

BOOK REVIEW

ĀCĀRYA PŪJYAPĀDA KṚTA SARVĀRTHASIDDHI KĀ SAMĪKṢĀTMAKA ADHYAYANA (A CRITICAL STUDY OF ĀCĀRYA PŪJYAPĀDA'S SARVĀRTHASIDDHI)

Author: Alok Kaduba Ghodke Jain

Editor: Dr. Rakesh Jain Shastri and Dr. Ashish Kumar Jain

Publisher: Eklavya University, Damoh

Edition: First, 2026

Pages: 520 (Hardcover)

Price : Self Study

Language: Hindi

Reviewer: Anil Jain Shastri¹

About the Author: Alok Jain is a scholar of Jain scriptures. After obtaining the *śāstrī* degree (Bachelor's in Jainology), he passed the *Jainadarśanācārya* examination (Master's in Jainology) and entered government service in the field of education. Following his retirement, instead of spending a comfortable life like many others, he enrolled at Eklavya University to pursue a doctoral degree. His decision to continue academic study after retirement is an inspiration to others as well.

About the Book: The present work is a research monograph submitted to the Eklavya University, Damoh in 2025. It is divided into six chapters followed by appendices.

Chapter 1: Ācārya Pūjyapāda: Personality and Contributions

Obtaining biographical information about Jain *ācāryas* is an extremely challenging task, since they generally did not record their own biographies. Their lives and contributions must, therefore, be reconstructed from inscriptions and other sources, including literary works. After studying various texts, the author presents an account of Ācārya Pūjyapāda's life, shares some stories about him, and also discusses his literary and intellectual contributions.

Chapter 2: A Special Introduction to the Sarvārthasiddhi Commentary

This chapter explains the technical terminology found throughout the ten chapters of the *Sarvārthasiddhi*, an exhaustive commentary on Ācārya Umāsvāmi's *Tattvārthasūtra*, providing their definitions in Sanskrit along with explanations in Hindi. It also discusses the

¹ Assistant Professor, Department of Jain Darshan, Shri Digamber Jain Acharya Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Sanganer, Jaipur; Email: aniljaipur1008@gmail.com. The review is originally written in Hindi. Translation: Pragya Jain, Research Associate, International School for Jain Studies, Pune; Email: pragyajain@isjs.in.

text's distinctive features, linguistic originality, illustrative style, and other important characteristics.

Chapter 3: A Philosophical Study of the Sarvārthasiddhi

The *Sarvārthasiddhi* prominently incorporates subjects belonging to *Karaṇānuyoga* (Exposition on Calculation), while including subjects from Jain Logic. This chapter explains the Jain scriptural conception of *pramāṇa* (valid cognition) and its two divisions, *pratyakṣa* (direct) and *parokṣa* (indirect), with suitable examples. It further examines *naya-mīmāṃsā* (analysis of standpoints), *tattva-mīmāṃsā* (analysis of fundamental realities), *guṇasthāna-mīmāṃsā* (analysis of the stages of spiritual development), and the description of the Jain universe (*loka-nirūpaṇa*), thereby clarifying the nature of *naya*, *tattva*, *guṇasthāna*, and related concepts.

Chapter 4: A Critical and Comparative Study of the Sarvārthasiddhi

This chapter compares various subjects discussed in the *Sarvārthasiddhi* with corresponding material found in texts such as the *Ṣaṭkhaṇḍāgama*, *Harivaṃśa-purāṇa*, *Padmapurāṇa*, *Bhāvaśaṅgraha*, *Upāsakādhyayana*, *Pārśvacarita*, and *Śāntinātha-purāṇa*. The breadth of this comparative study demonstrates the extensive effort undertaken by the author.

Chapter 5: The Analysis of Conduct Presented in the Sarvārthasiddhi

Jain ethical thought concerning conduct (*ācāra-mīmāṃsā*) is broadly divided into *śrāvakācāra* (the conduct of lay followers) and *śramaṇācāra* (the conduct of ascetics). With particular emphasis on *śrāvakācāra*, this chapter discusses the *aṇuvratas* (minor vows), *guṇavratas* (vows enhancing conduct), and *śikṣāvratas* (disciplinary vows). With regard to *śramaṇācāra*, it examines the three *guptis* (restraints), five *saṃitis* (forms of careful conduct), ten *dharma*s (virtues), twelve forms of austerity (*tapas*), and four types of meditation (*dhyāna*).

Chapter 6: Conclusion and Findings

The final chapter presents the overall subject matter and major findings of the entire work in the form of a conclusion.

Appendices: The book also includes appendices compiled by the author in connection with the text, which further enhance its scholarly value. These include the complete sutras of the *Tattvārthasūtra*, as well as an essay titled “Tattvārthasūtra ke sūtroṃ kā pratipādyā evaṃ unakī paraspara sambaddhatā” (Subject Matter of the Sūtras of the Tattvārthasūtra and Their Interrelationship) by one of the editors, Dr. Rakesh Jain Shastri. Another appendix features the research paper “Sarvārthasiddhi meṃ alaṅkāra: Ek ādhyātmika parikalpanā” (Alaṅkāra or figures of speech in Sarvārthasiddhi: A spiritual concept) by Sayyam Jain, a research scholar at Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur.

My views about this book

Since I have an interest in *karaṇānuyoga*, and particularly because the text *Sarvārthasiddhi* is of special interest to me, I found this book extremely fascinating. I studied the entire book. This book touches upon all aspects of *karaṇānuyoga* and Jain Logic (*nyāya*), and is an essential work for understanding the essence of the Jain scriptures. Comparing *Sarvārthasiddhi* with various other texts is itself a painstaking task. At the same time, compiling the technical terminology pertaining to each chapter within that respective chapter is also an important and commendable undertaking. Therefore, I found this book to be thoroughly worthwhile and appropriate.

Analysis

- Since this is a research work, the author has presented philosophical analysis and reflection.
- The book also contains a discussion of Jain Logic.
- Various technical definitions from the Jain scriptures have been clearly explained.

Language and Style

- The language is simple and accessible.
- Where necessary, Sanskrit definitions and verses (*ślokas*) have been presented in Hindi.
- An analytical style has been employed throughout.
- The book is interesting and enjoyable to study.

Who should read this book?

- Those who wish to study the subject matter of *Sarvārthasiddhi* in a simple and engaging manner.
- Those who wish to study the literary and scholarly contributions of Ācārya Pūjyapāda.
- Those who want to find the principles of Jain Logic presented concisely and simply in one place.
- Those who wish to study various subjects within *karaṇānuyoga*, such as the universe (*loka*), *guṇasthānas*, and related topics.
- Anyone who has an interest in *karaṇānuyoga*.

Summary

In a nutshell, this book is extremely useful for readers who wish to understand the essence of Jainism. Since it is written in a simple and engaging style, everyone should make an effort to study it at least once.
