

CHIEF EDITOR'S NOTE

We are glad to present this issue of the *ISJS-Transactions* to our readers. It consists of three articles and two book reviews on different themes of Jain Studies. The first article titled “Samanara Dharma in Thirukkural” is authored by Mr. L. Ashok. Composed by a Jain scholar/saint Thiruvalluvar, *Thirukkural* is an ancient Tamil text that deals with human moral values and the codes of conduct. Drawing parallels with some of the fundamental concepts of Jain philosophy such as *ahimsa*, *saṃsāra*, *mokṣa* and specially the *ratnatraya* (*samyagdarśana*, *samyagjñāna*, and *samyakcāritra*) which is discussed at length, the article shows how these very ideas, ideals and proscriptions are also found in Thirukkular though in “secular” language and idiom. Thiruvalluvar’s conceptualization and organization of his philosophy in three main sections of the book, namely Virtue, Wealth and Happiness and their implied interconnection, reminds us of the Jain version of Max Weber’s Protestant Ethic thesis and John Cort’s concepts of “liberation and wellbeing”.

The next article “Syādvāda and Saptabhaṅga: Conditional Dialectic Expression of Anekānta” is authored by the distinguished Jain scholar Prof. Kamal Chand Sogani. The author explains the meaning and relationship between *anekāntavāda*, *syādvāda*, *saptabhaṅgī naya* and the need for using the prefix “*syat*” in the term *syādvāda*. Based on the authentic and original sources, the article can well be considered as a masterpiece on one of the fundamental doctrines of Jainism.

The third article “Paravāra and Golāpūrava: Two Major Jain Castes of Bundelkhand” is authored by Prof. Prakash C. Jain. The caste system in the Jain community is still a social reality and cannot be wished away. Therefore, it becomes imperative on our part to understand its dynamics, which can better be comprehended only within its regional-linguistic context. The article attempts to do precisely that. Tracing the origin of the two castes, the article presents their contemporary profile in terms of the demographics, economic status, religiosity, socio-political contribution and the impact of social change and modernization.

In this issue we have two books for review. The first one is ‘Jain Nyāya Pradīpikā’ authored by Prof. Veer Sagar Jain, and is reviewed by Ms. Pragya Jain. The second one is ‘Jain Darshan: Philosophy and Code of Conduct’ by Sanjeev Doshi which is reviewed by Ms. Joanna Flynn.

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 and Ms. Pragya Jain for editorial assistance. Special thanks to Ms. Joanna Flynn for her invaluable contribution in editing the articles in this issue. I am thankful to Mr. Gopal Kudale for his technical support and Mr. Shivam Saxena for uploading it to our website. The readers as well as the contributors are welcome to send their valuable suggestions for improving the journal.