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Jaipur

ABSTRACT OF SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR KRAGH
AT THE C RYAN NE ASM TI SAMM NA FUNCTION
(SHANTA DEVI TARACHAND BADJATYA CONFERENCE HALL)

The occasion for which there is the meeting today is a very special one indeed, because it is an occasion of recognition. It is the time when we very rightfully recognize the highest achievements and huge significance of our guest of honor, Professor Kamal Chand Sogani. It is the true spirit of Jainism to recognize and honor those who strive for knowledge and spiritual awakening, or *sa yagdar ana*. Professor Sogani has throughout his entire life's work been a true embodiment of these qualities.

As the director of the very wonderful Apabhra a S hitya Academy, he and his team of devoted scholars have lead the way for us into the rich and meaningful study of the Pr k ta and Apabhra a languages.

The first step was to develop a very detailed learning program for these languages – a program that my wife and I have studied with great diligence since we first met Sogani ji back in 2010 and also a program that I myself have used for teaching Pr k ta language at Sydney University in Australia.

The second step has been to create absolutely genius books for reading the original Pr k ta works like the *gam s*, *Dravyasa graha* and the writings like *Samayas ra*, *Pravacanas ra*, *Pañc stik ya* etc. of our guru Kundakunda and the work, *K rttikey nuprek* of Sv mikum ra alongwith original Apabhra a works like *Parm tmaprak a* etc.

Now as a third step, Sogani's very special and completely unique "comprehension method" for reading Jain texts in their original languages is being applied by his team of scholars to many Jain text materials in Prakṛta as well as the great Jain poems in Apabhraṃśa.

We scholars outside of India take great notice of these fantastic developments that are happening here for the promotion of knowledge and spiritual awakening, and we join you all in recognizing Professor Sogani ji as our leader and guide to the spiritual knowledge of the Jinas of which we all are seekers. My dear teacher Sogani – *praṇāma!*

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PROFESSOR KRAGH AND MRS. KRAGH:

Dr. Hab. Ulrich Timme Kragh is Visiting Professor at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. He has previously worked at Harvard University (USA), the University of Sydney (Australia), Copenhagen University (Denmark), Leiden University (the Netherlands), and Geumgang University (South Korea).

Mrs. Kate Kragh is a PhD student in Jaina studies at Ghent University, Belgium. She obtained the B.A. degree from Copenhagen University (Denmark) and the M.A. degree from Harvard University (USA). She has previously done study and research at the School of Oriental and African Studies (UK), Leiden University (the Netherlands), Geumgang University (South Korea), and the Australian National University (Australia).

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