

Quadrant II – Transcript and Related Materials

Programme: Bachelor of Arts

Subject: History

Paper Code: HSC: 101

Paper Title: History of India (From Earliest Times upto 8th Century B.C)

Unit: II

Module Name: Jainism: Rise, Doctrine, Main Sects

Module No: 11

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Glossary of terms/words:

Superstition: - A belief that cannot be explained by reason or science

Non-Violence:- fighting for political or social change without using force.

Vegetarianism: - someone whose diet consists wholly of Vegetables.

Meditation: - to engage in mental exercise for the purpose of reaching a highest level of spiritual awareness.

Enlightenment:- the final stage reached in Buddhism and Hindu religions when you are at peace with the universe and no longer feel desire.

Renounce:- to give up or to put aside voluntarily worldly pleasure.

Possible misconceptions/clarification

Case Studies and Additional Examples/Illustrations

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Notes:-

- Jainism is the way of Life and one of the Oldest religion of the World.
- It believes in a cyclical nature of Universe. It discourages superstition and blind faith and encourages free and rational thinking.
- Jainism lays heavy emphases on Non- Violence (Ahimsa) and Discipline.
- Jains have always practiced non- violence, vegetarianism, meditation, yoga, and environmentalism.
- Jainism is always described as one of the most peaceful religion.
- According to Jain Philosophy, Tirthankaras are born as a Human beings but they have attained a state of perfection or enlightenment through Meditation and self realization. They are the Gods of Jain.
- The Goal of Jainism: is spiritual process of the individual through a succession of stages until he is able to Conquer and renounce dependence on the world and the self.

RISE OF JAINISM:-

- Religious unrest in India in the 6th Century B.C.
- The complex rituals and sacrifices advocated in the Later Vedic Period were not acceptable to the common people.
- The Sacrificial ceremonies were also found to be too expansive. The Superstitious beliefs and Mantras confused the people.

- The teachings of Upanishads, an alternative to the system of sacrifices, were highly philosophical in nature and therefore not easily understood by all.
- Therefore, what was needed in the larger interests of the people was a simple, short and intelligible way of salvation for all people. The rigid caste system prevalent in India generated tensions in the society. Higher class enjoyed certain privileges which were denied to the lower classes.

Origin and development of Jainism

- Generally speaking Mahavira is considered as the founder of Jainism but it is not so. At the same time it is true that Mahavira played a predominant role in the development and propagation of Jainism.
- Mahavira:- 24th Tirthankara or the path maker or prophet of the Jains.
- The Jain tradition speaks of Rishabha as the first Tirthankara, Rig-Veda mentions the name of Rishabha.
- Orthodox view, Rishabha was the father of the King Bharata, the first “Chakravartin” king of India.

TEACHINGS OF JAINISM

(I) Five fold doctrine of Jainism

- **The five principles are**
 - ✓ Satya
 - ✓ Ahimsa (non-violence)
 - ✓ Aprigraha (non possession of property)
 - ✓ Asteya (not to receive anything which is not freely given)
 - ✓ Brahacharya (celebacy)
- (2). Nirvana (Salvation)

Salvation could be achieved if the energies due to the contact of the Soul and the matter could be exhausted.

On the basis of this philosophy, it is stated that it is necessary to observe the five principles in order to attain Nirvana or Salvation.

- (3). The three Jewels (Ratnatreya)

Nirvana or salvation also depends upon

- I. Right belief
- II. Right knowledge
- III. Right action
 - (4). Existence of god

Mahavira did not believe in the existence of God.

- (5). No caste system

Jainism does not believe in the caste system.

- (6). No Sacrifices

Jainism does not believe in Yagnas.

- (7). Fruits of one's deeds

According to Jainism, man is the Architect of his own destiny and he could attain Salvation by pursuing a life of Purity and Virtue.

- (8). Non-Violence (Ahimsa)

This is the greatest commandment of Jainism. Jainism considered all living being as equal, killing or harming any living creature is a sin according to Jainism.

- (9). Thirteen main sins

According to Jainism thirteen sins which pollute our life

(i)Himsa (violence) (ii) telling a lie (iii) stealing (iv)masturbation (v) use of intoxicants (vi) anger (vii) covetousness (viii) pride (ix) rage (x) jealousy (xi)quarrel (xii) levying false charges (xiii) speaking ill about others.

CONTRIBUTION TO JANISM

- **Jainism is the way of life:-** in place of philosophical speculation, and metaphysics theories, Jainism has provided us with a sort of moral code which every household can follow.
- **Religion – a simple affair :-** Jainism aims at doing away with complicated and costly rituals and frees the common man from the supremacy of the Brahmins.
- **Popularization of regional languages:-** the Adoption of Prakrit – the language of the common man, give impetus to the development of regional languages.
- **Contribution to literature :-** Jainism also promoted the growth of Kannad and Tamil Literature. The Jain literature is quite rich in drama and Novel. A lot of work on Grammar.

- **Reform in Hinduism:-** Jainism pointed out the deficiencies that had developed in to Hinduism during the course of history. The result was that Hindu scholars began to have a second look on Hindu thought and principles.
- **Impetus to work of Public utility :-** the followers of Jainism began to undertake several welfare programs for the welfare of the common man.
- **Enrichment of art and architecture :-** in the memory of Jain Saints and Sages, several Stupas, monasteries were built and decorated with stone railings, beautiful gateway, carved pillars.

Jain art is impressive for its simplicity.

The Elephanta Caves, the Ellora caves and the Udyagiri Lion Cave illustrate the fine example of the Jain Art. Several Jain temples are found in various parts of India, including the Southern India