

## BOOK-REVIEW

S. Gopalan : *Outlines of Jainism*, Wiley Eastern Private Limited, New-Delhi, 1973.

There is a topical interest in Jainism just now, in the light of the 2500th anniversary of Shri Mahavir and hence many interested in the broad outlines of Jaina thought and philosophy are likely to welcome Dr. Gopalan's 'Outlines of Jainism' which presents the chief tenets of Jaina Philosophy in epistemology, metaphysics and ethics in a simple and lucid manner. Considering that the author himself does not belong to the faith that he expounds, the sympathetic treatment accorded to the doctrines is also noteworthy. Dr. Gopalan considers the relation between Buddhism, Jainism and Vedic-Hinduism in the early chapters and also discusses the view met with in some quarters that Jainism is an off-shoot of Buddhism. The discussions at this stage marshal the chief arguments involved in the debate and provide a convenient summary of the various opinions held. In the more strictly philosophical part of the book, the author considers the epistemological and metaphysical issues involved in Jaina philosophy. Here again one finds a simple and lucid presentation of the chief doctrines involved, but unfortunately sometimes such simplicity seems to have been purchased at the price of philosophic seriousness. Thus, while discussing the theory of perception, the author mentions the distinction between sensation and perception, between observation and interpretation, as if these distinctions do not raise certain subtle and serious issues. Similarly in his discussion of extra-sensory perception, one would have welcome a more probing and critical analysis than the simple taxonomy that he offers at the end of the chapter. But perhaps the need for an autonomous philosophical analysis is greatest in the chapters on anekantavada and syadvada, for these doctrines raise extremely serious problems regarding relativity of logical categories and the possibility of alternative conceptual characterizations. It is a pity that such issues are not even raised in the context of a discussion of Jaina views.

But it remains to be said in full measure of fairness to the author that the book succeeds very well in its chosen limited task;

it presents the outlines of Jaina philosophy in a clear and perspicuous manner and while the author has obviously a scholarly approach, the book itself manages to ride lightly over the underlying scholarship and hard reading which have gone into it. It also seems to the present reviewer that Gopalan's heart is really in Jaina ethics and psychology of moral development, rather than in their relativistic logic, for the chapter dealing with the ethical views of Jainas (Chapter 5) is perhaps the best part of the book. He there gives us an interesting account of the ethical categories and the doctrines of moral progress according to the Jainas; there is also a useful discussion of the ascetic ideal and a sympathetic account of the anuvrata movement, started by Acarya Tulasi. The value of the book would have been considerably enhanced if indeed this last chapter had been broadened into a discussion of the social relevance of the Jaina teaching in the context of present-day socio-political realities. But even as they are, these parts of the book present the ethical teaching of the Jainas with a never failing lucidity and sympathy.

The book carries a useful bibliography at the end.

University of Poona,  
Poona.

**R. Sundara Rajan**

### BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW

- (1) **Index to Dissertations in Philosophy** : Abdul Rawoof, Centre for Advanced Study in Philosophy, University of Madras, Madras. pp. 174.
- (2) **The Justification of Induction** : Richard Swinburne, Oxford University Press, London, 1974 pp. 179.
- (3) **Materialism in Indian Thought** : K. K. Mittal, Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers Private Limited, New-Delhi Rs. 50/- pp. 336.
- (4) **Two Essays on Whitehead's Philosophic Approach** : Ramchandra Gandhi, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Simla 1973 Rs. 13/- pp. 68.
- (5) **Outlines of Jainism** : Gopalan, Wiley Eastern Private Limited, New-Delhi 1973 pp. 205.

**Supplement**

**Akhil Bharatiya Darshan Parishad**

**19th Annual Session : A Report**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

( 1 ) The Indian Philosophical Quarterly plans to commemorate the 2500th anniversary of Bhagwan Mahavir, founder of Jainism by publishing a few articles devoted to some important problems in Jaina logic and theory of knowledge. Contributions on the theme are most welcome and may be sent to the editor, Indian Philosophical Quarterly.

( 2 ) We have great pleasure in announcing that we intend to publish all the four issues of Volume I of the "INDIAN PHILOSOPHICAL QUARTERLY" as a single bound volume. I am sure that you will agree that such a convenient volume would serve as a valuable collection of essays and articles which have so far appeared in our journal, and we hope you would honour us by placing your order with us for a copy. Further particulars regarding the price etc. may be had on writing to The Editor.

Editor,

Indian Philosophical Quarterly