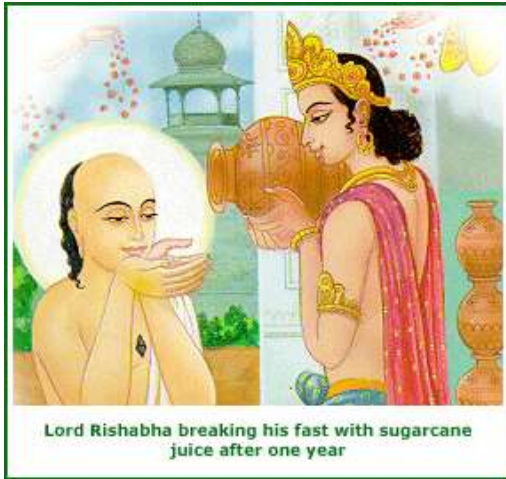


## IMPORTANCE OF AKSHAYA TRITIYA



Akshay Tritiya/Akha Teej the day when all Varshitap tapasvi's shall have parana's with Sugarcane Juice after their tap of 400 Days. Lord Rishabhdev did it with 400 Upvas's but has been kind enough on us to provide us a way to do it with Upvas on Alternate days with Biyasna's on other alternate days & Balas (2 Upvas's) in between when upvas days are followed by Tithi's so all Varshitap tapasvi's do more than 220 Upvas's. A story behind the festival in Jainism is written in Harinvansh Puran and Padam Puran.

The Day of Akshay Tritiya is worshipped and said to be auspicious in Jainism because it is said to have established the very first "AHAR CHARYA" a methodology to prepare and serve food to Jain Monks. Lord Rishabhdev denounced the worldly pleasures after dividing his vast kingdom in his 100 sons.

Lord Rishabhdev meditated without any food and water for six months and upon attaining enlightenment (Kevalya Gyan), set out to accept food (Ahar).

He was the first monk of this Era. Jain monks do not own anything. They do not even cook food for themselves. When hungry or thirsty, (Maximum Once in day), they set out to accept Ahar. They do not even ask for it and accept where it is offered. Tirthankara Rishabhdev also went to people to accept food. However, the people of that time did not know anything about the lives and disciplines of monks, as he was the first monk of this era. The people of Ayodhya offered him gold, jewellery, gemstones, elephants, horses, expensive garments and even their daughters to honor their beloved king. Rishabhdev was not in quest of all these.

He sought only a morsel of food, but nobody offered it to him. Nobody understood that their king was looking for to receive food to ensure that the monks that would come after him get food and water in the purest form needed to lead an ascetic life. As there was no choice, he had to fast for a long time of one year until his grandson Shreyansha Kumar understood his need due to his "Purva-Bhava-Smaran" i.e. In the previous birth, Rishabhdev had tied a net on the face of a cow and he did the sin of starving the cow, so the previous Karma was the cause of this incident. With the help of Jati-Smarana Gyan, (the knowledge that opens up memories of the past births).

Finally, Shreyansha Kumar know that lord Rishabhadev wanted food to eat. So he gave him the juice of Sugarcane and Rishabhadev broke his fasts of 400 days. This day is known as Akshaya Trutiya from that time. This is considered by the Jains as one of the best offerings. It is believed that religious gifts bestowed on Akshaya Tritiya become inexhaustible. Jains even today, observe a fast to commemorate their first Tirthankara Rishabhadev on Akshaya Tritiya and end their fast with sugarcane juice.