

## LECTURE SERIES ON JAINOLOGY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2023 AT 07:30 PM (IST)

### Lecture #10

### Hanuman in the Jain Ramayanas

One crucial characteristic of the Jain Ramayana stories is the transformation of the Rakshasas and Vanaras. Rather than demons and monkeys, the Jain Rakshasas and Vanaras are human, belonging to the Rakshasa and Vanara dynasty. Moreover, these two dynasties are related branches of a larger Vidyadhara dynasty, the dynasty of *vidya* bearers. Members of this dynasty possess *vidyas*, often translated as genies which give them special powers, including the power to fly. This talk explores the transformation of Hanuman, who in the Hindu traditions is best known as the minister of the monkey king Sugriva, and becomes the foremost bhakta of the god and hero Rama. In Jain circles, the popularity of Hanuman is dwarfed by that of his mother, Anjana, who became one of the most revered *satis*, noble women, of the Jain tradition. In this session, she will discuss how many Jain authors negotiated the restraints of certain fixed categories of characters from the Jain universal history on the one hand, and the popularity of some of his episodes on the other, and molded these into a Hanuman of their own.



#### Speaker

### Prof Eva de Clercq

**Prof De Clercq** is PhD from the Department of Oriental Languages and Cultures at the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, Ghent University, Belgium. Currently, she is Associate Professor at the same since 2015. She has held visiting positions as a professor at various international universities. Prof De Clercq is the author of *The Life of Padma* (2018-2023) and *The Apabhramsha of Svayambhudeva's Paumacariu* (2009). She has published and reviewed several research papers and presented at distinguished conferences and seminars. Prof De Clercq is closely associated with ISJS.

#### Chairman

### Prof Maruti Nandan Pd Tiwari

**Prof Tiwari** is a renowned art historian. He is the Chairman of Indian Art History Congress (IAHC). Prof Tiwari is a former Emeritus professor at the Department of History of Art at Banaras Hindu University. *Elements of Jaina Iconography* (1983), *Ambika in Jaina Art and Literature* (1989), *Jaina Art and Aesthetics* (2011), *Jaina Kala Tirtha Deogarh* (2012) are a few of his notable works. He has been a Tagore National Fellow and a Nehru Trust Fellow. His academic pursuits and publications have brought several honours and awards to him. Prof Tiwari is a valued faculty member of ISJS.



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