After twelve and a half years of severe austerities and intense meditation, Bhagwan Mahavira attained kevalgyan (omniscience). This auspicious event occurred on the 10th day of the bright half of the month of Vaishakh in the year 511 before the Vikram Era on the blessed banks of the river Rujuvalika, when Bhagwan Mahavira was sitting in the godohasan (the posture assumed while milking cows) when He was 42 years old.

He spent the remaining 30 years of His life going from place to place, preaching the principles of Jainism to all.

A divine assembly hall, called samavasaran, was constructed for His sermons. Celestial beings, humans and animals, all sat together in harmony, listening to Him with rapt attention. He categorised His followers into a four-fold order which included sadhus (monks), sadhvis(nuns), shravaks (laymen) and shravikas(laywomen). This order is known as the Chaturvidh Sangh.