. About 400 days had passed without him taking any food, yet he remained steady in self-meditation.

^{**}Scene:** Tirthankar Adinath (Rishabhdev), absorbed in penance, wanders peacefully in the forest. His body is frail due to austerity, but his face radiates a divine glow.

Panel 2:

Scene: The Tirthankar reaches near the city of Hastinapur. People recognize him and are astonished. They don't understand what to offer their former king, now a monk. Some people bring gold, silver, diamonds, horses, etc.

Text: People recognized their beloved former king, but they had forgotten the proper way to offer alms to a monk. Out of ignorance, they began offering him valuable items and royal paraphernalia, which the Tirthankar silently refused.

Panel 3:

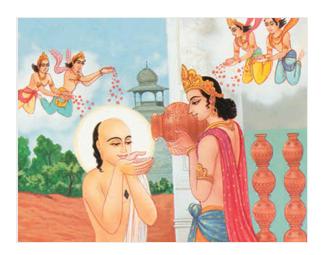
Scene: Prince Shreyans Kumar sees the Tirthankar from his palace's upper window. Immense devotion arises upon seeing him, and he gains knowledge of his previous births (Jatismaran Jnan).

Text: Shreyans Kumar instantly remembered how he had offered pure food to monks in his past lives. He understood that the Tirthankar needed food (Aahar) at this time, not these worldly possessions.

Panel 4:

Scene: Shreyans Kumar quickly runs downstairs. His servants have extracted fresh sugarcane juice. He himself brings a vessel filled with that pure sugarcane juice before the Tirthankar and, with utmost devotion and proper conduct (Navadha Bhakti), requests him to accept the Aahar.

Text: Shreyans Kumar respectfully requested the Tirthankar to accept the Ikshuras (sugarcane juice). Tears of faith and devotion were in his eyes.



Panel 5:

Scene: Tirthankar Rishabhdev accepts the sugarcane juice peacefully in his cupped palms (Anjuli). Shreyans Kumar bows with gratitude. Devas shower flowers from the sky and chant 'Aho Danam, Aho Danam' (Oh, what a great offering!).

Text: The Tirthankar broke his long fast by accepting the pure and properly offered Aahar from Shreyans Kumar. The Devas rejoiced and manifested five divine wonders (showering of clothes, flowers, fragrant water, celestial drum beats). Thus, Shreyans Kumar earned imperishable merit (Akshaya Punya) by offering true and timely help.

Moral: Help offered selflessly, wisely, and at the right time is true service and great charity. Recognizing the deserving recipient and offering donation according to the proper method is extremely meritorious.

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Chapter 9: Poem: Learn from Adinath

Adinath, our Tirthankar so dear, The first Tirthankar, banishing fear. Son of Nabhiraya, Marudevi's delight, A guiding star, shining ever so bright.

When the world forgot the way to live, Left the wish-trees, nothing left to give. The Tirthankar showed compassion, kind and true, Taught the arts of life, for me and you.

Farming, writing, crafts, and trade, A civilized world, he wisely made. He taught us skills, a path to tread, Filled our lives with knowledge instead.

Keep non-violence in your heart's core, Speak the truth, and ask for nothing more. Stealing is a sin, stay far away, In chastity's path, find a brighter day.

Don't cling to things, let attachments cease, That's Aparigraha, bringing inner peace. If we follow his teachings, clear and bright, Sorrows will fade, and all will be right. ## Chapter 10: Poem: Tirthankar Adinath

King of Ayodhya, caretaker of all, Marudevi's son, answering Nabhi's call. Seeing Nilanjana, life's fleeting glance, Renunciation grew, he took a chance.

Left the kingdom, worldly ties undone, Became a monk, his new life begun. A thousand years of penance, deep and vast, Omniscience gained, the die was cast. Four hundred days, no food, austerity's height, Shreyans offered juice, bringing धर्म's light. Established the Sangha, four-fold and grand, His sermons echoed, throughout the land.

From Kailash Mount, liberation attained, Cycle of birth and death, no longer remained. The Bull his symbol, Adinath his name, We children bow, with reverence aflame.

Chapter 11: Tirthankar Adinath's Previous Births: The Journey to Becoming a Tirthankar

Dear children, did you know that Tirthankar Adinath wasn't always a God? Like you and me, he was once a soul wandering in the cycle of birth and death. But through many lifetimes of performing good deeds, penance, and purifying his soul, he eventually became a Tirthankar. Becoming a Tirthankar is not the work of a single lifetime; it is the fruit of rigorous spiritual practice over many births. Let's learn about some special milestones (previous births) in Tirthankar Adinath's incredible journey:

1. **Birth 1: Dhan Sarthavah (Merchant):** A long time ago, he was a kind merchant named Dhan. During a journey, he met some Jain monks. He observed how calm and tolerant the monks were. He devotedly offered them ghee (clarified butter). Through this pure intention and offering, he attained **Samyak Darshan (Right Faith)** for the first time. This marked the beginning of his journey towards Moksha.



- 2. **Birth 2: Deva (in the first heaven):** Due to his meritorious deeds, the soul of Dhan Sarthavah was reborn as a Deva (celestial being) in the first heaven, Saudharma Devaloka, after his death. There, he enjoyed divine pleasures.
- 3. **Birth 3: Mahabal (Prince/King):** After completing his life as a Deva, he was born as Mahabal, the son of King Kshitikanth, in the Mahavideha region. In this life, he ruled the kingdom, but the desire for self-realization was strong in his heart. He discussed religion with his ministers and eventually handed over the kingdom to his son and took Jain initiation.
- 4. **Birth 4: Lalitang Deva (in the fifth heaven):** Influenced by his penance, the soul of Mahabal Muni was reborn as a Deva named Lalitang in the fifth heaven. He continued his religious contemplation there as well.
- 5. **Birth 5: King Vajrajangha:** Descending from the heavens, he was born as King Vajrajangha in the Purva Videha region. His queen's name was Shrimati. In this life, he served monks diligently and had deep faith in religion. He performed many religious activities together with his wife.
- 6. **Birth 6: Yugaliya (in Uttarakuru):** Due to his merits, he was born as a Yugaliya (beings born as a couple) in the Bhogabhumi (land of enjoyment) called Uttarakuru. Here, all life necessities were fulfilled by Kalpavrikshas without any effort, but opportunities for religious practice were limited.
- 7. **Birth 7: Jivanand Vaidya (Physician):** Leaving the Bhogabhumi, he was born as Jivanand, a physician (doctor). He was a very skilled and kind physician who treated everyone without discrimination. He cured many people and earned great merit.

- 8. **Birth 8: Deva (in the tenth heaven):** The soul of Vaidya Jivanand, due to his meritorious deeds, was reborn as a Deva in the tenth heaven, Achyuta Devaloka.
- 9. **Birth 9: Vajranabh (Chakravarti's Son/King):** After completing his lifespan as a Deva, he was born as Prince Vajranabh, son of Chakravarti Vajrasen, in the Mahavideha region. He himself later became a Chakravarti king. In this life, he enjoyed the pleasures of royalty, but his mind remained inclined towards renunciation. He listened to religious discourses from his father and other monks and eventually handed over the kingdom to his son and took initiation. **It was in this birth that he performed severe penance and bound the 'Tirthankar Naam Karma'**, which destined him to become a Tirthankar in the future.
- 10. **Birth 10: Deva (in Sarvarthasiddhi Viman):** After binding the Tirthankar Naam Karma, the soul of Vajranabh Muni, upon death, was reborn as an Ahamindra Deva in the highest heaven, 'Sarvarthasiddhi Mahaviman'. There is no suffering of birth and death here, and souls from here are directly born as humans to attain Moksha.
- 11. **Birth 11: Tirthankar Rishabhdev:** Descending from Sarvarthasiddhi, he was born in his final life as our first Tirthankar, Tirthankar Rishabhdev, in Ayodhya, whose story we read in Chapter 1.

Thus, after many lifetimes of difficult practices, penance, charity, service, and pure intentions, he became Tirthankar Adinath and showed us the path to Moksha. His journey teaches us that with good deeds and true dedication, any soul can become a supreme soul (Paramatma).
