



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOR JAIN STUDIES

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LECTURE SERIES ON JAINOLOGY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2024 AT 07:30 PM (IST)

Lecture #12

Between History and Memory: The Sultans of Delhi in Jain Literature

As the Delhi Sultanate expanded its empire across India in the early fourteenth century, local communities had to reconfigure their political, economic, social, and religious networks. The Jain monk Jinaprabhasūri (d. 1333) narrated his meetings with Sultan Muḥammad bin Tughluq (r. 1325-1351) in his *Kalpaprādīpa* (The Light of the Age), depicting a mutually beneficial relationship that would usher in a new era of prosperity for Jains. Over two centuries, several Jain narratives (prabandhas) re-told the relationship between the sūri and the sultan, which stand in stark contrast to colonial and current histories, which depict the Tughluq ruler as volatile and insane. Drawing on his forthcoming book, *Reimagining Jainism in Islamic India*, Dr. Steven M. Vose shows how important the literary memory of the relationship of the monk and the monarch was to Jain ways of imagining their relationship with Muslim rulers. His work challenges two persistent and problematic claims made by historians of the period: one, that Jains disengaged from politics with the advent of “Muslim rule” in India, and two, that Muslim rulers were hostile to Indian religious communities and destructive of Indian culture.



Speaker



Dr. Steven M. Vose

Dr. Vose (PhD, South Asia Studies, University of Pennsylvania) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History and holder of the Bhagwan Suparshvanatha Professorship in Jain Studies at the University of Colorado-Denver. A historian of Jain communities in western India from the early Islamicate period to the present, his work focuses on community formation and interactions with political powers. His first book, *Reimagining Jainism in Islamic India: Jain Intellectual Culture in the Delhi Sultanate*, forthcoming on Routledge, is the recipient of the Edward C. Dimock, Jr. Book Prize in the Indian Humanities, awarded by the American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS).



Chairperson

Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh

Dr. Singh, a renowned scholar of Prakrit language and Jain literature, is a Senior Research Fellow at ISJS. He is a postgraduate in Sanskrit and Political Science from Allahabad University, Allahabad, and received his D.Phil. in Sanskrit from the same university. He is known for his translation works of Jain canonical literature from Prakrit and Sanskrit to Hindi and English. He has also edited more than a dozen books and written more than fifty research papers. He spent most of his academic journey in Parshvanath Vidyapeeth, Varanasi, and Bhogilal Leherchand Institute of Indology, Delhi.



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