

## Samani Jinpragya ji & Samani Kshantipragya ji Delighted & Inspired the Indian Community in Vero Beach, FL (September 15, 2019)



It was after many years that Samanijis visited Vero Beach, a town on the east coast of Florida from September 13 to September 16. The whole Indian community, Jains and non-Jains alike, was abuzz. Like always, they all came forward to help with everything.

On arriving here in Vero Beach, Samanijis jumped straight into action. We first brought Samanijis to Mr. Mrudang Desai's house, Samanijis were on a total fast (Varshi tap) not even taking water.

Since Vero Beach is a beach town next to the Atlantic Ocean, we took Samanijis to Mr. Mahendra Patel's house on the beach. By coincidence, they had some extended family members, who happened to be Jains, visit them at the same time. The visiting family had not met any Jain Sadhu or sadhavi after leaving India many many years ago, so they were absolutely delighted to meet Samaniji. An amazing thing about Samanijis is how they inspire people back into the Jain fold.



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**Samaniji at Mahendrabhai Patel's house**

After visiting the beach area, we brought Samanjis to our (Rakesh and Indu Jain) house, where they stayed for the rest of their visit. Immediately after, Rakesh had to leave for the evening, leaving Indu with the Samaniji all to herself for the evening. Personally for Indu, it was a knowledgeable experience spending one on one time with Samanijis. One just feels there is so much to learn from Samanijis.

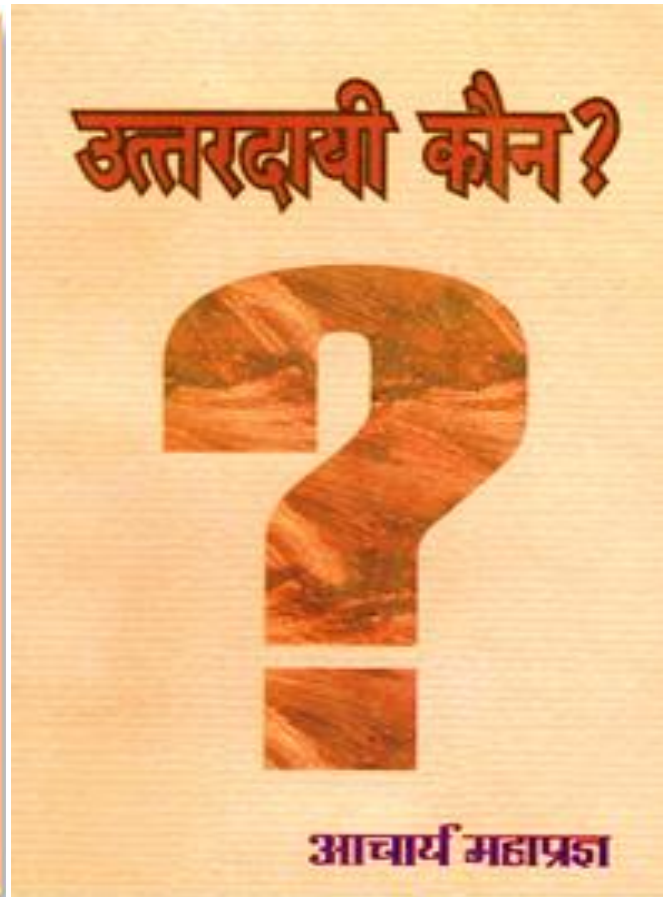
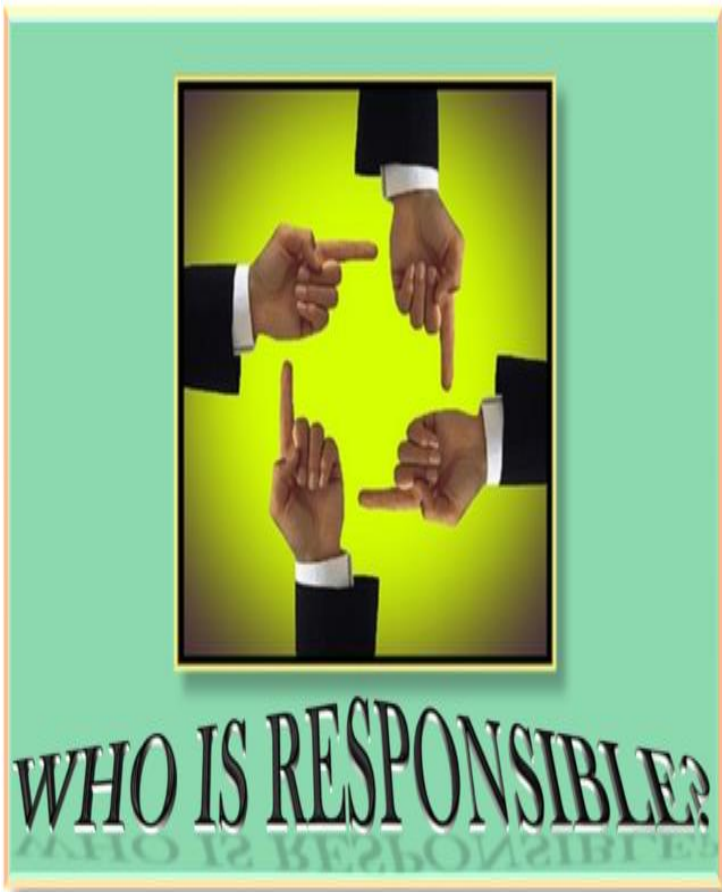
The next morning, people from the Indian community started visiting the Samanijis, including Parul Desai and Rajshree, to name a few. Each had their volley of questions. Samaniji were able to answer and satisfy everyone's religious quest.



**Main event on Sunday at Indu Rakesh Jain's house**

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The main event was organized on Sunday, September 15. The whole Indian community of Indian River county of Florida, some 75 adults and children, came to listen to the Samanijis. The lecture topics are always a surprise. All the attendees were provided with a paper and a pencil. The element of surprise continued as Samani Jin Pragyaaji asked the adults to write down 5 good and 5 unpleasant things that happened in their lives, turning their brains 360 degrees. Then she explained the purpose of having them do this. Everything happens in our life as a result of our fate, which is nothing but a sum total of five elements. They are Kaal , Swabhav (our nature or behavior), Karm (our past actions), and Purusharth (our effort or action) (time), Niyati (universal law). Of these, we have control only on our Swabhav and Purusharth through which we have the power to change our fate and minimize or even avoid the effect of anything negative or unpleasant happening in our life. Actually the workshop's topic "Who is responsible?" which was on the basis of Acharya Shree Mahapragya's book "Uttardayi Kaun?"



Parallel to the adults' session, Samani Kshanti Pragyaaji attended to the children of all ages in a separate room. She taught them how to fulfill their dreams. In the second half of the session, she asked the children to write down a short essay on their dreams and how they can accomplish them. The children surprised and impressed everyone by their clear thinking and

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how they planned to accomplish their goal, i.e. by following the religious principles of discipline, hard work, and patience.

Anytime we hear Samanijis, it motivates and inspires us to continue our learning about Jain principles and apply them in our day to day life. Jainism is the first structured way of living since time immemorial. All we can say is if we had more Samanijis throughout the world, more people would come to learn about Jain way of life.

**-Report presented by: Indu Jain**

**From Vero Beach**