

= Digambara =

Digambara (/ dɪɡəˈm̩bərə / ; " sky @-@ clad ") is one of the two major schools of Jainism , the other being ?v?t?mbara (white @-@ clad) . The word Digambara (Sanskrit) is a combination of two words : dig (directions) and ambara (clothes) , referring to those whose garments are of the element that fills the four quarters of space . Digambara monks do not wear any clothes . The monks carry picchi , a broom made up of fallen peacock feathers (for clearing the place before walking or sitting) , kamandalu (a water gourd) , and shastra (scripture) . One of the most important scholar @-@ monks of Digambara tradition was Kundakunda . He authored Prakrit texts such as the Samayas?ra and the Pravacanas?ra . Other prominent Acharyas of this tradition were , Virasena (author of a commentary on the Dhavala) , Samantabhadra and Siddhasena Divakara . The Satkhandagama and Kasayapahuda have major significance in the Digambara tradition .

= = Monasticism = =

The word Digambara is a combination of two Sanskrit words : dig (directions) and ambara (clothes) , referring to those whose garments are of the element that fills the four quarters of space . Digambara monks do not wear any clothes as it is considered to be parigraha (possession) , which ultimately leads to attachment . A Digambara monk has 28 m?la gu?as (primary attributes) . These are : five mah?vratas (supreme vows) ; five samitis (regulations) ; pañcendriya nirodha (five @-@ fold control of the senses) ; ?ad?va?yakas (six essential duties) ; and seven niyamas (rules or restrictions) .

The monks carry picchi , a broom made up of fallen peacock feathers for removing small insects without causing them injury , Kamandalu (the gourd for carrying pure , sterilized water) and shastra (scripture) . The head of all monastics is called ?ch?rya , while the saintly preceptor of saints is the up?dhy?ya . The ?ch?rya has 36 primary attributes (m?la gu?a) in addition to the 28 mentioned above . The monks perform kayotsarga daily , in a rigid and immobile posture , with the arms held stiffly down , knees straight , and toes directed forward .

= = = Lineage = = =

According to Digambara texts , after liberation of the Lord Mahavira , three Anubaddha Keval?s attained Kevalajñ?na (omniscience) sequentially ? Gautama Ga?adhara , Acharya Sudharma , and Jambusvami in next 62 years . During the next hundred years , five ?ch?ryas had complete knowledge of the scriptures , as such , called ?ruta Keval?s , the last of them being ?ch?rya Bhadrabahu . Spiritual lineage of heads of monastic orders is known as Pattavali .

The Digambara tradition was divided into two main orders :

Mula Sangha , which includes Sena Gana , Deshiya Gana and Balatkara Gana traditions

Kashtha Sangha , which includes the Mathura Gana and Lat @-@ vagad Gana traditions

The Bhattarakas of Shravanabelagola and Mudbidri belong to Deshiya Gana and the Bhattaraka of Humbaj belongs to the Balatkara Gana .

= = Historicity = =

Relics found from Harrapan excavations like seals depicting Kayotsarga posture , idols in Padmasana and a nude bust of red limestone give insight about the antiquity of the Digambara tradition . The presence of gymnosophists (naked philosophers) in Greek records as early as the fourth century BC , supports the claim of the Digambaras that they have preserved the ancient ?rama?a practice .

= = Worship = =

The Digambara Jains worship completely nude idols of tirthankaras (omniscient beings) and

siddha (liberated souls) . The tirthankara is represented either seated in yoga posture or standing in the Kayotsarga posture .

The truly " sky @-@ clad " (digambara) Jaina statue expresses the perfect isolation of the one who has stripped off every bond . His is an absolute " abiding in itself , " a strange but perfect aloofness , a nudity of chilling majesty , in its stony simplicity , rigid contours , and abstraction .

= = = Statues = = =

= = Scriptures = =

The Digambara sect of Jainism rejects the authority of the texts accepted by the other major sect , the Svetambaras .

According to the Digambaras , ?ch?rya Dharasena guided two ?ch?ryas , Pushpadanta and Bhutabali , to put the teachings of Mahavira in written form , 683 years after the nirvana of Mahavira . The two ?ch?ryas wrote ?a?kha???gama on palm leaves which is considered to be among the oldest known Digambara texts . ?ch?rya Bhutabali was the last ascetic who had partial knowledge of the original Jain Agamas . Later on , some learned ?ch?ryas started to restore , compile and put into written words the teachings of Lord Mahavira , that were the subject matter of Agamas .

Digambaras group the texts into four literary categories called anuyoga (exposition) . The prathmanuyoga (first exposition) contains the universal history , the karananuyoga (calculation exposition) contains works on cosmology and the charananuyoga (behaviour exposition) includes texts about proper behaviour for monks and Sravakas .

= = Differences with ?v?t?mbara sect = =

According to Digambara texts , after attaining Kevala Jnana (omniscience) , arihant (omniscient beings) are free from human needs like hunger , thirst , and sleep . According to the Digambara tradition , a woman has to be reborn as a man for salvation .

= = Sub @-@ sects = =

Digambaras are divided into various sub @-@ sects viz . Terapanthi , Bispanthi , Taranpanthi (or Samayipanthi) , Gumanapanthi and Totapanthi .

= = = Terapanthi = = =

The Terapanthis worship the idols with ashta @-@ drava viz. jal (water) , chandan (sandal) , akshata (sacred rice) , pushp (yellow rice) , deep (yellow dry coconut) , dhup (kapoor or cloves) and fal (almonds) . Terapanthi is a reformist sect of Digambara Jainism that distinguished itself from the Bispanthi sect . It formed out of strong opposition to the religious domination of traditional religious leaders called bhattarakas during 12 ? 16th century A.D. They oppose the worship of various minor gods and goddesses . Some Terapanthi practices , like not using flowers in worship , gradually spread throughout most of North Indian Jainism as well . Terapanthis occur in large numbers in Rajasthan , Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh .

= = = Bispanthi = = =

Besides tirthankaras , Bispanthi also worship Yaksha and Yakshini like Bhairava and Kshetrapala . Their religious practices include aarti and offerings of flowers , fruits and prasad . Bhattarakas are their dharma @-@ gurus and they are concentrated in Rajasthan and Gujarat .