FROM THE CHIEF EDITOR'S DESK

We are glad to present this issue of the *ISJS-Transactions* to our readers. It consists of three articles and one book review on different themes of Jain Studies. The first article titled "An Introduction to Jain Śrāvakācāra: Ethics of the Householders" is authored by Prof. Kamal Chand Sogani. It elaborates on the specifics of the householder's codes of conduct prescribed long, long ago by the first ever text on the subject *Ratnakaraṇḍa Śrāvakācāra* by Samantabhadra Svāmi in the 2nd century CE, namely Right Faith (*Samyagdarśana*), Right Knowledge (*Samyagjñāna*) and Right Conduct (*Samyakcāritra*) that includes minor vows (*aṇuvrata*), enhancing vows (*guṇavrata*), training vows (*śikṣāvrata*), virtuous death (*sallekhanā*) and eleven spiritual stages (*pratimās*). The article provides a comprehensive introduction to *śrāvakācāra*.

The next article "The Image of the Jains in Rajjab's Compositions" by Ms. Joanna Flynn presents a critical content analysis of the select verses of *Rajjab Vāṇī* that relate to the Jains, Jain monks and their religious beliefs and practices. Poet-Sant Rajjab was a disciple of Sant Dadu Dayal who lived in 16th century Rajasthan and was the follower of Kabīrapantha. Given this context, the Jain images were mostly negative. The article also examines "the doctrinal and social reasons for creating such poetic content and … how this critical and sometimes stereotypical discourse fits into the broader socio-cultural context of 16th and 17th century North India, and mutual relations between various religious groups".

The final article in this issue is titled "Time Dilation and Description of Humans in Uttarakuru and Devakuru" and is authored by Dr. Medhavi Jain. Jain cosmology is a fascinating subject and very few people know about the vast expanse of its contents. Based on two Jain texts *Tiloyapaṇṇattī* and *Jambūdvīpa Prajñapti Sūtra*, the article briefly describes two lands Uttarakuru and Devakuru with the strongest gravitational field and the associated phenomenon of time-dilation. The article further goes on to describe the unique features of human beings peculiar to these lands.

In this issue we have a review of the book titled *Samādhitantram* composed by Ācārya Pūjyapāda and translated and edited by Mr. Dharamaraj Khot. 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 and Ms. Pragya Jain for rendering their editorial skills, and Mr. Gopal Kudale 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.

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