

Five types of Knowledge (Jnan)

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Jain scriptures define that there are five types of knowledges.

Matijnana

Knowledge obtained by normal means of mind and senses. This is known as an indirect knowledge because the soul acquires this knowledge via senses and mind.

Srutajnana

Knowledge obtained through signs, symbols, words, hearing from the wise, and reading scriptures. This is also known as indirect knowledge because the soul acquires this knowledge via words, scriptures etc.

Avadhijnana

Direct knowledge of matter (corporeal things) without the means of the mind and senses. A person visualizes the past, present and future forms of the corporeal things within some limit of space and time. It is a kind of spiritual knowledge or extra sensory perception.

Manahparyajnana

Direct knowledge of thoughts of other living beings within a certain limit of space and time without the means of mind and senses.

Kevaljnana

This knowledge completely reveals without the aid of senses and mind, the truth of all substances, corporeal or non-corporeal, past, present, and future of the whole universe.

Keval knowledge is the nature of the Soul and it dawns when the four four Ghati Karmas are completely exhausted. Once this state is realized it becomes certain that the Soul will attain final liberation when the remaining life comes to an end.

The Tirthankaras and Arihants are such persons possessing Kevaljnana - capable of knowing all and seeing all.