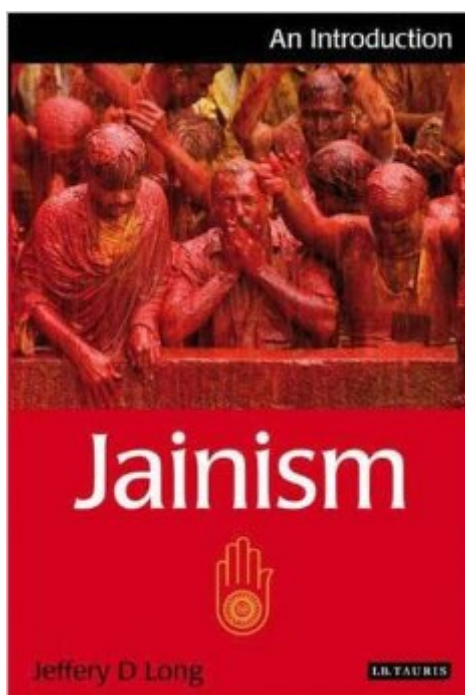


The book was found

Jainism: An Introduction (Introductions To Religion)



Synopsis

Jainism evokes images of monks wearing face-masks to protect insects and micro-organisms from being inhaled. Or of Jains sweeping the ground in front of them to ensure that living creatures are not inadvertently crushed: a practice of non-violence so radical as to defy easy comprehension. Yet for all its apparent exoticism, Jainism is still little understood in the West. What is this mysterious philosophy which originated in the 6th century BCE, whose absolute requirement is vegetarianism, and which now commands a following of four million adherents both in its native India and diaspora communities across the globe? In his welcome new treatment of the Jain religion, Long makes an ancient tradition fully intelligible to the modern reader. Plunging back more than two and a half millennia, to the plains of northern India and the life of a prince who--much like the Buddha--gave up a life of luxury to pursue enlightenment, Long traces the history of the Jain community from founding sage Mahavira to the present day. He explores asceticism, worship, the life of the Jain layperson, relations between Jainism and other Indic traditions, the Jain philosophy of relativity, and the implications of Jain ideals for the contemporary world. The book presents Jainism in a way that is authentic and engaging to specialists and non-specialists alike.

Book Information

Series: Introductions to Religion

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: I.B.Tauris (July 15, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1845116267

ISBN-13: 978-1845116262

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #582,328 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Other Eastern Religions & Sacred Texts > Jainism](#) #1348 in [Books > History > World > Religious > General](#) #1940 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > History](#)

Customer Reviews

Professor Long's book, *Jainism: An Introduction*, is a thoroughly researched overview of the Jain tradition, a religion and set of philosophical constructs that have influenced Indian thought for over

2500 years. This succinct, completely engaging overview of Jainism, the historical contexts of Jain intellectual thought, and the relationship of Jainism and Jain philosophers within the greater context of Hinduism, brahminical/Vedic thought, Buddhism, and Indic philosophical movements is indeed quite relevant to understanding and appreciating the Jain communities in India and in the West. This highly-readable monograph is intended as a an introduction to the Jain tradition; and it is aimed at a college-level audience, but it is also a book with considerable relevance to any person interested in philosophy, religion, history, India, or the evolution of intellectual movements. I highly recommend this book for every reader--it is accessible, engaging, and provocative. One of the aims of the book is to put core Jain (and for that matter, Buddhist and Hindu) beliefs and assumptions about the nature and meaning of existence into an intellectual context, both historical, and applicable to modern-day societies. With an exceptionally clear explanation of core Jain beliefs including non-violence, non-absolutism (or perhaps more easily understood as religious pluralism), detachment from materialism, and the karmic cycle, the author has indeed put the evolution of Jain thought into an appropriate historical context vis-à-vis Buddhism and Hinduism. Jainism: An Introduction provides the historical context of the Jain founders, Mahavira, and other philosophers; and, how their intellectual thought challenged historical, philosophical movements within Buddhism and Hinduism.

A Review by Dr. Andrea Diem-Lane Jeffery D. Long in his text Jainism argues that the ancient tradition of Jainism has much to offer the modern world. Today we face intense inter-religious conflict as one group challenges the other, often leading to dispute and even full blown war. In addition to this, our world is facing an environmental crisis as resources are being depleted. The Western mentality that we can use the planet's resources as we please has certainly contributed to a threatening ecological footprint. Interestingly, Jainism, a relatively small religion in India of 4.2 million, offers us two viable approaches to help with these serious global issues. First of all, in place of religious exclusivism and intolerance Jainism advocates religious pluralism, encompassed by the Jain principle of *anekantavada* (the doctrine of non-one sidedness). In Jainism one of the worst philosophical errors one can make is to assume a position of absolutism, or one sidedness (the Indian term for this is *ekantata*). Since Reality, whatever that may be, is infinite the various expressions and perspectives of it are valid. Of course, the Jain would add the caveat that not all religious positions are true if they fall out of a "Jina's view of a normative standard" (usually this means compassion). For instance, when a religion advocates extreme violence and killing a Jain would have a hard time reconciling this with an acceptable viewpoint. However, when compassion

plays a central role (which it often does in the world religions) then the religion's approach to the sacred are to be honored and viewed as a different perspective of a many-faced reality.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Jainism: An Introduction (Introductions to Religion) Jainism I - Basics of Jainism (Jaina Education Series Book 102) A Modern Introduction to Theology: New Questions for Old Beliefs (Introductions to Religion) Zoroastrianism: An Introduction (I.B.Tauris Introductions to Religion) An Introduction to Jainism Life Force : The World of Jainism The Yogasastra of Hemacandra: A Twelfth Century Handbook on Svetambara Jainism (Harvard Oriental Series) Jainism: A Guide for the Perplexed (Guides for the Perplexed) Yoga in Jainism (Routledge Advances in Jaina Studies) Understanding Jainism (Understanding Faith) Outlines of Jainism Jainism: History, Society, Philosophy and Practice The First Step of Jainism (Jaina Education Series Book 203) Empire of Religion: Imperialism and Comparative Religion Preaching on Wax: The Phonograph and the Shaping of Modern African American Religion (Religion, Race, and Ethnicity) Gods of the City: Religion and the American Urban Landscape (Religion in North America) Disfiguring: Art, Architecture, Religion (Religion and Postmodernism Series) Reading Mystical Lyric (Studies in Comparative Religion): The Case of Jalal Al-Din Rumi (Studies in Comparative Religion) Pragmatic Theology: Negotiating the Intersections of an American Philosophy of Religion and Public Theology (Suny Series, Religion and American Public Life) The religion of the Veda : the ancient religion of India (from Rig-Veda to Upanishads)

[Dmca](#)