



# Peace of Mind



November - 2022

Peace of Mind Foundation

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## 31st Anniversary of First Jain Monks in Parampara to Visit London and the West in 2,500 Years by Dr. Graham Dwyer (Gangaram)

31 years ago, in November 1991, a momentous event in the history of Jainism took place. This was the date when Saman Shree Shrutpragyaji (Samanji) and his cousin Saman Sthitapragyaji (now known as Siddhartha Muniji) came from India to London, England via Russia and then on to California in American with the mission to bring the Jain message of peace and non-violence to the world. They are the first monks in Jain parampara to do this in over 2,500 years, since before the time of the 24th tirthankara Mahavir Swami.



Samanji and Saman Sthitapragyaji were initiated into the new Saman Order of Jain monks established by their diksha guru, Acharya Shree Tulsi, in the Terapanthi Shwetambara tradition. All Jain monks historically, as is well known, were only allowed to go from place to place on foot, being forbidden by monastic rules from using any kind of vehicular transport. Acharya Shree Tulsi, however, took the bold, brave and unprecedented step of creating a completely new category of monk, one who, whilst observing the strict vows incumbent upon all Jain renunciators, had permission to use vehicles, such as cars, trains and airplanes. Under Acharya Shree Tulsi's guidance and visionary leadership, the two samans, who were then very young monks - in their early 20s - travelled from India to meet with Dr. Graham Dwyer (Gangaram) and other supporters, devotees and friends, who organised lecture programmes for them at the University of Oxford and at the University of London, as well as satsangs in the Jain community and in the homes of Jain shravakas.

All of this was immense and extraordinary in very many ways, not only because it brought Samanji and Saman Sthitapragyaji to the UK, but also because in due course it was followed by many additional visits to western countries, particularly the USA. It was an especially important event, since for the very first time in the history of the religion, it gave both Jains and non-Jains alike direct access to Jain monks in western countries far beyond the borders of India. It meant also that lay Jains could avail of the spiritual guidance and counsel of Jain monks outside India in countries like the UK and the USA where they lived and had settled.

Yet, as a matter of clarity, it is important to point out briefly here that before the Saman Order was conceived by Acharya Shree Tulsi, there were three Shwetambara Jains (Shushil Kumarji, Chitrabhanuji and Jinchandraji Maharaj), who had earlier been initiated into monastic life and who journeyed to the west in the 1970s, eventually settling in the USA. Crucially, however, these Jains at the time had both moved out of their monastic communities, and one of them, Chitrabhanuji, later got married to a shravika called Pramoda Shah. So, unlike the samans, these spiritual teachers did not leave India with the authority of their gurus; nor were they instructed to go to the west by the leaders of their monasteries. On the contrary, they simply acted without that authority independently, not in parampara, despite undoubtedly having done valuable social and religious work, especially in the case of Shushil Kumarji who not only established an ashram in North America in 1983, but also a highly organised non-sectarian Jain community known as the Arhat Sangh.

Now, 31 years on from the very first visit to the west by Samanji and Saman Sthitapragyaji, who came with the authority of their parampara and acharya – the first event of its kind following a long period of more than two-and-a-half millennia of the Jain religion - Samanji is still doing this important spiritual work. And he continues energetically to carry on with this great mission he was tasked to do by his diksha guru Acharya Shree Tulsi. Over those 31 years Samanji has travelled to more than 30 different countries globally, giving lectures and spiritual discourses, leading the Jain community at key festival times, such as Paryushan and Ayambil Oli, as well as conducting thousands of yoga and meditation camps and guiding Jain families spiritually on visits to their homes. His activities in India in the fields of education and charity are equally praiseworthy.

# A very unique two-day program with Saman Shri Shrutpragyaji

(Avni & Mukesh Shah, Fremont, California, USA) Rajkot:

On Our New Year's Day (Vikram Samvat 2079), Samanji gave us the opportunity of gochhari at the residence of Jayantbhai (younger brother of Mukeshbhai) & Kshamaben Shah of Amdawad. After lunch we accompanied Samanji to his residence 'Abhavalay' in Rajkot. A five-hour smooth journey with Tejabhai behind the wheel, and in the company of Jesangbhai, was pleasantly passed doing satsang with Samanji. Dinner of Thepla and soup was prepared and served with so much love. That evening more time was spent in Samanji's satsang.

Bhanwad:

Next morning after breakfast we left for Tapovan in Bhanwad. Our first stop was at Nageshwar Parshwanath Temple in Rajkot. We arrived at Tapovan in time for a sumptuous kathiawadi lunch of bajri rotla, baigan bhartha, daal, gud and homemade pickles.

Later Bhimsibhai Karmur (Founder and Principal of Purusharth School and Tapovan) gave us a wonderful tour of various facilities, Purusharth School, Student Hostels, and then drove us to visit Mahadev Temple, Triveni Sangam, and Navlakha Shiv Temple. Upon our return another delicious dinner of Daal baati was waiting for us.

Our night stay was on top of the hill where Tapovan is built. There are four hut style rooms or Kutirs with thatched roofs and attached bathrooms. A central open space that serves as the meditation area has a bamboo canopy but the sides are open to watch the sunrise and gaze at the stars. Before we retired for the night, we sat under the moon with Bhimsibhai and his family. Ba brought us freshly roasted home grown peanuts that we munched on in spite of being full with a dinner of daal-baati.

Next morning the students of Tapovan and a few from Purusharth School shared their Diwali experiences including learning visits to local factories, their skills in music, yoga, and most importantly how much each one enjoys being at Tapovan! It was an amazing experience to see how students learn both academics and other skills with very little guidance or supervision.

Following the students' program, Scholarship funds from California families and a few gifts were personally gifted to students. We were so glad to meet our sponsored student, Hirva Bhimbha. We too shared a little about our personal experience at Tapovan. After the Flag hoisting ceremony, we had a good breakfast, and departed back to Amdawad.

In our meetings with Saman Shrutpragyaji we had heard a lot about Purusharth School, Tapovan and Bhimsibhai. But I must say that what my eyes saw and what my ears heard, was such an eye opener. The people are the most hard-working dedicated people I have ever met. The students are happy, excited, composed and confident. The place is serene! It is truly the lap of nature as Samanji puts it!



Avni and Mukesh Shah  
Abhavalay-Rajkot



Guest and Samanji  
Tapovan - Ghumali



Ushaben and Mahendrabhai  
providing Scholarship to  
Purusharth's girl



Scholarship by California donor



Scholarship by Avni Mukesh Shah



Scholarship from California



Guest from California and Vencoure

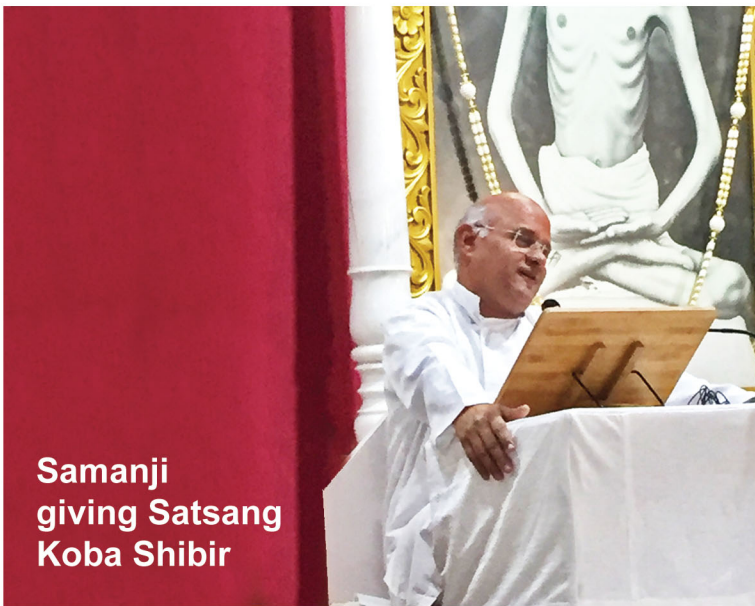
# Koba Spiritual Shibir

Oct 23-26, 2022

Saman Shrutpragyaji was invited by leaders of Shrimad Rajchandra Adhyatmik Sadhana Kendra, Koba in Gandhinagar to give a series of discourses.

At the shibir Samanji delivered talks daily from 23 through 26 Oct on the topic of Gratitude. Exploring a variety of dimensions of this multifaceted topic, Samanji focused largely on the miraculous qualities of gratitude for transforming spiritual life and for ensuring spiritual progress and upliftment.

Around 80 mumukshus attended the shibir. Other parts of the shibir's daily programs were arranged by Suresh Bhaiyaji. The camp was a great success, as participants learned a great deal from it and because it also included attendees from all age groups.



Samanji giving Satsang Koba Shibir



Koba Shibir



Mumukshu listening Samanji Pravachan@ Koba



Samanji welcomed - Koba Shibir



Deep Pragatya - Koba Shibir



PEACE OF MIND FOUNDATION,  
RAJKOT ARRANGED

# SYDNEY : AUSTRALIA TRIP SPIRITUAL SATSANG & MEDITATION

Date : 6 Nov 2022, Sunday

Time : 4.00 - 6.00 PM

Place : Erskine Park Community Hall  
57 Peppertree Drive, Erskine Park, 2759

Followed by Prasad

We look forward to your presence & hope  
you have an awakening experience.

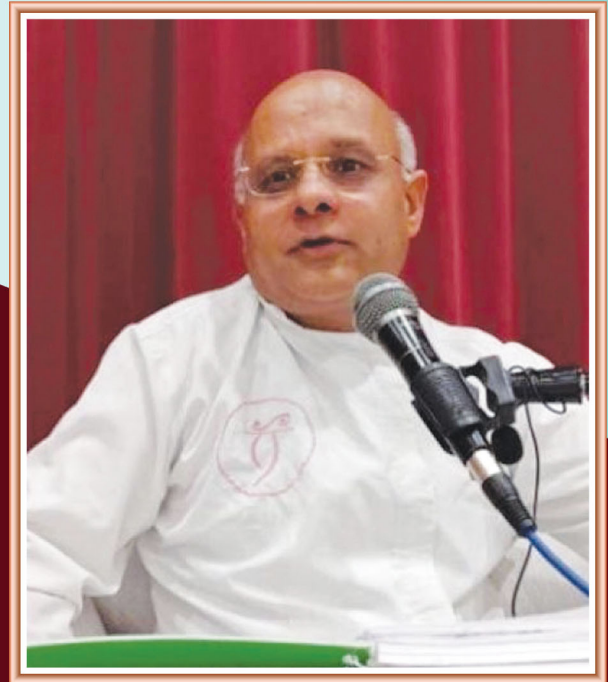
Please RSVP by 02 Nov 2022, Wednesday

**Satish Patel**

+61 426 810 573

**Vinod Patel**

+61 434 511 276



**SAMAN SHRUTPRAGYAJI**

# SPIRITUAL SATSANG & MEDITATION

Date : 11-12 Nov 2022

Time : 7.00 - 8.00 PM

Place : 7 Mernda Ave,  
Cheltenham, VIC 3192

We look forward to your presence &  
an awakening experience.

Please RSVP To

**Nishal Mehta**

+61 408 306 354

✉ [www.pomyc.org](http://www.pomyc.org)

# Binaben and Nilesh Shah's Visit to Rajkot, Bhanvad, Dwarka and Porbandar

Nov 29-31, 2022

The Peace of Mind Rajkot escorted Bina and Nilesh Shah from Kutch to Bhanvad following their Rajkot trip. They spent two nights at the Tapovan, Ghumali and one night at Abhavalay, Rajkot.

From there they made a trip to Dwarka and to Porbandar, with Samanji accompanying them. On the excursion they met with Narottam Palan dada and enjoyed an amazing satsang with him. Binaben kindly prepared an American breakfast whole-heartedly for all Tapovan students and staff.

In addition, Binaben and Nilesh Shah generously gave provision for four student scholarships, including support for Purusharth School girls. Whilst there they also addressed Purusharth teachers at the school.

Nileshbhai in his address said that India nowadays is becoming increasingly westernized, following the habits and trends particularly of America. However, at the Tapovan and at Purusharth School he and his wife felt like they had come to the original Bharat of traditional times. It was so loving, he said, and with a warm and genuinely welcoming feeling that is so difficult to find these days throughout India and which sadly may never be seen again.

Finally, they returned to Abhavalay, Rajkot and spent one more night with Samanji there, greatly enjoying satsang with him.



## Our Visit to Bhanvad, Saurashtra



After couple years efforts, we got an opportunity to visit Bhanvad. It's mid-size village in Saurashtra, surrounded by mountains. In one of the mini mountains a special school Tapovan is being developed. Conceptualized by it's founders Shri Bhimashibhai and supported by Shri Shrutpragnaji.

As it's name suggests this school reminds of Pauranik Rushi-Ashram. The school has about 11 students from all over the state of Gujarat, studying high school studies and special skills development. This school has very unique concept of sefl study, which parallels to the study I have witnessed in one of the top school – IMSA (Illinos Math and Science Academy). The students study themselves for the Gujarat secondary board material, and get expert teachers help and guidance as needed. They also get special skills of their interest to develop a unique personality.

We were amazed at how Bhimshibhai and his family is committed in these students success. We also got a chance to visit Purusharth School which has about one thousand students studying under one roof. This school boards about 300 students including boys and girls. To encourage the girls education, this school has free boarding for the Purusharth school. We got opportunities to meet the amazingly talented young teaching staff, teachers having masters and doctorate degrees. I mistakenly asked one of the young girl, what standard she is in, and she amazed me with the answer that she is the primary school Principal.

They have dignitary trustees like Shri Bhimashiji, Shri Shrutpragnaji, Shri Narotam Palan (great historian) and others who are giving great direction in growth of these students. This was our very inspirational visit, we felt like we're in real mother land Bharat, with blends of our heritage and new technology. Jai Hind !!!

## Samanji : Upcoming Schedule

Nov 4/5, 2022 &  
Nov 9-14,2022  
Melbourne  
Contact:+61 408 306 354  
(Nishal Mehta)

Nov 6/8, 2022  
Sydney  
Contact: Satish Patel  
+61 426 810 573

Nov 16-23,2022  
Singapore  
Contact: Paresh Timbadia

Nov 24-Dec 5  
Malaysia  
Contact: Vinod Mehta  
+60 12-304 3410

Dec 7, 2022  
Rajkot

The Peace of mind rajkot online resources on YouTube® with Saman Shrutpragyaji's satsangs in English as well as in Gujarati. Please subscribe by visiting link bellow and get tremendous benifit of it. link is :

<https://bit.ly/2lho0dN>

You can equally physically, mentally and spiritually gain enrichment from Samanji's exiting blogs (in Gujarati and English)

<https://www.pomyc.org/blogs>



