

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-08480-2 - The Assembly of Listeners: Jains in Society

Edited by Michael Carrithers and Caroline Humphrey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE ASSEMBLY OF
LISTENERS: JAINS
IN SOCIETY

Although the Jains have exerted an influence on Indian society and religion out of proportion to their relatively small numbers, they have received very little attention from scholars until the last few years. *The Assembly of Listeners* is the first book to analyse the sociology of the Jains, and to discuss the notion of the 'community' based on religious affiliation in India. The contributors include sociologists, anthropologists, and scholars of Indian classical religions and languages, each addressing, as a central organising principle, the conception of the Jains as a community. *The Assembly of Listeners* represents an important theoretical addition to existing studies, which have hitherto focussed mainly on caste and class politics as the fundamental units of Indian society, and provides unique ethnographic information on the Jains, derived from recent fieldwork.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-08480-2 - The Assembly of Listeners: Jains in Society

Edited by Michael Carrithers and Caroline Humphrey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE ASSEMBLY OF LISTENERS JAINS IN SOCIETY

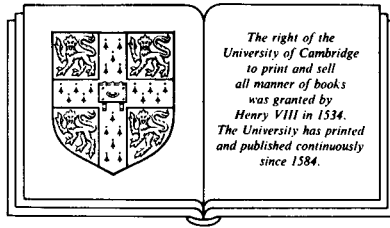
Edited by

MICHAEL CARRITHERS

Reader in Anthropology
University of Durham

CAROLINE HUMPHREY

Department of Social Anthropology
University of Cambridge and
Fellow of King's College Cambridge



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge

New York Port Chester

Melbourne Sydney

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-08480-2 - The Assembly of Listeners: Jains in Society

Edited by Michael Carrithers and Caroline Humphrey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521365055

© Cambridge University Press 1991

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1991

This digitally printed version 2008

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-521-36505-5 hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-08480-2 paperback

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-08480-2 - The Assembly of Listeners: Jains in Society

Edited by Michael Carrithers and Caroline Humphrey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

List of illustrations	<i>page</i> x
List of contributors	xi
Acknowledgements	xii
Map: South Asia	xiii
Introduction	
<i>Michael Carrithers and Caroline Humphrey</i>	1
1 Jain as a community: a position paper	
<i>Michael Carrithers and Caroline Humphrey</i>	5
1 JAIN IDEALS AND JAIN IDENTITY	
2 Jain ideals and Jain identity	
<i>Michael Carrithers</i>	15
3 Somadeva Suri and the question of Jain identity	
<i>Mukund Lath</i>	19
4 The role of the layman according to the Jain canon	
<i>K. R. Norman</i>	31
5 Women and the reproduction of the Jain community	
<i>Josephine Reynell</i>	41
2 LOCAL JAIN COMMUNITIES	
6 Local Jain communities	
<i>Caroline Humphrey</i>	69

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-08480-2 - The Assembly of Listeners: Jains in Society

Edited by Michael Carrithers and Caroline Humphrey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
7	The Jain merchant castes of Rajasthan: some aspects of the management of social identity in a market town <i>Christine M. Cottam Ellis</i>	75
8	Jain shopkeepers and moneylenders: rural informal credit networks in south Rajasthan <i>J. Howard M. Jones</i>	109
9	A study of Jains in a Rajasthan town <i>N. K. Singhi</i>	139
	3 JAINS IN THE INDIAN WORLD	
10	Jains in the Indian world <i>Michael Carrithers</i>	165
11	The Digambara Jain warrior <i>Paul Dundas</i>	169
12	Is there a popular Jainism? <i>Padmanabh Jaini</i>	187
13	Fairs and miracles: at the boundaries of the Jain community in Rajasthan <i>Caroline Humphrey</i>	201
	4 NEW JAIN INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA AND BEYOND	
14	New Jain institutions in India and beyond <i>Caroline Humphrey</i>	229
15	Reform movements among Jains in modern India <i>Vilas Sangave</i>	233
16	Orthodoxy and dissent: varieties of religious belief among immigrant Gujarati Jains in Britain <i>Marcus Banks</i>	241
17	The foundations of community among southern Digambar Jains: An essay on rhetoric and experience <i>Michael Carrithers</i>	261

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-08480-2 - The Assembly of Listeners: Jains in Society

Edited by Michael Carrithers and Caroline Humphrey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

	<i>Contents</i>	ix
Conclusion		
	<i>Michael Carrithers and Caroline Humphrey</i>	287
Glossary and pronunciation		295
Select bibliography		301
Index		309

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-08480-2 - The Assembly of Listeners: Jains in Society

Edited by Michael Carrithers and Caroline Humphrey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Illustrations

- 1 Digambar Jainism in action at the consecration of a new image in the village temple at Halondi, near Kolhapur
- 2 Jain laywoman consults with a female ascetic from the Svetambar Kharataragaccha
- 3 Svetambar Jain female ascetics of the Kharataragaccha on a begging round
- 4 Svetambar Jain businessmen during a fast, Jaipur 1983
- 5 Jain businessmen of the jewellery trade at home in Jaipur 1985
- 6 A village priest at the consecration of a new image at Halondi, near Kolhapur
- 7 Digambar Jains giving libation during a consecration ceremony in Madhya Pradesh 1983
- 8 Svetambar Jain family at the pilgrimage centre of Nakoda, south Rajasthan
- 9 Ghantakaran, a protector deity in a Svetambar Jain temple in Jaipur 1983
- 10 Jain laymen address a public meeting of Digambers in Kolhapur
- 11 The *bhattāarak* Laxmisen of Kolhapur
- 12 The *muni* Vidyanandaji Maharaj at Bahubali, near Kolhapur
- 13 Digambar Jain laymen and the *muni* Vidyanandaji Maharaj at Bahubali
- 14 The *muni* Vidyanandaji Maharaj addressing a meeting in Kolhapur

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-08480-2 - The Assembly of Listeners: Jains in Society

Edited by Michael Carrithers and Caroline Humphrey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contributors

- Marcus Banks *Demonstrator, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Oxford*
- Michael Carrithers *Reader in Anthropology, University of Durham*
- Christine Cottam Ellis *Visiting Professor in Social Sciences, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan*
- Paul Dundas *Lecturer, Department of Sanskrit, University of Edinburgh*
- Caroline Humphrey *Lecturer, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge and Fellow of King's College, Cambridge*
- Padmanabh S. Jaini *Professor, University of California, Berkeley*
- J. Howard M. Jones *Lecturer, Agricultural Extension and Rural Development Centre, University of Reading*
- Mukund Lath *Department of History, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, India*
- K. R. Norman *Professor, Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Cambridge*
- Josephine Reynell *Now working for an organisation concerned with relief for refugees, Oxford*
- Vilas Sangave *Director of the Shahu Chhatrapati Research Institute, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, India*
- N. K. Singhi *Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, India*

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-08480-2 - The Assembly of Listeners: Jains in Society

Edited by Michael Carrithers and Caroline Humphrey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

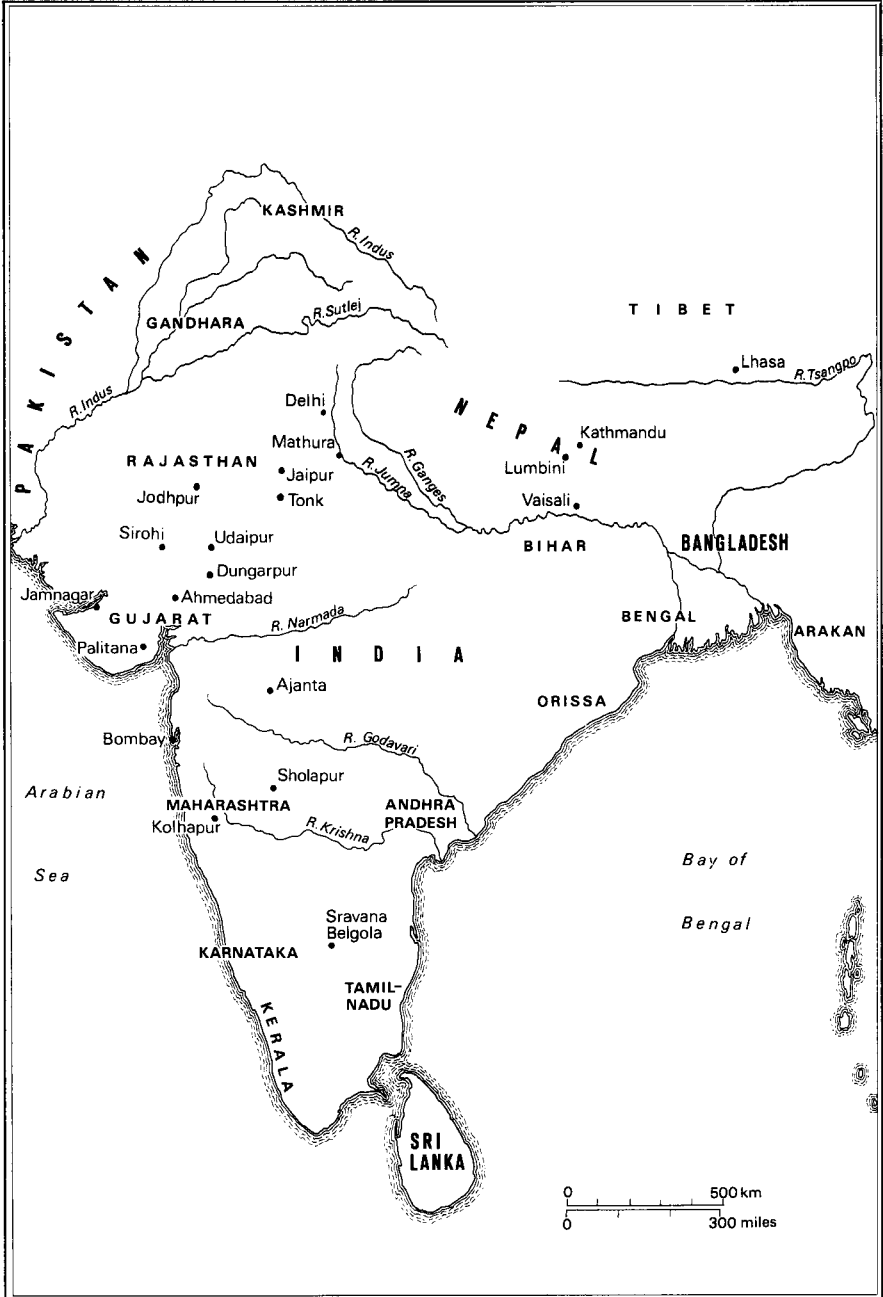
Acknowledgements

This book consists of the papers given at an international colloquium on 'The Jain Community' held in the Centre for South Asian Studies in Cambridge in June 1985. We believe that this was the first occasion on which Jainism was discussed by an international gathering of anthropologists, Indianists and sociologists, and we are grateful for the inspiration given to our efforts by the work of Vilas Sangave and P. S. Jaini, both of whom have published books concerned with the social aspects of Jainism.

We would like to acknowledge the great help given to the colloquium by Gordon Johnson and Lionel Carter of the Centre for South Asian Studies, Cambridge. Financial backing for the colloquium was generously given by the Nuffield Foundation, and King's College, Cambridge, provided accommodation.

M.C. and C.H.

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-08480-2 - The Assembly of Listeners: Jains in Society
Edited by Michael Carrithers and Caroline Humphrey
Frontmatter
[More information](#)



South Asia