

Dada Bhagwan Parivar's

March 2023

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AKRAM Express



KING SHRENİK



Editorial

Friends,

Do you all remember how, in January 2020, three thousand *mahatmas* had won the jackpot? The jackpot of going on pilgrimage to Samet Shikar with Pujiyashree! During that pilgrimage a four-day *satsang* (spiritual discourse) programme was held in the town of Rajgir.

Rajgir (known as Rajgruhi in historic times) is a place made holy by Lord Mahavir's presence, around 2500 years ago. The city of Rajgir was founded by King Shrenik.

In this issue we will get to know more about King Shrenik. How did King Shrenik become Lord Mahavir's follower? What did he gain by doing Lord Mahavir's *darshan* (devotional viewing, to pay homage to)? Had he made any mistakes in his life? What can we learn from his mistakes?

So, let's join Theo and his friends on their journey and learn all about King Shrenik's life, while also gaining the right understanding.

- Dimple Mehta



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The Adventures of Theo & Friends

Journey to Rajgir...

From America, Theo and his group have landed in Rajgir, the historic town in the State of Bihar. Rajgir was the capital of the ancient Kingdom of Magadha.

Yes, yes... in this town! Having said goodbye to all their comforts in America, their plane has landed here safely, but Rizo's mood has crash-landed. He isn't willing to even step out of his hotel room.

But, the rest of his friends are ready to have a great time in Rajgir. Along with learning new things, Theo is impatiently waiting to eat Bihar's popular food dish called Litti Chokha. Zoey has learnt that this village was built under the reign of King Shrenik. And that's why she is very curious to learn more about King Shrenik.


And the person who is the most excited is Giffy! He's the one who had selected this place. Ever since he came to know that this town was built by King Shrenik - who is going to be the first Tirthankar in the next era of 24 Tirthankars - Giffy's happiness had no bounds. Who was he? What was he like? What connection did he have with Lord Mahavir? Giffy wanted to learn all these things.

And as you all are aware, once Theo and friends have made up their minds to search for something, they won't stop until they find it. But, will they succeed without Rizo's support?

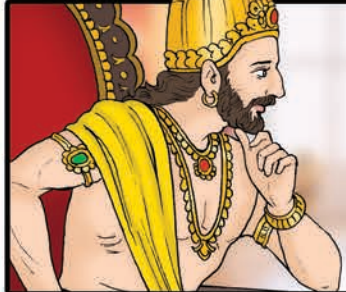
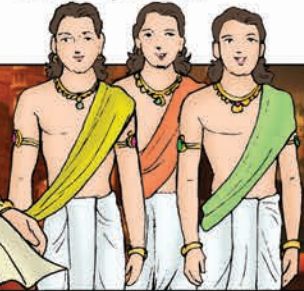
Come, let's see...



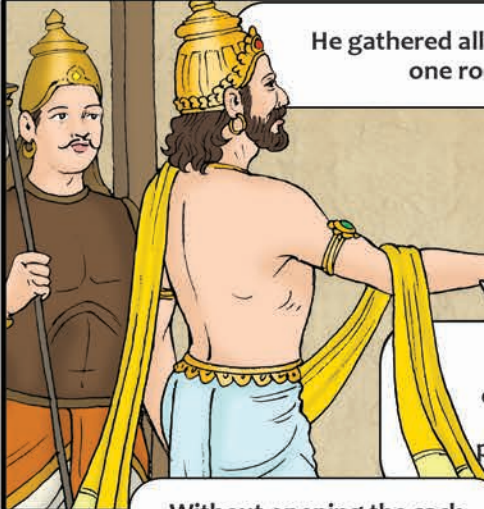
The Throne of Magadha




Shrenik, the son of King Prasenjit of the Magadha kingdom, was an extremely intelligent and heroic person. Amongst all the princes, he stood out for both his looks and his qualities.



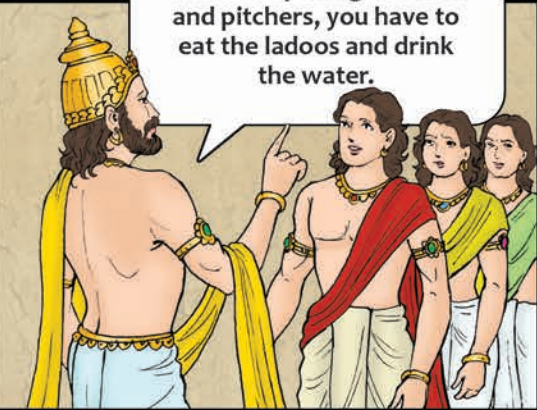
One day King Prasenjit decided to test all the young princes of the kingdom. He had decided that he would give the kingdom to the prince who passed the test.



He gathered all the princes in one room...



There are ladoos (Indian sweet) in this sack. The opening of the sack has been stitched shut. And these are pitchers filled with water, and their lids are sealed shut.



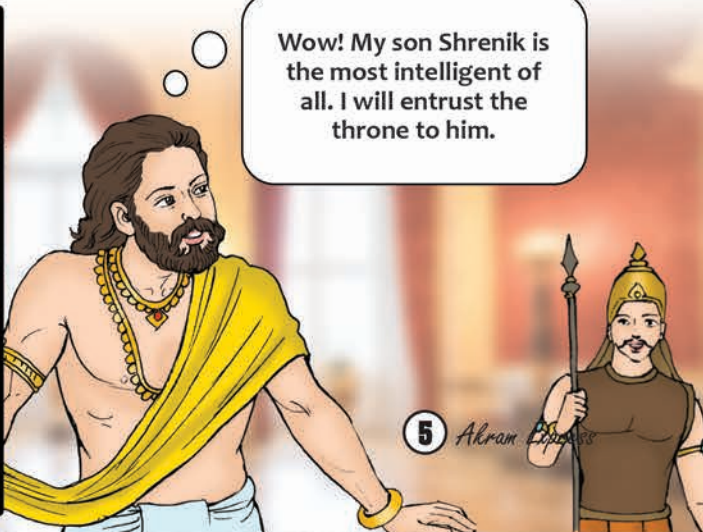
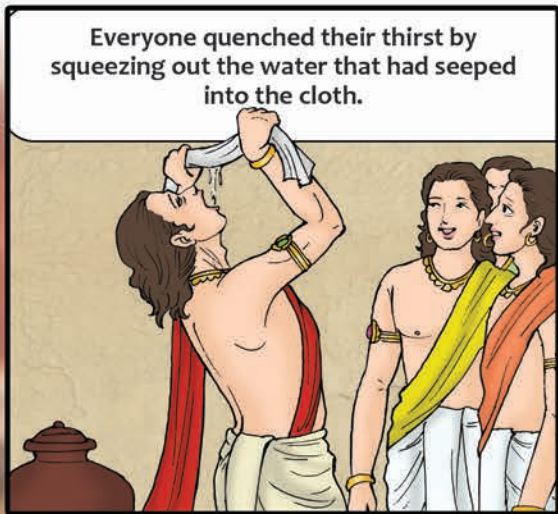
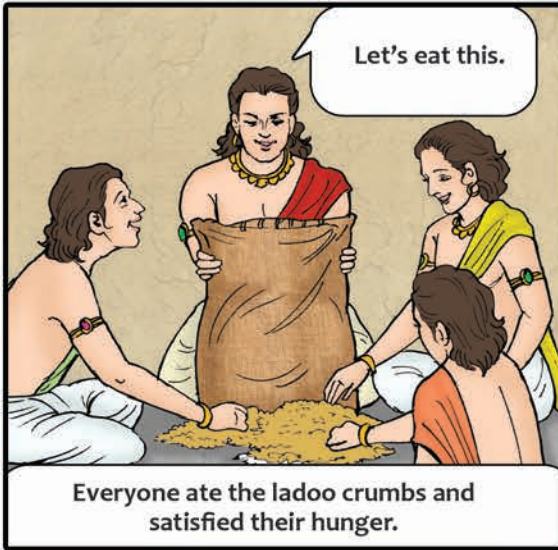
Without opening the sack and pitchers, you have to eat the ladoos and drink the water.

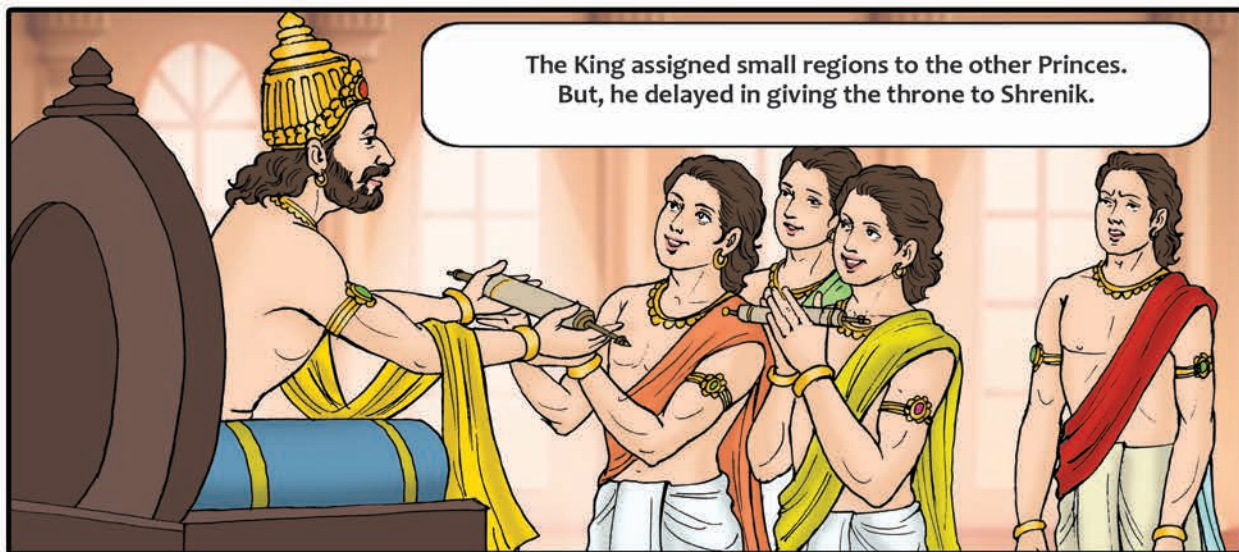


How can this be possible?



Hungry and thirsty, they all sat still, looking at each other's faces.



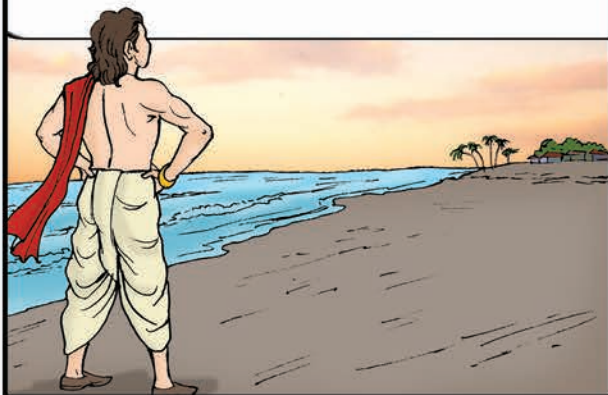


The King assigned small regions to the other Princes. But, he delayed in giving the throne to Shrenik.

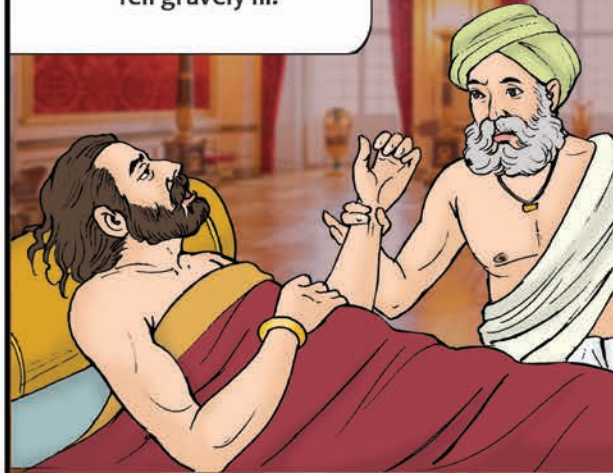
What a huge insult to me! Father didn't give me anything! I'm leaving this kingdom and I will not come back!



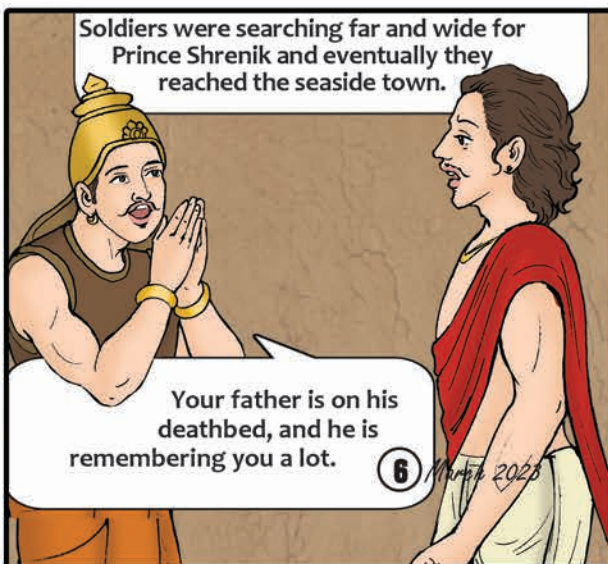
Prince Shrenik started living in a town close to the seaside. He started his own business using his intelligence.



Meanwhile King Prasenjit fell gravely ill.



Soldiers were searching far and wide for Prince Shrenik and eventually they reached the seaside town.



Your father is on his deathbed, and he is remembering you a lot.

Prince Shrenik was overcome with emotion for his father and he rushed to his side.



Son, I wanted to give you the throne. I was just waiting for the right time.

Oh no!
What a big
mistake
I've made!
I didn't
understand
your
intention.



After handing over the crown of Magadha to Shrenik,
King Prasenjit passed away peacefully whilst praying.



King Shrenik succeeded to the
throne of the Magadha kingdom,
and he founded a new city which
he named 'Rajgruhi'.





Let's Play...

Write down how many of each of the following pictures you can find in the picture on the left.







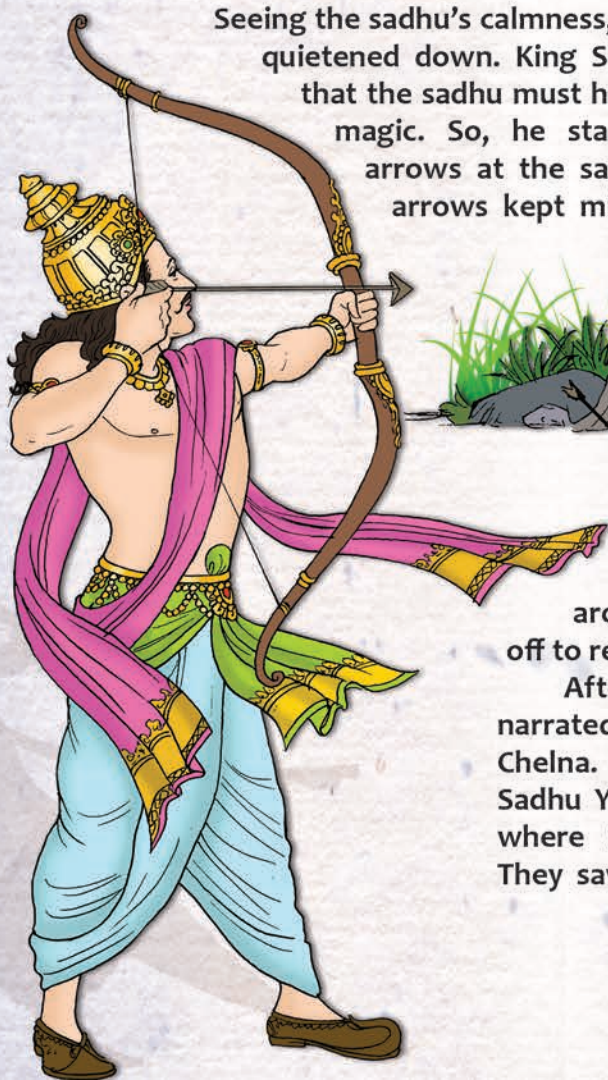


Becoming a Devotee of Lord Mahavir Swami

Queen Chelna, King Shrenik's wife, was a firm devotee of Lord Mahavir. But King Shrenik didn't like this. He felt that Lord Mahavir's monks were frauds.

One day King Shrenik went hunting. There he saw Sadhu Yamdhar in deep meditation. King Shrenik set his hunting dogs on Yamdhar. But the *sadhu* (monk) remained calm and deep in his meditation.

Seeing the sadhu's calmness, even the dogs quietened down. King Shrenik thought that the sadhu must have done some magic. So, he started shooting arrows at the sadhu. But the arrows kept missing their



mark. King Shrenik was flustered. Eventually he put a dead snake around Yamdhar's neck and then set off to return to his palace.


After returning to the palace, he narrated the entire story in detail to Queen Chelna. The queen felt extremely bad for Sadhu Yamdhar. She took King Shrenik to where Sadhu Yamdhar was meditating. They saw that ants and other insects had

crawled all over his body because of the dead snake. But the sadhu hadn't bugged at all.

The Queen, very carefully, removed all the ants and insects from the sadhu's body, and removed the dead snake. She cleansed the wounds inflicted on his body by the ants and applied sandalwood paste.

After a little while, Yamdhar opened his eyes. He blessed the King and the Queen. He did not discriminate between the King who had inflicted pain on him and the Queen who had freed him from his pain.


On seeing this, King Shrenik was extremely impressed. This is how King Shrenik became a firm devotee of Lord Mahavir, alongside Queen Chelna.



But how is this possible?! How did Sadhu Yamdhar forgive King Shrenik so easily?

You know, when Rizo refused to come out with us, I messaged him and told him that I'm not talking to him anymore.

Forget forgiving him, he even gave King Shrenik his blessings.



Whereas Giffy got
Litti Chokha for me,
so I made him my
best friend.

This is
what ordinary people
would do! They stop talking to
people who insult them and talk sweetly
to those that do good to them. But Sadhu
Yamdhara was a disciple of Lord Mahavir.
That's why he did not discriminate
between King Shrenik and Queen
Chelna.

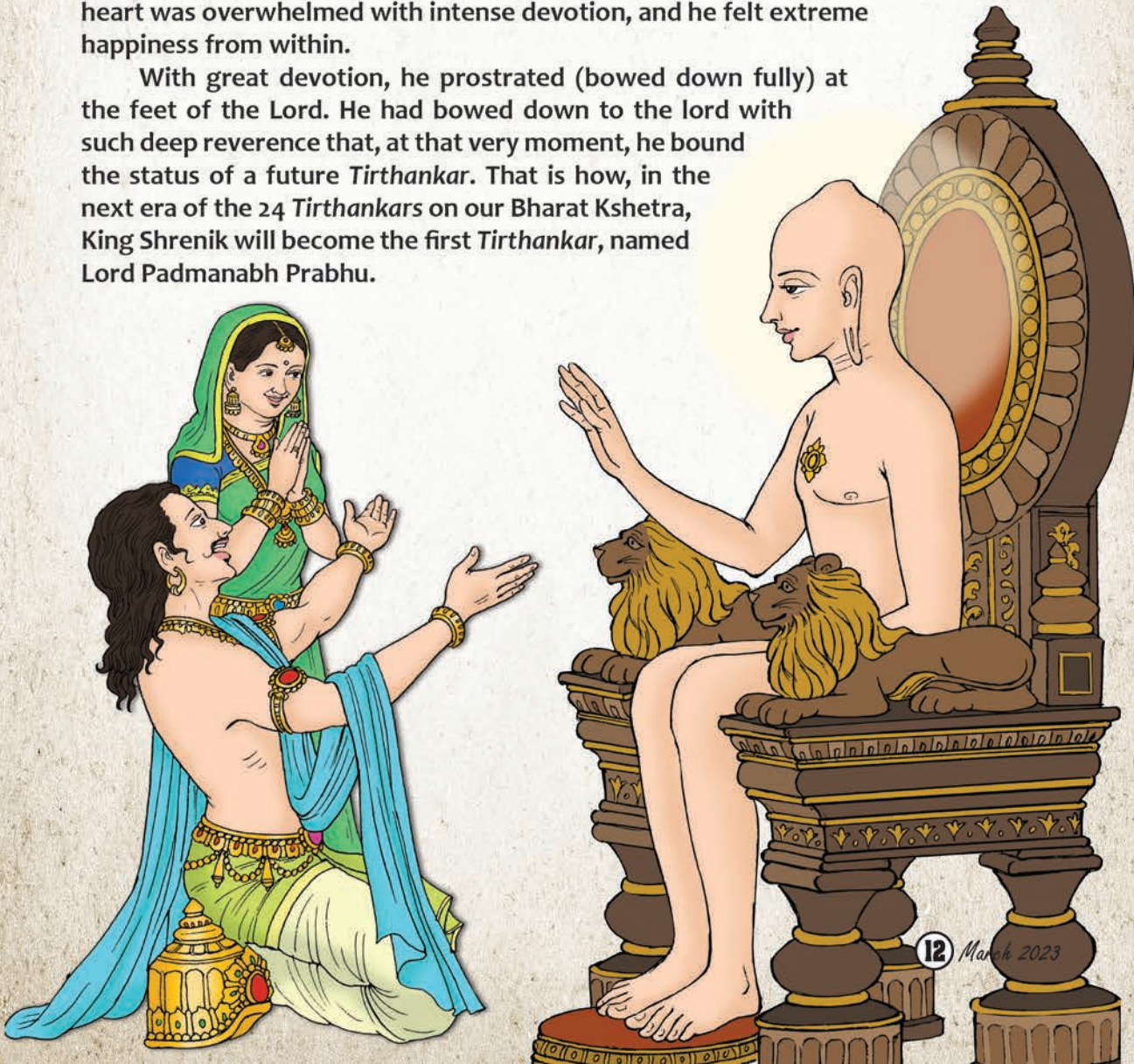
Hey
Giffy, I'm not ordinary! I'm
extraordinary! I just sent Rizo a
selfie with a message saying,
"Miss You".


How Did He Bind the Status of a Tirthankar?

Lord Mahavir had come to the city of Rajgruhi. Queen Chelna took King Shrenik to pay homage to Lord Mahavir. This was going to be his first meeting with Lord Mahavir.

On seeing Lord Mahavir, King Shrenik was overcome with emotion. The king's heart was overwhelmed with intense devotion, and he felt extreme happiness from within.

With great devotion, he prostrated (bowed down fully) at the feet of the Lord. He had bowed down to the lord with such deep reverence that, at that very moment, he bound the status of a future *Tirthankar*. That is how, in the next era of the 24 *Tirthankars* on our Bharat Kshetra, King Shrenik will become the first *Tirthankar*, named Lord Padmanabh Prabhu.





O Padmanabh Prabhu, you are so great. How must you have felt on seeing the Lord, that you bound the status of a *Tirthankar*!

Oh, this name sounds familiar. Padmanabh Prabhu... Oh I know! I've done his *darshan* (devotional viewing) in all the Trimandirs. I've only today learnt that Padmanabh Prabhu is King Shrenik!

I'd learnt on Kalptop* that there is immense power in prayers. Wherever we bow down, our ego decreases there. We get a lot of power when we bow down heartily to our God, teachers, and elders. But King Shrenik's obeisance to Lord Mahavir must have been quite extraordinary given that he bound the status of a future *Tirthankar*!

*the laptop being used for internet searching in Didima Jungle

Summer Camp 2023

Sanskar Sinchan Shibir - 2023 for Kids and Youth

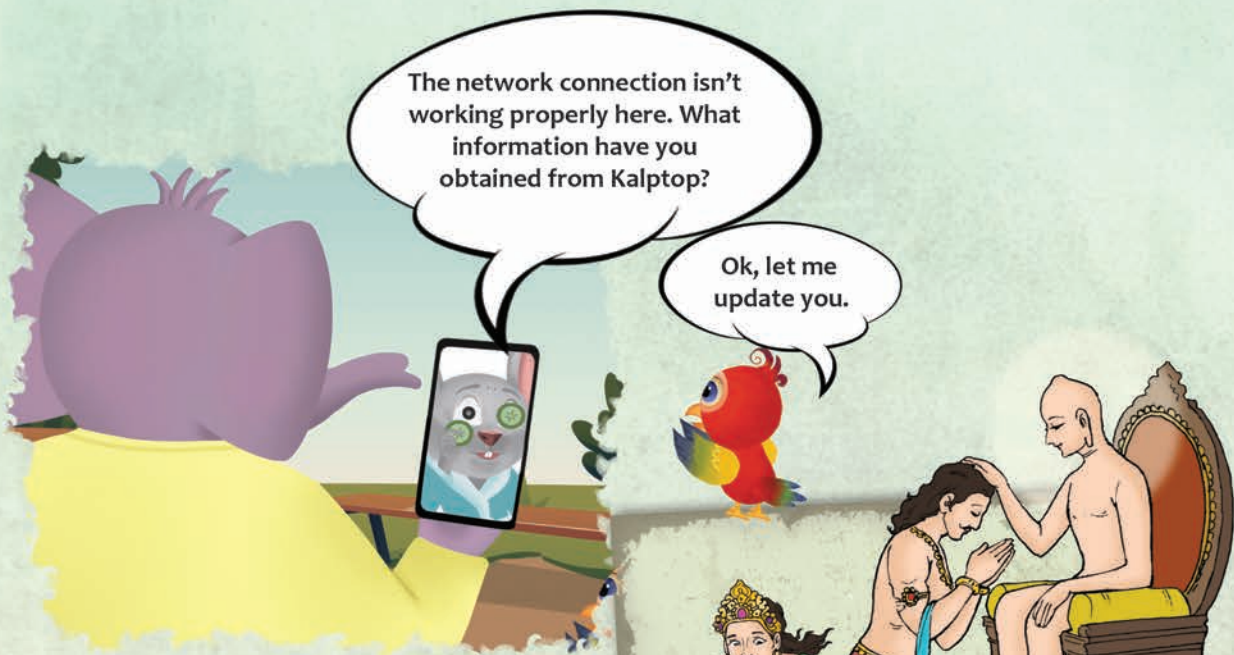


Group D 4 to 7 Years		
Center	Date	Contact Number
Simandhar city	22 April	079-35002154
Ahmedabad	31 March	8141377833
Amreli	-	-
Ankleshwar	14 April	7984196369
Baroda	16 April	9825018956
Bharuch	-	-
Bhavnagar	16 May	9909463142
Bhuj	11 May	9429297223
Dhoraji	-	-
Gandhidham	-	-
Jamnagar	14 May	9924780877
Junagadh	-	-
Mahesana	4 June	9427375177
Morbi	12 May	9725199144
Mumbai	8 April Borivali 15 April Mulund 16 April Ghatkopar	8652890066
Nadiad	-	-
Pune	-	-
Rajkot	16 April	9979620315
Surat	16 April	9913141600
Surendranagar	-	-
Vijapur	-	-
Veraval	12 May	8980483683
Valsaad	-	-

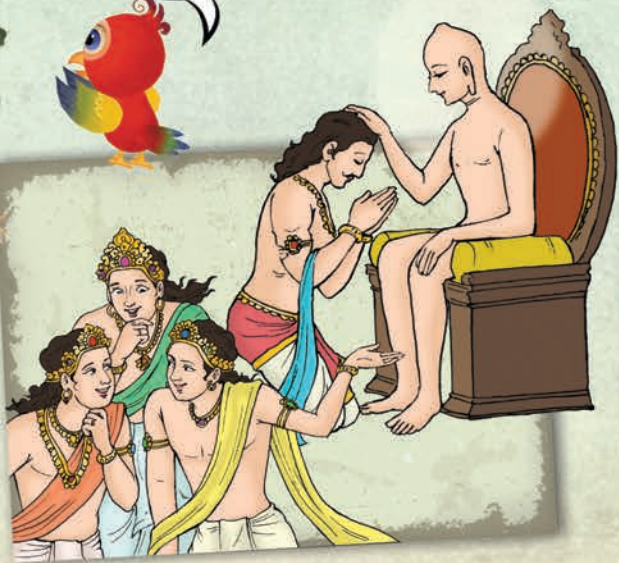
Group C 8 to 12 Years	
Date	Contact Number
23, 24 April	079-35002154
26 March	9428384118
27,28 May	9408898792
25 April	9558203868
29, 30 April	9428767383
13, 14 May	8320710688
13, 14 May	9558860259
13, 14 May	8200303866
30 April	9574046082
23 April	9428310787
20, 21 May	9723147318
16 May	7984313397
30 April	9427375177
18 May	9978633035
15, 16 April	9867989202
30 April	9979075434
30 April	7774079780
22, 23 April	7779023726
22, 23 April	9574008498
29,30 April	9106477459
28 May	9429742578
14 May	9712191887
4 June	9276252930

1. In order to attend the summer camp, it is mandatory to register at a nearby centre. The registration charges are non-refundable.
2. The registration for the youth and kids will be done based on the pre-fixed dates as per their age and standard. The registration will be closed 7 days before the camp start date. Thereafter, additional tatkal charges will have to be paid for the registration.
3. Registration for attending the summer camp at Simandhar City will have to be done at 'Store Of Happiness' within the Trimandir Sankul between 09.30 AM to 12 noon and 4.00 PM to 7.00 PM in the evening. Registrations have to be done 5 days prior to the summer camp. The registration will start from 5th April.
Contact Number - 079-35002154.

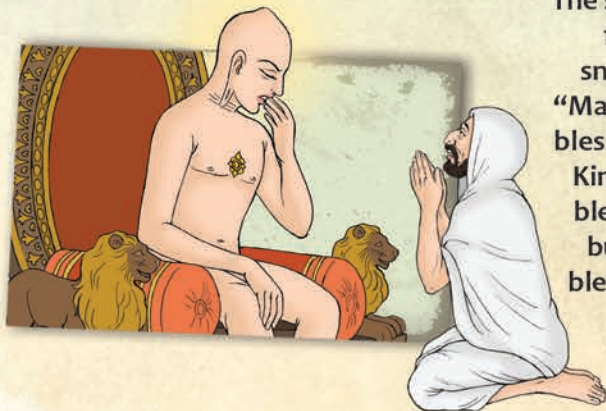
How Do You Bind the Karma of Going to Hell?



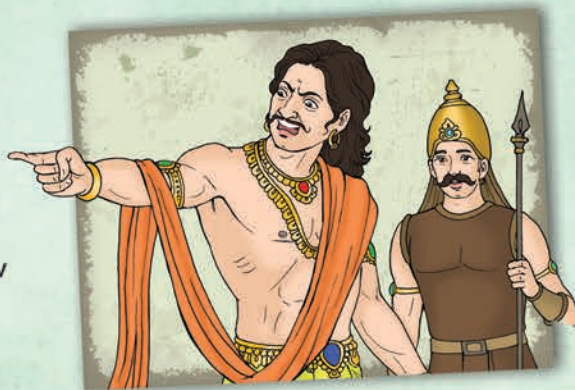
One day at an assembly of celestial beings in heaven, there was a lot of talk and praise for King Shrenik's devotion towards Lord Mahavir. Listening to this, one of the gods wished to test King Shrenik. Disguising himself as a sickly person, he visited Lord Mahavir's gathering.



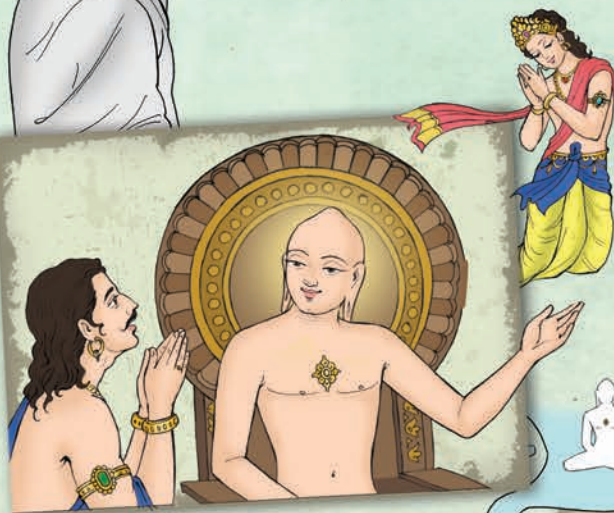
The sickly person went to touch Lord Mahavir's feet, and at that very moment the Lord sneezed. The ill person blessed him saying, "May you die". When King Shrenik sneezed, he blessed him saying, "May you live long". When King Shrenik's son Abhaykumar sneezed, he blessed him saying, "May you live or die". A butcher present also sneezed, and he was blessed with, "May you neither live nor die."



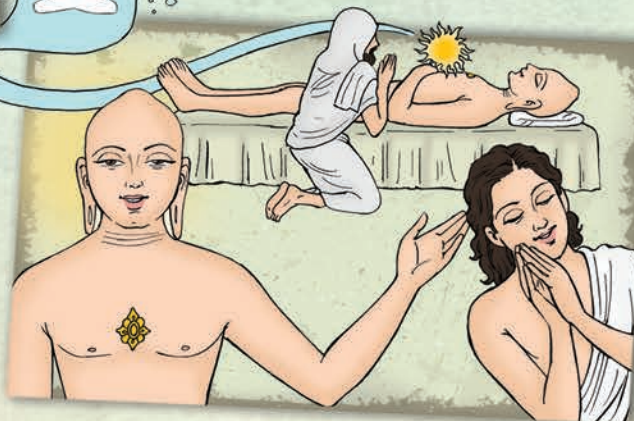
King Shrenik was extremely angry with the sickly person because he'd told Lord Mahavir to die. The king ordered his soldiers to catch him. But just then, the sickly person changed into his god form and flew up into the skies.



When King Shrenik requested Lord Mahavir to explain the puzzling remarks uttered by this mysterious person, the Lord said, "He is a celestial being who had come to test King Shrenik."



His intention behind saying, "may you die," to Lord Mahavir was that if he died then he would attain moksha. The intention behind saying "live or die" to King Shrenik's son, Abhaykumar, was that if Abhaykumar lived, his life will be spent in devotion, and once he dies, he will go to heaven.

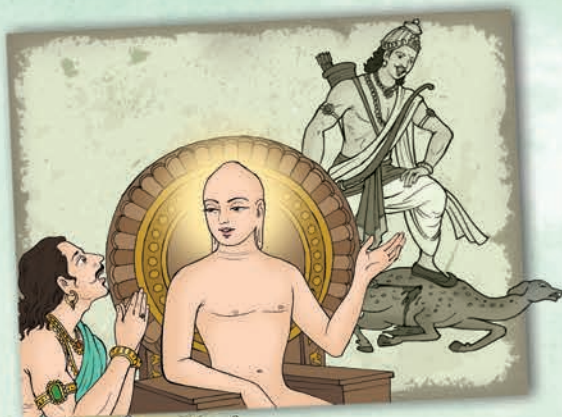


He told the butcher "neither live nor die" because if he lived more, he would commit more violence and bind demerit karma, and if he died, he would go to hell. His intention of telling King Shrenik, "may you live long," was that if the king died, he would go to the first hell.



On hearing the Lord's explanation, King Shrenik was perturbed. When he asked the Lord about the reason behind him going to hell, the Lord then told him that...

One day when King Shrenik had gone hunting, he had killed a pregnant deer and he had felt very proud that with one arrow he had killed two lives. After committing such a grave sin and feeling very proud of it, he had bound the karma of going to hell.



Along with this, the Lord also told him that after finishing his time in hell, King Shrenik would be reborn in Bharat Kshetra as Padmanabh Prabhu and he will become the first Tirthankar of the next cycle.

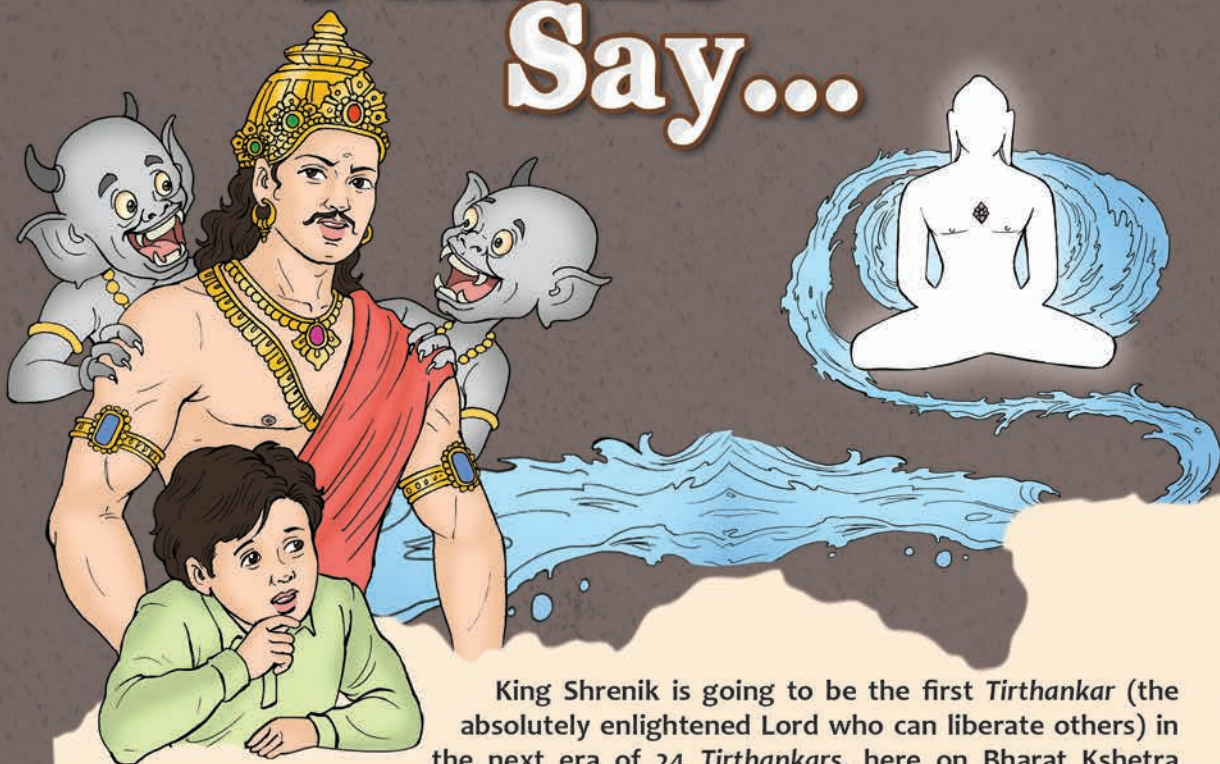
Rizo, why do you look worried?

Because one day I rode my bike over a squirrel, and it was hurt very badly. So will I also, like King Shrenik...

No, not at all. You felt so much remorse. If after committing a mistake you feel very happy or proud of yourself like, "I've done so well!" then you will have to suffer a big punishment. But if you feel remorse for the mistake, then that mistake is wiped out.

Phew...thanks Aaloo. You've made me tension-free. But this King Shrenik is so unique! I want to find out more about him.

Gnanis Say...



King Shrenik is going to be the first *Tirthankar* (the absolutely enlightened Lord who can liberate others) in the next era of 24 *Tirthankars*, here on Bharat Kshetra (Planet Earth), approximately 82,000 years from now.

King Shrenik bound a birth as a *Tirthankar* just by paying homage to Lord Mahavir. Whereas some people paid homage to Lord Mahavir while having negative thoughts, resulting in them binding many lives (rebirths)!

Questioner: It is said that King Shrenik went to hell. Did he not do *pratikraman* (repentance for mistake) after committing sins?

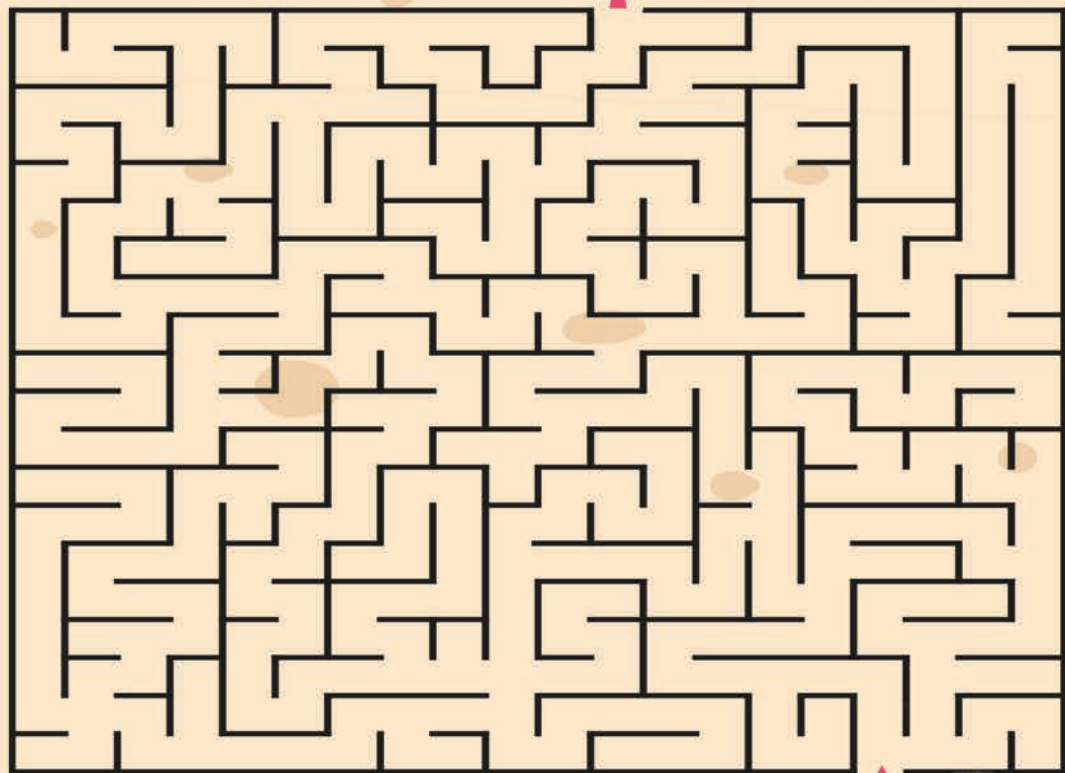
Pujyashree: King Shrenik's case was different. He was a very powerful King! He had committed sins with unity of mind, body and speech, as befitting that era of time cycle (*Satyug*). He did do *pratikraman*. But when you've made a loss of 5 crores, and you add a profit of 20 lakhs, then what happens?

We should understand what we need to do. In this *Kalyug* (current era of time cycle) all losses are 'small'. 'Small', meaning? We make a mistake but immediately our mind changes and we start repenting. We speak negatively on the outside but in our mind we repent, thinking, 'How could I have uttered such negative words once again?' In other words, the unity of mind, speech and body and its heavy consequences, are not there anymore.

So we just need to be good and follow Dada's principles (*agnas*).

Let's Play...

Help the lost soldier get through the maze and back to the palace.



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Dimple Mehta on behalf of Mahavideh Foundation

(Signature of Publisher)





Why Is Rizo Worried?

Rizo has just found out some new information about King Shrenik and hence he is desperately looking for his team. He hasn't even picked up Aaloo and Chilli's video calls. Aaloo was calling him to play a video game, 'Call of Duty'. But, Rizo has deleted the 'Call of Duty' game from his phone. What has Rizo found out? Why has he deleted this game from his phone? Why is he frantically searching for his team members without even making time to eat and drink? To find out what is going on in Rizo's mind and to enjoy more adventures with Theo and Friends, don't forget to read the next issue...



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