

Shri Raj Krishen Jain Memorial Lectures 1991

DEPARTMENT OF BUDDHIST STUDIES

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JAINA SOCIETY

THROUGH THE AGES

By

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LALA RAJ KRISHEN JAIN

(A brief note on the life and works of Shri Raj Krishen Jain in whose memory the Lecture Series has been instituted in the University of Delhi, Delhi with the fund endowed by Shri Raj Krishen Jain Charitable Trust, Delhi)

Shri Raj Krishen Jain was born at Ambala Cantt. on 11th October, 1900 (Kartik, Krishna, IV), the day on which the Third Jaina Tirthankara Sambhavanatha attained Kevalajnana and the day on which it is customary on the part of Indian Hindu women to observe fast for the welfare of their husband. He passed away on the 4th February, 1973 at Delhi. He started his career as a clerk in Post & Telegraph Dept. and rose to the rank of Superintendent, Army Head-quarters at Simla. In 1921, he resigned his post at the call of Civil Disobedience Movement given by Mahatma Gandhi. His father Shri Rangi Lal Jain and grand-father Shri Tulsi Ram were Government Contractors who migrated from Sonapat, a District Headquarter now in Haryana.

Lalaji was a well known generous social and religious worker, great visionary, Karma Yogi and a philanthropist too. In 1940, he founded Shri Raj Krishen Jain Charitable Trust under which he constructed the Ahimsa Mandir at 1-Daryagant, New Delhi which presently houses the Jain Temple, Library for Research Scholars, free Dispensary, Dharmashala (Guest House), Temple Nursing Home, etc. The said Trust grants scholarships to deserving students. ..In 1947 he donated a sum of Rs. 5,000/- to Anjuman Taraqui-e-Urdu : for the development of Urdu Language. Another instance of his

broadmindedness lies in the fact that during the days of partition of India when brutal riots broke out, he braved himself in saving the valuable library of Anjuman Taraqui-e-Urdu and the precious lives of many Muslims and Hindus by offering them shelter, food, etc. He was not sectarian in his approach as is illustrated by his help to Bhikkhu Dhammavara of Cambodia when he migrated to Delhi from Pakoccupied Kashmir and established a Buddhist Temple and Ashok Mission Vihar in Mehrauli (near Delhi). In 1952 when Acharya Vinoba Bhave visited Delhi in connection with his Bhoodan Movement, Lalaji donated his entire 150 Bighas of Agricultural Land in village Arthala near Delhi. He was responsible for the repair of the National Archives of India and the preservation of 1500 years old palm leaf manuscripts of the “Dhavalā” and the “Jaya Dhavalā” which are enshrined in Moodbidri in South Karnataka. He was instrumental in the publication of many books on social and religious themes. He himself translated into English the Samayasara and the Niyamasara of Acharya Kundakunda and wrote a book in Hindi entitled “Shravan-Belgola Aur Dakshin ke Anya Jaina Tirtha”. He helped the Government in recovering as many as 80 heads of antique images broken by the smugglers in 1959 in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, which led to their arrest

and sentence. He was associated with a number of social and religious institutions., viz. Delhi Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Animal Friends, the All India Digambar Jain Orphanage Society as its Vice-president. The All India Digambar Jain Sangha, Vidvat Parishad, the Veer Sewa Mandir, etc. He was elected unopposed as a Municipal Councilor of Delhi Municipal Committee and as a member of the Committee appointed by the Chief Commissioner. Delhi for acceleration of private buildings. As a colonizer he developed Daryaganj, Delhi-Shahdara, Ghaziabad, Western Extension Area and Ballabhgarh, etc., and was appointed its the first solo welling agent of Delhi Improvement Trust. He constructed many buildings prominent among them being the Madhya Pradesh Assembly Hall at Bhopal, the M.P. Govt. House at Kautilya Marg. Now Delhi and many buildings for M.E.S. at Agra and Delhi Cantt, and also for Northern Railway at Delhi Main and other places.

Smt. Krishna Devi Jain, wife of late Shri Raj Krishen Jain died at the Historic City of Hastinapur on 27th April, 1979 where a Jambu Deep is being erected. The 'Trust also gut a chaityalaya built in the Sumaru. She was cremated there at that time and it wits felt that there was no proper place for cremation. The trustees have got constructed three Pucca

Chabutaras for cremation purposes there and have planted some trees and arranged for a hand tube well. He hits also constructed there a Building, after the name of his sister Smt. Rajkali Jain. The ground floor portion of this building has been donated to Dig. Jain Mandir, Hastinapur and upper portion for stay of his family members.

Lalaji also constructed a room in Mahavir Jain Bhawan, Mussorie for stay of the general public. He was also responsible for construction of Jain Temple at Modinagar where he was born. The land was purchased in his name and that of some one else.

He had one daughter, Smt. Katla Jain who also expired in March 1985. His Daughter-in-law, Smt. Padmavati Jain (wife of Shri Prem Chandra Jain) also expired in Sept. 1983.

In order to perpetuate his memory the said Trust donated a sum of Rs. 50,000/- and about 150 books on Jaina Studies to the University of Delhi, Delhi which on its part instituted Shri Raj Krishen Jain Memorial Lectures on 'Jaina Studies and Allied Topics like Ahimsa, Aparigraha, Anekanta, etc., and Their Relationship to the Challenges of Our Times'. According to the stipulation, a sum of Rs. 5,000/-will be proffered annually to each speaker under this scheme who will deliver at least two lectures.

Lectures under these series have been delivered by

- 1. Dr. Govind Chandra Pande : The then Vice
Chancellor,
“Jain Ethical Tradition and Its Relevance” University of Rajasthan,
Jaipur.**
- 2. Dr. D.S. Kothari : Chancellor, Jawaharlal
“Some Thoughts on Science and Religion”. Nehru University,
New Delhi.**
- 3. Justice T.K. Tukol : Rtd. Chief
Justice,
“Yoga, Meditation and Mysticism in Jainism” Karnataka High Court,
Bangalore.**
- 4. Dr. B.R. Saksena : The then Director,
‘ Jainism : Its Contribution Ganganath Jha
to Indian Thought and Its Research Institute,
Relevance to Indian Religious Allahabad
Practices”**
- 5, Dr. Nathmal Tatia : Director, Jaina
“The Place of Jaina Philosophy Vishva Bharati,
in Indian Thought” Ladnun (Rajasthan)**
- 6. Dr. T.G. Kalghatgi : The then Director,
“Jaina Logic and Epistemology” Institute of Jainology,
Mysore University, Mysore**

7. **Dr. Kailash Chand Shastri** : **The then Principal,**
“Bharatiya Dharma Evam Syadvada Sanskrit
Ahimsa” Mahavidyalaya, Varanasi
8. **Dr. Jagdish Chandra Jain** : **Rtd. Director, Institute**
“Jaina Katha Sahitya: of Prakrit & Jainology,
Vividha Rupon Mein Vaishali
(resident at Bombay).
9. **Dr. Krishna Datt. Bajpai** : **Formerly**
Professor, Deptt. of History Sagar
“Jaina Art and Archaeology” Sagar (M.P.)
University,
10. **Dr. Darbari Lal Kothia** : **Parshvanath**
Jaina Institute (B.H.U.)
“Jaina Nyaya: Udgama Aur Varanasa
Vikasa.”
11. **Dr. Mohan Lal Mehta** : **Prof. of Jaina**
Philosophy, Deptt. of Philosophy,
“Jain Theory of Knowledge” Poona University,
Pune.
12. **Sh. Jagan Nath** : **Retd. Head**
Aggarwal Deptt. of Sanskrit.
“Jains’ Contribution to Secular Punjab University.

**Sanskrit Literature and Its
Significance”**

Chandigarh

**13. Dr. B.K. Khadabadi
“Shravakachara, Its
Significance and Relevance
Today”**

**: Formerly Professor of
Jainology,
Karnataka University.
Dharwad**

**14. Dr. Vilas A. Sangave
“Jain Society Through the
Ages”**

**: Hon. Director,
Shahu Research Institute,
Shivaji University,
Kolhapur.**

**Some of these lectures have already been Published and
tile rest are under the process of printing.**

**The Trust is now being managed amongst others by his
only son, Shri Prem Chandra Jain and his three grandsons,
Shri Bharat Bhushan Jain, Advocate; Dr. Desh Bhushan Jain,
M.B.B.S., M.S. and Shri Dharam Bhushan Jain, Chartered
Accountant. The Trust is carrying on many social and religious
activities like actively participating in (a) the constructing of
Jambu Deep at Hastinapur (the only structure in the world
which depicts the whole cosmos according to the Jaina texts),
(b) Construction of Shrimati Krishnadevi Rajkrishen jain
Dhaval-Uddhar Griha at Moodbidri in Karnataka to house**

1500 years old palm-leaf manuscripts idols made from emerald etc., (c) construction of Shrimati Padmavati Premchandra Jain Library at Shravan Belgola where stands 57 ft. high colossal statue of Bhagwan Bahubali, (d) establishment of Shri Rajkrishen Jain Shisya Vritti in the Department of Jainology and Prakrita in Mysore University and donation to Hindi Vishwa Vidyapeeth Wardha and so on. During the 25th Nirvan Centenary of Bhagwan Mahavira the Trust further donated books on Jaina Studies to all the Universities of India, Vasava Samiti Bangalore, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, etc. and also constructed for the use of the general public electrically operated automatic cold water poise at Ahimsa Mandir, Daryaganj and Hindi Park, Daryaganj, New Delhi and also donated electrically operated automatic water coolers to Boys School in Kuncha Seth and Girls School in Dharampura, Delhi. The Trust has also donated a well for the use of Sarakas in village Polma (Bihar).

Kothi at 1-Daryaganj, of late Dr. M.A. Ansari where Gandhiji and other National Leaders used to stay and the meetings of the Indian National Congress were held many a times and where Lord Irwin, the then Viceroy of India came to sign an agreement with Gandhiji had been donated to the

Trust created by Shri Raj Krishen Jain in the name of Smt. Krishna Devi Raj Krishen Jain Smriti Grih. It is on roughly about 2500 sq. yds. of land and is being used for charitable and social functions.

In 1955 Lalaji had been to Badrinath alongwith late Dr. Hira Lal Jain, Shri Yashpal Jain Shri Vishnu Prabhakar and other eminent persons. At that time he felt the necessity of a Jain Temple and Dharamsahala at Haridwar where there was none. The U.P. Government granted to the Trust created by Lalaji about 6000 sq. ft. of land where a Library, Dharmshala, Dispensary and Jain Temple have been constructed.

There was no Jain Temple at Kurukshetra, another Indian Historical, place where lakhs of people bathe in the holy tank at the time of Surya-Grahana and where supposedly the famous fight took place between Kauravas and Pandavas. Yogiraj Krishna gave his sermons on which the religious book Geeta is based. The Trust has got 3000 sq. yds. of land for construction of Jain Temple, Dharamshala, Library and Dispensary from the Kurukhestra Development Board and the construction work is in progress.

In 1959 Lalaji's second grand daughter, Smt. Vijaya Jain was studying in Birla School at Pilani, a famous Educational Center in the Country established by Birlas. He

had been there and thus felt the necessity of a Dharmshala, a good Library and a Jain Temple there. The trust has been able to get land there and, the construction work is complete.

The Trustees have also donated to many individuals and institutions such its Prime Minister's Relief' Fund, for benevolent causes.

DR. VILAS ADINATH SANGAVE

**Hon. Director, Shahu Research Institute,
Shivaji University, Kolhapur**

Dr. Vilas A. Sangave, who has carved a distinguished place for himself in the field of Jain Studies and Sociology, was born on the 2nd June, 1920. He was educated at Poona and Bombay where he won his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. with distinction. His Ph.D. thesis on Sociology of Jain Community provides an ample proof of his depth of knowledge both in the fields of Jainism and Sociology. After having held successfully the positions of Head of the Department of Sociology in Karnatak College, Dharwad, Rajaram College, Kolhapur, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, he happens now to adorn the Honorary Directorship of Shahu Research Institute, Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

Dr. Vilas Sangave has to his credit several research books and papers on Sociology and Social Anthropology in Marathi and English. His books in Marathi have run into many editions, have been translated into Kannada and Gujarati and have received prizes for best books from Bombay, Poona and Kolhapur Universities in Maharashtra. In recent years Research Volumes on “Rajarshi Shahu Chhatrapati Papers” edited by Dr. Vilas Sangave have been very much appreciated.

Among Dr, Vilas Sangave’s research publications in Jainology

- (i) Jaina Community : A Social Survey,**
- (ii) Life and Legacy of Mahavira : A Social Study,**
- (iii) History of Dakshin Bharat Jaina Sabha,**
- (iv) Sacred Shravana Belagola : A Socio-Religious Study,**
- (v) Hirachand Nemchand: The Pioneer of Jaina Social Revorm Movement,**
- (vi) Aspects of Jaina Religion,**
- (vii) The Jaina Path of Ahimsa, and**

(viii) Jaina Culture: Tradition and Impact

are considered as significant contributions to studies in Jaina Society, History and Religion.

A renowned speaker in English, Marathi and Hindi and closely associated with several Universities and national level Research Institutes in Social Sciences and Jainology, Dr. Vilas Sangave has been specially honoured by the University of Cambridge (U.K.) in 1985 and by the Government of Bihar in 1989 for his distinctive services to research studies in Jainology. As a scholar member of special Delegation of International Jaina Community, Dr. Vilas Sangave participated in the presentation of ‘The Jain Declaration on Nature’ to His Royal Highness Prince Philip at Backingharn Palace in London in October, 1990. Dr. Vilas Sangave is also known for his lectures on Jain Social History delivered in several Universities in India.