What is Perpetual?

Jnana .......or Knowledge Is Eternal

THE ONLY INTRINSIC QUALITY OF THE SOUL

By: Dr. Jasvant Modi
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Only Attribute of the Soul ~ Jnana

Shruta Jnana

Knowledge obtained through signs, symbols, words, hearing from the wise, and reading scriptures. This is also known as indirect knowledge because the soul acquires this knowledge via words, scriptures etc.
Knowledge to be Accessible - For Perpetuity or Everlasting Time

Investing with the Academic Institutions with the emphasis of Jain Education can help Jainism, to be recognised as a compassionate Religion with World’s Comparative Religious Studies.

As a Shravak it’s our duty to help spread our Tirthankar’s message where our Sadhu and Sadhvis cannot reach.
Until 15 years ago

• Jainism was the least known and most misunderstood religion even in academia.
• Hardly any presence of Jainism in Academia in North America.
• Jainism was mentioned as a footnote tradition or just in periphery of non-violence discussion.
Then the Journey Started

Several visionary Philanthropists in USA, committed with their **Time**, **Stewardship** and **LAXMI - लक्ष्मी**, to support this noble cause of bringing Jain Studies in Academia.
In last 15 years, we have laid out a good foundation and created a good infrastructure.

Thru ISJS, now we have had several scholars trained in Jainism and are available to teach.

Now several Academic Institutions are willing to talk to us.

A long way to GO and needs a lot of catching up.

Our Journey has Just begun.
Current Affiliations

- In California, especially Los Angeles area is becoming a hub (like Oxford or Cambridge) of Jainism.
- Soon, this concentration of academic Scholars in this area most probably will be the largest in the Jain world anywhere.
- We want to spread this flame in other areas too.
Where are we Now?

We now have Jainism presence

- at 17 universities.
- Several more universities are under our very serious consideration.
- In addition several other support programs are being funded and implemented.
Endowed Chair Vs Professorship

What’s the Difference?

Endowed Chair--more prestigious position and involves research and writing papers, nurturing graduate and PhD candidates.

Professorship---involves mostly teaching.
Current Endowed Chairs

Bhagwan Vimalnath Chair at UCSB
Bhagwan Suvudhinath Chair CSULB
Shri Parshvanath Chair at UCI
Shrimad Rajchandra Chair at UCR
Mohini Jain Chair at UC Davis
How many Professorships?

CURRENTLY

- Bhagwan Mallinath Endowed Prof. at Loyola Marymount University
- Bhagwan Mahavir Endowed Pro. at Florida International University
- Bhagawan Rishabhdev Endowed Pro. at University of N. Texas, Denton
- Bhagwan Ajitnath Endowed professorship at Cal State, Northridge
Recent Endowments

- University of California, Santa Barbara
- Cal State University, Northridge
- Cal State University, Long Beach
Lectureship

Bhagwan Shantinath Lectureship at CSUF

Bhagwan Vimalnath Lectureship at UCSB
Post Doctorate Fellowship

Bhagwan Sumatinath at San Diego State University
Bhagwan Mahavir at Rice University
Bhagwan Shitalnath at University of Toronto
Bhagwan Chandraprabhu at Willamette University - Salem, Oregon

Doctorate Fellowship

Shrimad Rajchandra PhD at UCR
JAIN STUDY ACTIVITIES

Bhagwan Mahavir scholarship to study PRAKRIT

Summer School to study Jainism - Int’l School of Jain Studies

Winter School to study Jainism - Int’s School of Jain Studies

Jain Speaker Series at LIU-NY-Shailendra Palvia

Jain Lecture at Univ. of Toronto--Lal Rooplal
Other Programs

- Bhagwan Shantinath Lectureship at Cal State U Fullerton,
- Bhagwan Vimalnath Lectureship at UC Santa Barbara, CA
- Claremont School of Theology, Claremont CA
  - Graduate Study Program -
- Emory University, Atlanta, Jain Studies
- Bhagwan Mahavir Full year Scholarship to Study Prakrit in India; 3 scholars
12 Students doing PhD. in Jainism

- Venu Mehta, U of Florida
- Ben Zenk, U of Hawaii
- Anil Mundra, U of Chicago
- Itamar Ramot, University of Chicago
- Jain (info@yogaschule-jain.de)
- Seema Kiren Chauhan, U of Chicago
- Mansi Agrawal, Yale U
- Iljea Lee, Yale U
- David Saint John, U of Texas
- Miki Chase, John Hopkins U
- Shradha Jain, U of Chicago
- xxxxx UCR
Many Additional Programs to Support Jain Academic Education

- Academic Seminars at each JAINA convention.
- Participation in annual AAR and DANAM conventions.
- Donation of Jain books to University libraries.
- Dialog on science and Jainism and Symposium on Jain Mathematics at MIT
- Hosting students to Jain temples.
- Support to themed conferences
- Nearly 50 books by Jain scholars.
- Travel grants to scholars.
More Programs Planned

- Start of an Annual Jain Academic Convention; first on October 24th, 2020.
- 2021 Summer School on Jainism for our youths in North America.
- Online Course offering @ LMU will start soon.
What are Our Needs?

● We MUST effectively share our activities, progress and needs with the Jain Community at large thru JAINA and Jain Centers.

● Jain community is well established and affluent, allowing us to educate them to join this noble cause.

● In North America, we need to promote the establishment of more Chairs in the names of Tirthankars to complete the Chauvisi
ATTENTION!!!

● There seems to be a widespread misconception that Jainism is an offshoot or branch of Hinduism. **Insist it is not**

● When creating a program, emphasize that it is about the teaching, study and research in Jainism.
How Else Should We Support the Jain Studies?

In addition to Endowment funds, also provide/donate:

- Many high quality Books on Jainism,
- Art, Agams, paintings, artifacts,
- Multimedia etc.
- Annual Fellowships to study Prakrit, Sanskrit, Hindi, Gujarati and at ISJS in India
What is a Must to Sustain?

- We need to educate and train our own Jain Scholars to apply and occupy some of the **Academic Positions**.
- Teaching and training in **Prakrit & Sanskrit** (language of Jain source Agams) is a MUST.
- Those who cannot go to ISJS in India (during summer and winter) let us create an **ISJS, USA now to be held say at JCSC**.
- Develop lot of high quality material and upload on **Wikipedia and Jainpedia**.
Universities under Consideration

Endowed Chair at University of Wisconsin, Madison

Jain Study program at UCLA

Jain Study program at UC Berkeley

Shri Shantinath Ahimsa Center at Cal Poly Uni. Pomona, CA.

GTU, Berkeley, CA

University of Chicago, Chicago. IL

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT.

Fresno State U, Fresno, CA

Cerritos Community College.
Goal

We have a lot of work to do.

Our immediate goal is to establish 24 Tirthankars’ name in Jain Study Programs at various Academic institutions.

THANK YOU!