

Muni TarunSagarji

Muni TarunSagarji was born as Pawan Kumar Jain on 26 June 1967 to Pratap Chandra Jain and Shanti Bai Jain in a small village Guhanchi in Damoh, Madhya Pradesh, India. He was initiated as Kshullaka at the age of 13 and as a *Digambara monk* by *Acharya Pushpdantsagar* on 20 July 1988 in Bagidora, Rajasthan at the age of 20. He emerged as a prominent personality when GTV initiated a program called "MahaviraVani"

In 2000, he gave an address from the Red Fort, Delhi. After wandering through Haryana (2000), Rajasthan (2001), Madhya Pradesh (2002), Gujrat (2003), Maharashtra (2004), he arrived in Karnataka in 2006 for the occasion of Mahamastakabhisheka celebrations at Shravanabelagola after having walked for 65-days from Belgaum. By this time he had emerged as a "progressive Jain monk" for his criticism of violence, corruption and conservatism, and his speeches came to be called "KatuPravachan". He agreed to have his Chaturmas in Bangalore.

While Jain monks often avoid associating with politicians, Muni TarunSagar has often met politicians and government officials as a guest. He has delivered his sermons in Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly on 2010 and in Haryana Legislative Assembly on 26 August 2016.

His 2015 Chaturmas was in *Shri 1008 Parshvanath Digambar Jain Mandir*, where 108 Jain *Śrāvaka* pairs welcomed Muni Tarun Sagarji by washing his feet with 108 *kalashas* in 108 plates over a 200 feet ramp.

He appeared on the talk show Aapki Adalat hosted by Rajat Sharma on 18 March 2017 where he revealed that in childhood he liked the sweet Jalebi the most. In childhood once while travelling on a road, he listened to the voice "tum bhi bhagwan ban sakte ho" which means you can also become GOD. This was the voice of Digambar Jain monk Pushpdant Sagarji. After hearing these words, Muni Tarun Sagarji left his home. Rajat Sharma candidly asked many questions, including proper conduct for a Digambar Jain monk. The Muni answered without being offended, often with humor or reciting verses. He has been candid in both criticizing and praising politicians, including PM Narendra Modi.

Although he belongs to the Digambara sect, he promotes a non-sectarian outlook. In 2013 at Jaipur, he joined the Svetambara monks during his chaturmas. In 2014, he inspired a Dharma Sansad, which was attended by acharyas of Svetambara, Terapanth, Sthanakavasi and Murtipujakasects. Muni Tarun Sagarji has expressed his views on Islamic traditions too. He once said that Love Jihad is a conspiracy to convert Hindu girls into Muslims. He has also raised his opposition to the Islamic practice of Triple Talaq.

He was invited to an RSS VijayaDashami function in Nagpur in September 2009 where he pointed out that using leather belts did not reflect non-violence. Subsequently, leather belts in the dress of RashtriyaSwayamsevakSangh were replaced with canvas ones. He obtained an agreement from Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan that no new liquor shops will be opened in Madhya Pradesh in June 2010. He also started a movement called Ahimsa Mahakumbh to stop export of meat and leather from India. He opposed the High Court's order to impose ban on Sallekhana.

Muni Tarun Sagarji has constituted a national award - *TarunKrantiPuruskar* which was awarded to Baba Ramdev, Vijay Darda and JITO in 2012 by the then Gujarat CM NarendraModi.

He published his discourses in a book series titled *KadvePravachan* (Bitter Discourse) starting in 2003 in Ahmedabad. The series has had eight volumes. His discourses are telecasted and watched in over 100 countries by Jain community.

He has been declared a state guest in Madhya Pradesh (2002), Gujarat (2003), Maharashtra and Karnataka. He got the title of *krantikari* (revolutionary) at a religious gathering in Karnataka, and RashtraSant in 2003 in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

On July 29, 2012 in Ahmedabad, the then Chief Minister of Gujarat NarendraModi, presented the TarunKrantiPuraskar to Baba Ramdev and Lokmat editor and owner Vijay Darda.

Source: en.wikipedia.org