

## **Life story of Acharya Sushil Kumarji Maharaj**

Guruji was born on June 15, 1926 in Shikopur, a small foothill village in Haryana, India. The village was later named Sushilgarh in Guruji's honor. As a seven year old he left home to live with Shri Chotelalji Maharaj, who later became his religious Guru.

When he was 15 years old, he became a Jain muni (monk) in the Swetambar Sthanakvasi sect. Guruji mastered the classical studies of Indian religious and yogic philosophies.

Guruji was a master of meditation and the science of sound. His teaching system is called Arhum Yoga. It is an ancient system for the mastery of the inner self through watchfulness and direct perception.

From 1954 to 1994, Guruji had organized and presided over a significant number of World Religions Conferences, which were attended by highly esteemed individuals, including various Presidents and Prime Ministers of India. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. Radhakrishnan, Dr. Zakir Hussain, Fakkruddin Ali Ahmed, Zail Singh, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi were amongst those who participated and Declarations advocating world peace, universal brotherhood and above all non-violence were frequently adopted at these conferences. Guruji also organized several International Jain Conferences which too adopted resolutions of non-violence, peaceful co-existence and reverence to all life forms.

In 1981 Acharya Sushil Muniji Maharaj Co-Founded JAINA along with Gurudev Chitrabhanu to unite all Jain sects in one umbrella organization. As a result of his vision, Jain Community has a strong united voice in North America and across the world

In 1982, Guruji inspired the leaders of eight nations to submit a memorandum demanding peace through non-violence to the Secretary General of the United Nations. He explained that peace through non-violence could not be compromised or exploited and would ensure the sanctity of human life as well as extending protection to the animal kingdom, the environment and all of our Mother Earth.

In 1983, Guruji established Siddhachalam, the first Jain Tirath outside India on 120 acres spiritual retreat.

Acharya Sushil Kumarji Maharaj gave more than five decades of selfless service through non-violence, peace and universal brotherhood. He had devoted himself entirely to the ideologies of the upliftment of all beings. He strived for an eco-friendly environment, keeping in mind the protection and safety of all creatures that belong to this Earth. Guruji heard the cries of people as well as nature and he understood their anguish. He was definitely a crusader with commendable qualities, courage and ideologies. Wherever Guruji journeyed around the world, he was sought after for his insightful intelligence, his loving and childlike soul and above all, his wisdom. He possessed an extremely high level of self-realization. His words matched his actions whereby his enduring motivations miraculously moved people. Guruji was a great moral leader and teacher who could inspire tolerance, peace and love. Acharya Sushil Kumarji Maharaj attained SAMADHI on the 22nd April, 1994. “We must learn to live without attachment”, was his greatest teaching.