

GURUDEV RAKESHBHAI JHAVERI

"What dream has my Guru seen for me?" was the question that burnt within Pujya Gurudev shri, and He yearned for an answer; as it was His Guru Shrimad Rajchandraji's wish, His ajna that was of paramount importance to Him. This longing became so intense that one day, in Jaipur, He observed complete silence, consumed nothing but milk and offered 10,000 khamasams at Shrimadji's Lotus Feet, till He received an answer to the question. It was on the completion of His I.C.S.E. exams in 1983, on the auspicious day of akhatreej, that Pujya Gurudevshri declared His resolution to devote the rest of His life to the pursuit and spread of spirituality. He dedicated His life to the higher cause of uplifting the universe, embraced celibacy and renounced professional and social life. Pujya Gurudevshri He spent one and a half years, in the caves of Hampi, in Southern India, immersed in deep meditation. He would sit still in padmasan for hours on end. After 1984, He spent months in solitude at sacred places like Palitana, Idar, Mt. Abu and Dumas etc. engaged in silence, study and sadhana.

One would find Him engrossed in deep meditation or intense study. While on one hand, He studied the literary works of Shrimadji, on the other, He pored over Shwetambar and Digambar Jain scriptures, while simultaneously studying Sanskrit, Logic, Indian Philosophies, Yoga, Astrology and Classical Indian Music etc. During the same period He would observe silence for twelve hours daily. He also observed complete silence for three continuous days at the end of every month remaining absorbed in the ecstasy of the Self. This practice continued for a period of twelve and a half years.

Pujya Gurudev shri excelled on the academic front as well. He graduated with a first-class, as an external student from Hyderabad's Osmania University in 1988. An interesting point to note here is that He completed the entire three-year Bachelor of Arts course in the short span of only three months.

His extraordinary brilliance shone forth again in 1991, during His post-graduation where He emerged a gold medalist in His Master of Arts course in Philosophy, from the University of Mumbai. Thereafter, under the guidance of the highly respected professor, Dr. Ramanlal Shah, Pujya Gurudevshri wrote an extensive research treatise on Shrimadji's finest literary creation, Shri Atmasiddhi Shastra. The University of Mumbai conferred the Ph.D degree on Him for this thesis, on December 2nd 1998, entitling Him Dr. Rakesh Jhaveri. However, in spite of earning accolades from the world, Pujya Gurudev shri's single-minded focus was on His Guru. The very night that He obtained His degree, Pujya Gurudev shri dedicated it at the Lotus Feet of His Beloved Master.

He inspired the formation of the Trust – 'Shrimad Rajchandra Adhyatmik Satsang Sadhana Kendra' in 1994. Pujya Gurudevshri's discourses, stemming from His profound Self experience and numerous other spiritual activities were all propelling forces that enabled seekers to progress on the path of liberation. In order to provide a conducive atmosphere for the devotees' spiritual progress, a committee was formed with the blessings of Pujya Gurudevshri, for the purpose of selecting a suitable place for the Ashram. The blessed land of Mohangadh Hill located on the outskirts of Dharampur and spread over 223 acres was selected for the establishment of the Ashram on 13th May, 1999 and the construction of the Ashram commenced.

The year 2002 marked the beginning of the tradition by Pujya Gurudevshri of initiating Atmarpits on the auspicious day of His birth (26th September) each year. Till date, 89 enthusiastic aspirants have embraced the blessed Atmarpit way of life. In 2010, on the auspicious day of Gurupurnima, He introduced the Panchdiksha

Vikasyatra. Corresponding to the various stages of the growth of a tree, He formulated Beejam, Ankuram, Parnam, Pushpam and Falam diksha signifying the spiritual growth of a seeker. In the same year on His birthday, He blessed 108 aspirants with Vanprastha Diksha i.e. a life of spiritual retreats with deep sadhana.

Source: www.shrimadrajchandramission.org