

FROM THE CHIEF EDITOR'S DESK

We are glad to present this issue of the *ISJS-Transactions* to our readers. As usual it consists of three articles on diverse themes of Jain Studies. The first one by Dr. Sean Hillman is titled “Jain Voluntary Death as a Model for Secular End-of-Life Care.” It discusses the two-fold possibility of (i) integrating the Jain voluntary death methodology into secular end-of-life care systems across cultures, and (ii) the Jains receiving the end-of-life care package in a secular setting and argues that “despite some tension between Jain ethics and contemporary bioethics”, it is quite possible to do so.

The next article “Jain Theism and *Guṇānuvāda*” by Chuck Sapienza generally discusses the concept of God and godhood in Jainism with special reference to the practice of *guṇānuvāda* among the followers of the Jain faith. In Jainism *guṇānuvāda* is defined as “praising the person for his attributes” such as omniscience, *vītarāgatā*, etc. He mainly discusses *ananata-catuṣṭaya* (four infinite attributes) as the instinct and divine quality of a *jīva*. These four infinite attributes are: infinite knowledge (*ananta-jñāna*), infinite perception/faith (*ananta-darśana*), infinite energy/capability/power (*ananta-vīrya*), and infinite bliss (*ananta-sukha*).

The third article titled “Nandīsūtra ke Karttā: Eka Samīkṣātmaka addhyana” is authored by Dr. Pawan Kumar Jain. In olden times, in many cases, the authors did not directly or adequately introduce themselves or put the date of completion of their respective work(s) resulting in confusion in these matters. The ancient Jain Āgama text *Nandīsūtra* and its authorship is one such case in question. In this article, Dr. Pawan Kumar Jain critically examines the authorship of this text and argues that this was not certainly authored by Devarddhigaṇi Kṣamāśramaṇa though he might have been its compiler.

In this issue, we have a book for review which is titled “Karma Doctrine and Rebirth in Jainism” by Subhash C. Jain. It is reviewed by Ms. Pragya Jain.

I am thankful to all the authors for contributing their scholarly papers to the journal. I am also thankful to Dr. Shugan C. Jain, President ISJS, for his continuous support and guidance. Thanks, are also due to Dr. Shrinetra Pandey for rendering his editorial skills, Ms. Pragya Jain and Ms. Aarti Gulgulia for their editorial assistance and Mr. Sushil Jana for his technical support and uploading it on our website. The readers as well as the contributors are welcome to send their valuable suggestions for improving the journal.

Prakash C. Jain

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