

LECTURE SERIES ON JAINOLOGY

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023 at 07:30 PM (IST)

Lecture# 2

The Worship of Goddesses in Jainism

The veneration of yakṣas, and still more prominently of the female yakṣīs, was known in Jainism from earliest times onwards. Throughout the history of Jainism, this practice has had supporters as well as opponents among Jaina thinkers. The lecture will give a brief introduction to the yakṣī Padmāvatī as an example of such a venerated being, discuss the place of her veneration within the whole of Jaina religious practice, and also discuss the implications of this ancient practice for the place of Jainism within the whole of Indian religiosity.



Speaker

Dr. Robert Zydenbos

Dr. Zydenbos is a professor of Indology at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU Munich), Germany, where his main areas in teaching and research are Indian religions and philosophy and the Kannada and Sanskrit languages. A native of Canada, he previously studied Indology at the University of Utrecht (the Netherlands) and the University of Heidelberg (Germany), spent 17 years in Karnataka pursuing his studies before working for the University of Madras (India), the University of Utrecht (the Netherlands), the University of Toronto (Canada), the Institut français de Pondichéry (India) and the University of Cologne (Germany).



Chairperson

Dr. Shugan C. Jain

Dr. Jain, a retired international IT consultant and entrepreneur, turned to Jain studies in 2002, earned PhD and founded ISJS in 2005. Currently, he is the President of ISJS. Dr. Jain has published several books and research papers on various aspects of Jainology. He was the President of Parshwanath Vidyapeeth, Varanasi (2009-14); and is presently the Secretary of Jain Shiksha Pracharak Society, Delhi and the Chairman of Hira Lal Jain Senior Secondary School, Delhi since 2012.



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