

## From the Chief Editor's Desk

This issue of the *ISJS-Transactions* consists of four articles – two of them of comparative nature, and two based on Jain classical text. The first article by Dr. Shugan C. Jain is titled “Jain Concept of Soul in *Dravyasaṁgraha* and Its Modern Scientific Basis”. In this article the author argues that *Dravyasaṁgraha*, a 10<sup>th</sup> century Digambara Jain text written by Ācārya Nemicandra, is not only one of the finest treatises on the Jain philosophy but it also helps in understanding the latest scientific developments in psychology and allied sciences pertaining to the nature and characteristics of the soul and its interactions with the matter (body).

The second article “Jainism and Sartrean Philosophy: A Comparative Study” by Samani Dr. Shashi Pragya critically compares some of the concepts of Jainism with those of the French philosopher Jean Paul Sartre’s Existentialism. It finds a number of similarities between the two philosophical systems, especially with regard to “the Jain metaphysical division of *jīva* and *ajīva* and Sartrean Being-for-itself and Being-in-itself, in the concept of *ajīva* existing in this universe from the beginningless past and the Sartre’s view of Being-in-itself to be uncreated.” Some other areas of commonalities include the freedom to choose, self-responsibility and *puruṣārthavāda*.

The third article is titled “Jainism and the Bahá’í Faith: Non-Violence and Plurality across Time and Space” by Yifan Zhang. It is again a comparative study of the two faiths – perhaps the oldest and the newest respectively. The author argues that “the Jain principles of non-violence and *aparigrahavāda* echo with the Bahá’í solution of “oneness”. They both share the path and transcend time and space to offer a prescription for solving the current crisis of all human beings.” The author further maintains that promoting Jain principles would facilitate the values of empathy and respect for nature.

The final article in the issue is in Hindi, and is titled “Paramānanda Prāpti ka Sādhana-rūpa Jñāna: Bhagvatī evaṁ Nandīsūtra ke Viśeṣa Sandarbha meṁ”. It is authored by Dr. Pawan Kumar Jain. In Indic traditions knowledge is considered to be the fundamental source of self-realization and liberation. Jainism is no exception in this regard, although in Jainism the right perception and the right conduct are also given equal importance. In this article, the author maintains that of the two Śvetāmbara Jain texts, the *Nandīsūtra* is exclusively devoted to the

in-depth analysis of knowledge, its characteristics, various types and sub-types, and its highest manifestation in the form of the *kevala-jñāna*, liberation.

In this issue, the book that we have taken up for review is titled “Determinism in Śramaṇic Traditions” edited by Dr. Shrinetra Pandey and Ms. Sanjali Jain, and 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 for rendering his editorial skills, Ms. Pragya Jain for her editorial assistance, and Mr. Sushil Jana for his technical support and putting it up 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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**Prakash C. Jain**