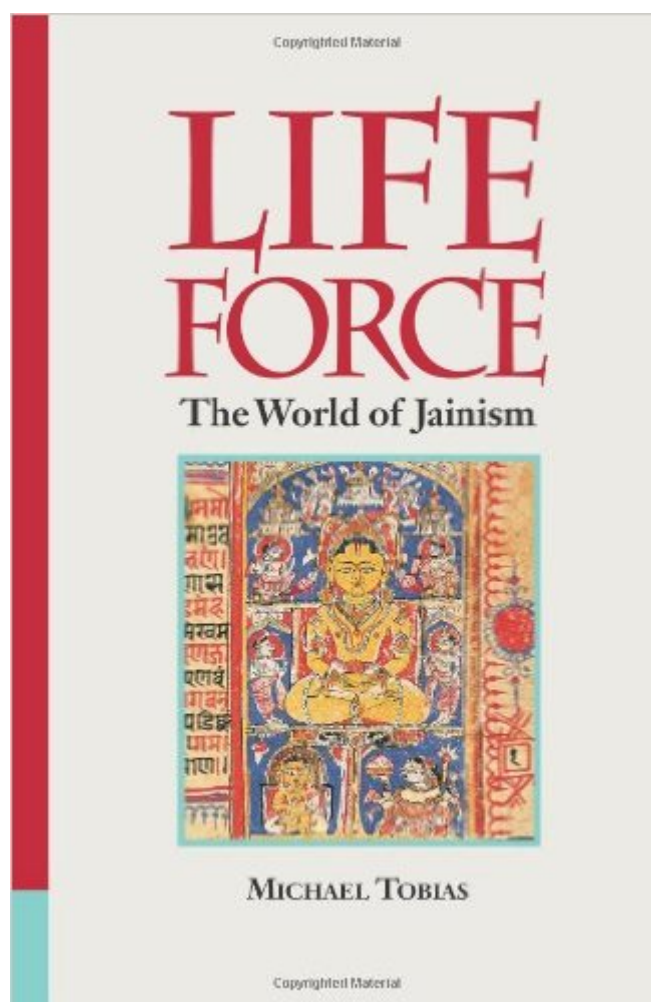


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# Life Force : The World Of Jainism



## Synopsis

An introduction to Jainism, one of the oldest religions in the world.

## Book Information

Paperback: 120 pages

Publisher: Jain Publishing Company (May 1, 2000)

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## Customer Reviews

I am very happy to see this book being re-published by a new publisher. BUT....It pained me to read some of the reviews here, I think these are misguided, and even though I believe in Anekantavada of Jainism, I offer the following thoughts, mine, on this book as a counter balance. This is a composite edited shortened transcript of several talks I gave to Young Jains on this earth across continents. Hence the original copyright is mine and sometimes of the Newsletters of the Jain Temples that sponsored the seminars. So I ask all concerned to please respect that. I quote my own words, "Michael Tobias has written an exemplary book on Jainism. I recommend this book highly to Jains and Non-Jains alike, to those who want to KNOW the IDEALS of Jainism, to use them in their own lives. This book is not for those who merely want to collect facts. For fact junkies who only live in their heads, there are numerous books. Fact junkies beware! this book touch your heart. Reading this book in summer of 1996, on a rock by the banks of the Hudson river, in Nyack NY, I could not put it down. I had a long way to drive to get home, but somehow I could not get off that rock. I had gone antiquing. Instead of antique objects, I had found this new book about a very very old religion in a friendly little shop by the river. I am a Jain by birth, by some life rules set by my parents, by stories told to us by Grandma and by morals particularly of Social Ahimsa imbibed from facts about Gandhiji. I also have a lot of didactic learning about facts, history and rules of Jainism, in books from Indian Jain authors and some non Jain Europeans. These books had filled my head, but never

managed to touch my heart. It is Mr.

A beautifully written book that reads as much like poetry as it does like history, or philosophy. The author Michael Tobias has a phenomenal command of the written word and has crafted a text where almost every sentence is a subtle work of art. Perhaps it is fitting that a gentle and idealistic philosophy such as Jainism would merit such a memorable exposition. This is my second time reading the book and I highly recommend it to anyone who has an interest in the history of religions, or the philosophies of life. I am constantly moved by his beautiful descriptions of the basic nature of Jainism and the manner in which he reveals these ideas. The author presents a scholarly and heart moving portrayal of the human condition of life on Earth. He has numerous anecdotes and references that make this description all the more deep and relevant. It is interesting to note that despite the great antiquity of the roots of the religion and the wide influence of its morality, I had never even heard of it, except in footnotes to other subjects. Jainism itself seems to be a rare jewel of a philosophy that merits much thought and consideration. Honest, compassionate, and idealistic to the greatest degree, Jainism is at the same time the most practical and down to earth code of behavior imaginable. Serving as an inspiration to both the Buddha and Gandhi, it seems amazing that the fundamental ideas do not get greater dissemination in our modern intellectual discussions. I highly recommend buying and reading this book and then telling your friends about it. Reading the text is like a breath of fresh air that revitalizes the intellect and cleanses the spirit.

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