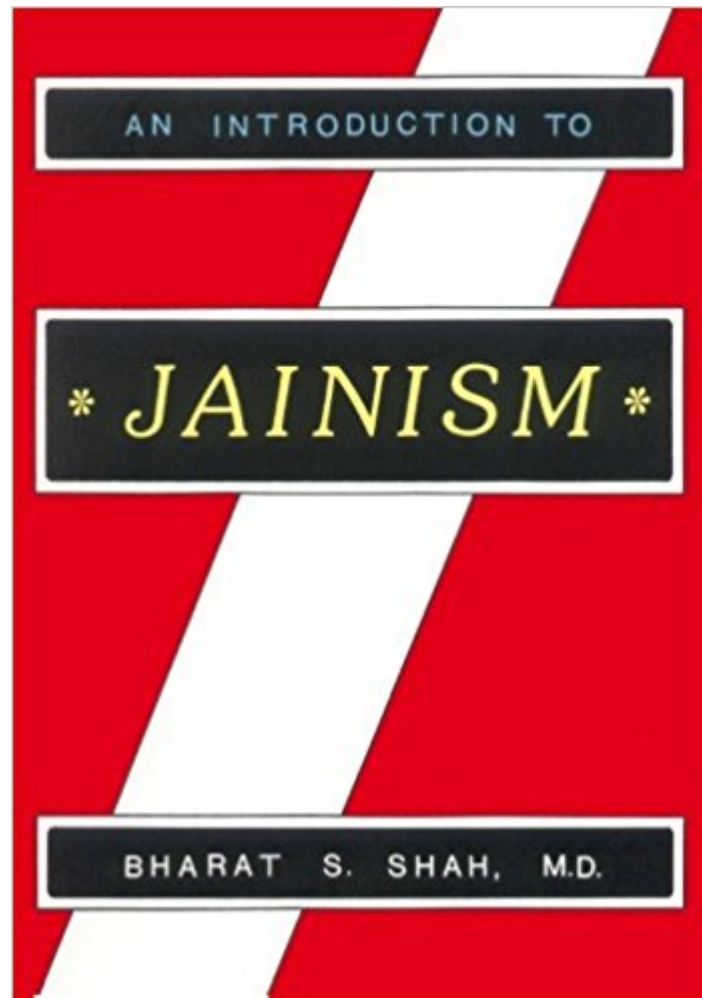


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An Introduction To Jainism



Synopsis

Second U.S. edition of a highly acclaimed, simple introduction to Jainism, an ancient (more than 2600 years old) but currently relevant religion from India. Written in a clear and friendly style, full of explanations, and a gradual, stepwise presentation of its fundamental principles. For personal or classroom study. Equally interesting for non-Jains of either Indian, non-Indian, or Western origin, and for students and scholars of non-violence, vegetarianism, and ecology.

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Customer Reviews

Having been reluctant to learn about Jainism my entire life, this book showed me that a book does not have to be boring just because it's about religion. I really like the author's writing style and his simple approach to explaining what I always thought were complicated tenets. I highly recommend this book.

This is a good introduction to Jainism - I would rate it 3 and a half stars. The author writes for a young audience, hoping that the children of Jains that are living in the west and estranged from the roots of their tradition will be reconnected with it. The book is very clear and easy to understand, and perhaps the author assumes too much that his young audience will grow impatient. This book could be read by high school or young college students as an introduction to the Jain faith. In addition to a summary of Jain beliefs, it has a valuable (albeit too brief) summary of important and prominent Jains, as well as a bit about the lives of a few of the Tirthankaras. If the author erred it was in the direction of simplicity, and the attempt to make the material as accessible as possible. He

succeeds in the latter, and I would recommend this book for young readers, or novices, who are unaware of, but curious about the Jain religion.

This is an excellent and practical introduction to Jainism especially for young Jains born in the countries other than India. Dr. Shah has emphasized the practice part of Jainism rather than theories. He has covered all the major practices practiced by lay Jains today in India in their daily life. He has kept the discussion at the level that is logically acceptable by a lay person or the one who has no roots in Jainism.

This is a pretty good intro to Jainism. It is neither too complex nor too simple. It gives enough to start you on the way to understanding the belief system. There are deeper books out there but this assumes you know nothing but the name. It is a good starting point.

It isn't often that I regret buying a book. This is one of those occasions. Perhaps I didn't do my homework. I mean, it's written for a Junior High kid's comprehension level. Moreover, the use of second-person perspective ("You this..." and "You that...") makes it especially cloying. Perhaps if it were retitled "Jainism for Dummies" clients would be more satisfied.

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