Five Great Vows Twelve Vows of Laypeople

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Path of Liberation

- Right Faith - Samyak Darshana
- Right Knowledge - Samyak Jnan
- Right Conduct - Samyak Charitrya

Four-Fold Order of Jain Sangh

- Monk - Sadhu
- Nun - Sadhvi
- Layman - Shravak
- Laywoman - Shravika

Ascetics (Monks and Nuns):

Spiritual Practiceners and Teachers

Renounce the world

- No earthly possessions
- No family relationship
- Beg for food
- Wear no cloth or white cloth
- Walk on bare feet (no vehicles)

Practice self-control

Follow strictly Five Great Vows (maha-vrats)

- By Mind, Speech, and Action
- Not to do, not to ask others to do, not to approve such actions

Ascetics (Monks and Nuns):

Nonviolence (Ahimsa)

- Universal Love and Compassion to all Living Beings
- Do not hurt anyone (body, speech, and thought)
- Embrace the welfare of all animals and protection of environment

Truth (Satya)

- Always speak truth which is pious and pleasant otherwise remain silent

Non-stealing (Achaurya)

- Not to cheat or use illegal means or not to take any item unattended.
- When accepting alms, help, or aid, one should not take more than what is needed.

Five Great Vows of Ascetics

Chastity (Brahmacharya)

- Total abstinence from sensual pleasure derived by the five senses

Non-possession/ Non-attachment (Aparigraha)

- Total abstinence of possession and attachment
- Possession creates attachment which results in continued greed, jealousy, selfishness, ego, hatred, violence.
- This leads to bondage of Karma, which leads to the further cycles of birth and death
- Wants and desires have no limit.

Lay Followers (Sravaks and Sravikas):

Not required to renounce the world

Discharge household duties by honest means

Live a progressive pure/spiritual life

Support Ascetics, Temples, Scriptures

Follow the twelve vows of lay people

- Five Main Vows of Limited Nature (Anuvratas)
- Three Merit Vows (Guna-vrats)
- Four Disciplinary Vows (Siksha-vratas)

By Mind, Speech, and Action

Not to do and not to ask others to do

Twelve Vows of Layperson

Five Main Vows of Limited Nature (Anuvratas):

- Nonviolence Anuvrat (Ahimsa Anuvrat)
  - Sthula Pranatipat Viraman Vrat
  - Do not hurt Intentionally any beings (Selfish motive, sheer pleasure and even avoidable negligence).
  - One may use force, if necessary, in the defense of his country, society, family, life, property, religious institute.
  - Minimum violence in agricultural, industrial, occupational living activities (through carefulness and due precaution).
- Truthfulness Anuvrat (Satya Anuvrat)
  - Sthula Mrisavada Viraman Vrat
  - Avoid gross lies - Do not give false evidence or deny the property of others. Avoid cheating others.

Twelve Vows of Layperson

Five Main Vows of Limited Nature (Anuvratas):

- Non-stealing Anuvrat (Achaurya Anuvrat)
  - Sthula Adattadana Viraman Vrat
  - A person must not steal, rob, or misappropriate others goods and property.
  - He must not cheat and use illegal means in acquiring worldly things
- Chastity Anuvrat (Bhramacharya Anuvrat)
  - Sthula Maithuna Viraman Vrat
  - A person must not have a sensual relationship with anybody but one's own lawfully wedded spouse.
  - Even with one's own spouse, excessive indulgence of all kinds of sensual pleasure need be avoided.

Twelve Vows of Layperson

Five Main Vows of Limited Nature (Anuvratas):

- Non-attachment Anuvrat (Aparigraha Anuvrat)
  - Sthula Parigraha Viraman Vrat
  - One must impose a limit on one's needs, acquisitions, and possessions such as land, real estate, goods, other valuables, animals, money, etc.
  - The surplus should be used for the common good.
  - One must limit the every day usage of number of food items, or articles and their quantity.
  - Non-possession, like non-violence, affirms the oneness of all life and is beneficial to an individual in his spiritual growth and to the society for the redistribution of wealth.

Twelve Vows of Layperson

Three Merit Vows (Guna-vrats):

- Limited Area of Activity (Dik Vrata)
- Limited use of Consumable and Non-consumable items (Bhoga-Upbhoga Vrata)
- Avoidance of purposeless Sins (Anartha-danda Vrata)

Merit vows enhance and purify the effect of the five main vows.

They govern our external conduct.

Twelve Vows of Layperson

Four Disciplinary Vows (Siksha-vratas):

- Limited duration of Meditation (Samayik Vrata
- Limited area and duration of activity (Desavakasika Vrata)
- Limited duration of Ascetic's life (Pausadha Vrata)
- Charity Vow (Atithi Samvibhaga Vrata)

They reflect the purity of one's heart.

They encourage us in the performance of our religious duties.

They are preparatory to the discipline of an ascetic's life.

Twelve Vows of Layperson

Peaceful Death (Sanlekhanä):

- The peaceful death is characterized by non-attachment to worldly objects and by a suppression of passions at the time of death.
- The last thought should be of a calm renunciation of the body.
- In the final days of life, a householder can attain such a peaceful death if he/she truly follows the above twelve vows.