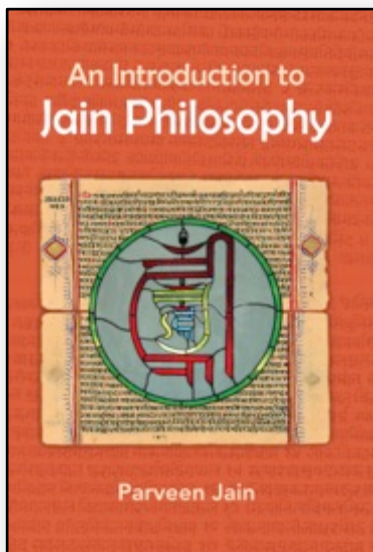


AN INTRODUCTION TO JAIN PHILOSOPHY

By Parveen Jain, PhD

Foreword by Rita Sherma, PhD | Prologue by Jeffery D. Long, PhD | Edited by Cogen Bohanec



Bringing to light an important dharmic tradition that is highly relevant to the modern age, *An Introduction to Jain Philosophy* provides Western readers with the most accessible and enlightening overview of this spiritual philosophy yet. Although in practice for millennia and having been extremely influential in the development of Indian thought and culture, the Jain tradition has remained relatively underrepresented outside of India. *An Introduction to Jain Philosophy* is a significant attempt to address that.

Drawing on an extraordinary collection of writings and discourses by the Jain monk Ācārya Sushil Kumar and on his own self-studies as a lifelong practitioner, author Parveen Jain distills the fundamental tenets of Jain philosophy for both academic and non-academic audiences. With relevance to today's political conflicts and our own search for meaning and purpose in our lives, *An Introduction to Jain Philosophy*

holds the timeless teachings of what Jain thinkers have to say about the universal issues of the human condition — and how we might understand and enhance our relationship with other living beings as a powerful and effective spiritual journey.

“It is a rare quality for a book on a specific religious tradition to be simultaneously comprehensive in its scope and nuanced in delivering easy-to-apprehend profundity. This is a great achievement on the part of Dr. Jain, and an important contribution to the proliferation of this jewel amongst humanity’s aggregate wisdom.”

— from the foreword by Rita Sherma

About the Author

Parveen Jain, PhD, is a longtime leader in the vibrant Jain and Hindu communities in the San Francisco Bay Area and throughout the United States. He has been deeply involved with the growth of Siddhachalam in New Jersey, the first Jain *tīrtha* outside of India, and was also instrumental in building the Jain Center of Northern California, based in the heart of Silicon Valley. As a prolific entrepreneur and as a leader in numerous Silicon Valley tech companies, he has several patents, published papers, and awards for his philanthropic and professional endeavors. He is most passionate about carrying on the initiatives inspired by Ācārya Sushil Kumar in the service of Jain Dharma and promoting the message of non-violence; creating educational platforms for the dissemination of dharmic doctrines, especially the Jain doctrine; and applying Jain principles and scriptures to everyday practice for the growing global Jain community and beyond, for current and future generations.

Foreword by Rita Sherma

Rita Sherma, PhD, is the founding director and an associate professor of the Mira and Ajay Shingal Center for Dharma Studies at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. She holds an MA in Women's Studies in Religion, and a PhD in Theology & Ethics from Claremont Graduate University. Sherma is co-founder of the American Academy of Religion's Hinduism Program Unit. She is the founding vice president of the Dharma Academy of North America, a scholarly society for research on Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain religious and interreligious studies, and serves on the board of the Society for Hindu-Christian Studies. She is the founding editor of the *Journal of Dharma Studies* and serves on the editorial board for the *Reading Religion* journal.

Prologue by Jeffery D. Long

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Edited by Cogen Bohanec

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