

LECTURE SERIES ON JAINOLOGY

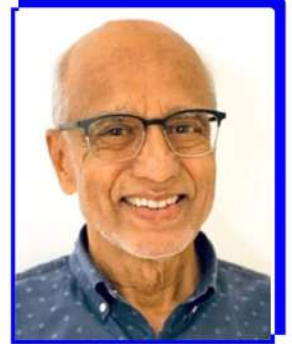
Monday, March 24, 2025 at 08:00 PM (IST)

Lecture #20

Application of Nonviolence for Total Transformation

Chairperson: Dr. Narendra Parson

Dr. Parson, MD, a seasoned California-based anaesthesiologist with over 55 years of experience, graduated from the Vivekanand Institute of Medical Science in India in 1967. He served as a Professor at UCLA, managed a private practice until retiring in 2018, and pursued advanced post-doctoral training. Dr. Parson is also devoted to charitable efforts and Jain studies. He played a crucial role in the foundation of Siddhachalam, the first Jain pilgrimage site outside India. His contribution to Jainology includes art, literature, and philosophy through lectures, including at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Additionally, he has given lectures on how Jain principles relate to the medical field and the health advantages of a vegetarian diet. He actively supports ISJS with his extensive expertise.



Speaker: Dr. Veena R. Howard



Dr. Howard, PhD, is a Professor of Asian Religious Traditions at California State University, Fresno, and recipient of the Fulbright-Nehru grant (2024-2025). She holds the Endowed Chair in Jain and Hindu Dharma and serves as the director of the M.K. Gandhi Center: Inner Peace and Sarvodaya. An accomplished author, she has published four books and over three dozen articles on Gandhi, Indian philosophy, and nonviolence. She is also a frequent speaker at national and international conferences, and has served on many boards, including the Board of Trustees of the Parliament of the World's Religions. She is also a TedX speaker: https://www.ted.com/talks/veena_howard_truth_force_love_force.



Abstract

Jainism embraces ahimsā (nonviolence) as its central doctrine and highest virtue (dharma), encompassing both abstaining from violence and living with care. This session explores the broader relevance of ahimsā today, drawing from social science, political science, and psychology to advocate for a nonviolence revolution as a path to transformation. While nonviolence can sometimes conflict with justice and social peace, Jainism offers a comprehensive ethical framework emphasizing vigilance, the sanctity of life, and the law of karma. Ahimsā thus extends beyond non-harm to a holistic philosophical worldview.



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