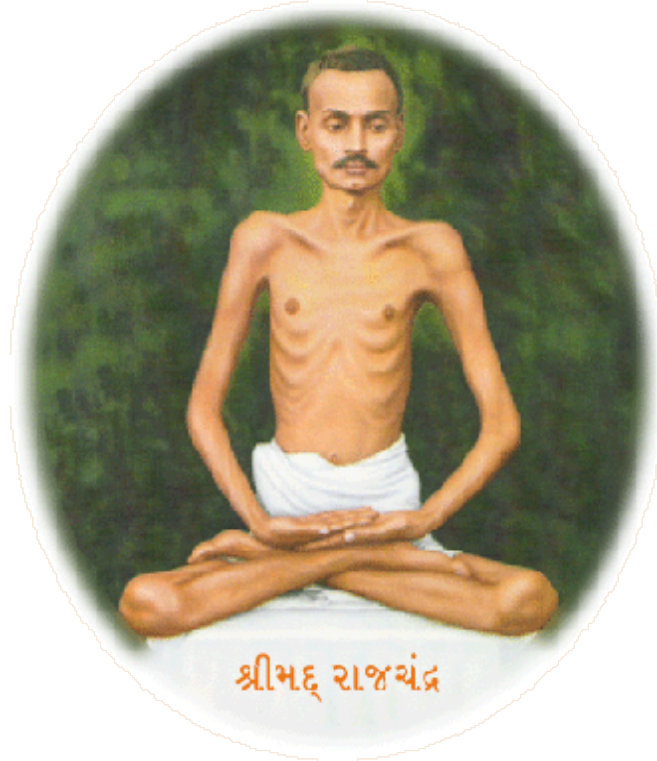


Life Sketch of Shrimadji:



Raychandbhai Ravajibhai Mehta, popularly known as **Shrimad Rajchandra** by his followers, was a prominent [Jain philosopher](#). He is highly respected for His remarkable exposition of Bhagwan Mahavira's teachings, great spiritual state, extraordinary personality and literary genius. He was born on November 9, 1867 in Vavana Bandar, [India](#), and left His body on April 9, 1901 in [Rajkot, India](#). He is especially notable for being "a guide and helper" to [Mahatma Gandhi](#).^[1] Shrimad was also one of Gandhi's best friends, and they exchanged a series of letters about religion and philosophy until the end of Shrimad's life.

At the age of seven, on witnessing the burning pyre of a recently deceased acquaintance, He underwent unprecedented mental churning and reportedly attained 'Jatismaran jnan' (a recollection of several past lives) at the cremation ground itself. This vivid recollection of the past reportedly

established continuity with his previously attained state of knowledge, meditation and penance. As a result of this purification of his consciousness, many unusual mnemonic and psychic powers reportedly manifested in him, but he chose to ignore them, focusing solely on self-realization.

Although young in age, Shrimad was spiritually mature and remained in a state of heightened awareness. Despite a powerful intrinsic attitude of detachment and a burning desire for total renunciation, at the age of 20, he married and began to engage in the family business. Having spent nearly a decade of his life as a householder, ably discharging the responsibilities that had come his way, inwardly he remained completely detached.

Worldly pleasures reportedly failed to attract him in the least and he spent long hours in profound contemplation and deep meditation. He was also a prolific writer and is famous for his work, [Atma Siddhi](#), a Gujarati poem on attainment of soul.

Ceaselessly immersed in spiritual pursuits, at the age of 23, he reportedly attained Shuddha Samyadarshan (right self-perception). After the age of 28, His responsibilities decreased and he began to spend 4 to 6 months of the year in seclusion at various places in Gujarat, where he lived the life of an ascetic, taking very little food only once a day.

At the age of 32, he reportedly was at the threshold of complete renunciation when he contracted an illness from which he never recovered. In spite of extreme physical discomfort, he always remained in a blissful state. Despite comprehensive treatment by doctors and meticulous care by devotees and relatives, all efforts to save him failed. On 9 April 1901 (Chaitra Vad Pancham V.S. 1957) at Rajkot, according to his followers, Shrimad left His body in a state of complete awareness.

In this short span of 33 ½ years, He not only attained liberation Himself, but was also instrumental towards the liberation for many others. His preachings have been compiled in an invaluable text, based on the letters exchanged with his ardent disciples; Shri Juthabhai, Shri Ambalalbai, Shri Shobhagbhai and Shri Lalluji Muni (Shri Laghuraj swami); titled, 'Shrimad Rajchandra Vachanamrut', which even today, continues to quench the thirst of true seekers.