

FRONT MATTER

Foreword from Dr. Dipak C. Jain

Dipak C. Jain¹¹ China Europe International Business School

Samyak: An Undergraduate Journal of Jain Studies

It brings me profound joy and deep personal satisfaction to write this foreword for the inaugural issue of *Samyak: An Undergraduate Journal of Jain Studies*. This remarkable initiative, supported by the Jain Education and Research Foundation (JERF) and graciously hosted by the University of North Texas (UNT), represents far more than an academic milestone—it embodies the living spirit of Jain values reaching new generations.

My journey from a small town in Assam to global academic leadership has taught me that education is not merely the transfer of knowledge, but the awakening of consciousness. As Chairman Emeritus of JERF, I have had the privilege of witnessing how our endowment has blossomed into the Bhagwan Adinath Professorship in Jain Studies at UNT. Today, *Samyak* stands as the beautiful fruition of that vision—a testament to what becomes possible when ancient wisdom meets youthful passion and scholarly discipline.

This journal provides our undergraduate scholars with an extraordinary platform to delve deeply into the foundational principles of Jainism—*ahimsā* (non-violence), *anekāntavāda* (multiple perspectives), and *aparigraha* (non-attachment)—and to explore their profound relevance to the challenges that define our contemporary world: environmental sustainability, ethical leadership, social justice, and the cultivation of genuine human understanding. Under the brilliant guidance of Dr. Leah Kalmanson, these young minds are not merely studying Jain philosophy; they are living it, breathing it, and making it their own.

What strikes me most powerfully about the essays in this inaugural volume—and those being prepared for future issues—is the intellectual courage and moral clarity these students bring to complex and often sensitive subjects. Their commitment to rigorous academic inquiry, combined with deep respect for tradition, demonstrates that the next generation of scholars understands both the weight of their responsibility and the transformative power of their work. They are not content to be passive recipients of knowledge; they are active creators of understanding.

Samyak—which means “right” or “complete” in Sanskrit—truly lives up to its name. It represents the synthesis of ancient wisdom and contemporary scholarship, the bridge between Eastern philosophy and global academic discourse, and most importantly, the living proof that Jain values can illuminate pathways toward a more compassionate and pluralistic world.

To my colleagues at JERF, to the dedicated team at UNT, to Dr. Kalmanson and her students, and to all who have nurtured this journal from conception to reality: you have my deepest admiration and gratitude. You are not simply publishing papers; you are planting seeds of knowledge that will grow and flourish for generations to come.

May *Samyak* continue to inspire, challenge, and transform all who encounter it. May it serve as a beacon of hope in our often-fragmented world, reminding us that true scholarship serves not just the mind, but the heart and spirit as well.

With warmest regards,
Dr. Dipak C. Jain
Chairman Emeritus, Jain Education and Research Foundation

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