

**A study of Symbols of Jain Religion which captures the Spirit**

(According to some selected symbols in Indian Culture)

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A symbol represents an idea or a thing. So when a person is lost and needs to find a way, he or she looks for a sign to take the correct decision. The path of spirituality also needs signs at the initial stage to guide the traveler further on. These symbols also create trust and faith within oneself. Jainism is full of these guiding lighthouses that act as a beacon for the lost ships of one's life. Some of them are Ahimsa Wheel, and the Primary Jain symbol Ashtamangal, Tirthankara emblems, Yakshas and Yakshinis, Bells, Lotus, Mirror, AumHrim, Pratiharya etc. So this research will be a path to make aware of people about the symbols of Jain religion which capture the spirit, in Indian culture. From Intra-Textual readings, website readings and discussions within resource persons research has got a lot of data about these symbols of Jain Religion. When analyzing all these facts research found a large number of myths and beliefs which related to these symbols of Jain Religion. Each symbol has a deeper meaning which combining with Indian tradition and Hindu life. Specially the Jain symbol is a congregation of various symbols. Each having a deeper meaning. This symbol was adopted by all sects of Jainism while commemorating the 2500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the nirvana of Lord Mahavir. The middle contains the Earth. The upper part contains the heavenly abodes of celestial beings. The raised hand means "Stop". The world Ahimsa in the centre of the wheel means non-violence. Like wise there is a big variation of symbols which represents in Jain Religions. Each Tirthankara has a symbol of their own for their unique identification. AumHrim are the Beej mantras widely used in Yantras, Jaap, meditation and pooja and Tirthankaras sit on the lotus when giving sermons. It is also a symbol to depict how to love unattached in the world. However people who worship Jain Religion in India believe those symbols are essential to bring prosperity, happiness and good fortune for both of their day today life and spiritual life. The research will be made more and more aware of people about this variation of symbols of Jain Religion which capture the Spirit, in Indian tradition.

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