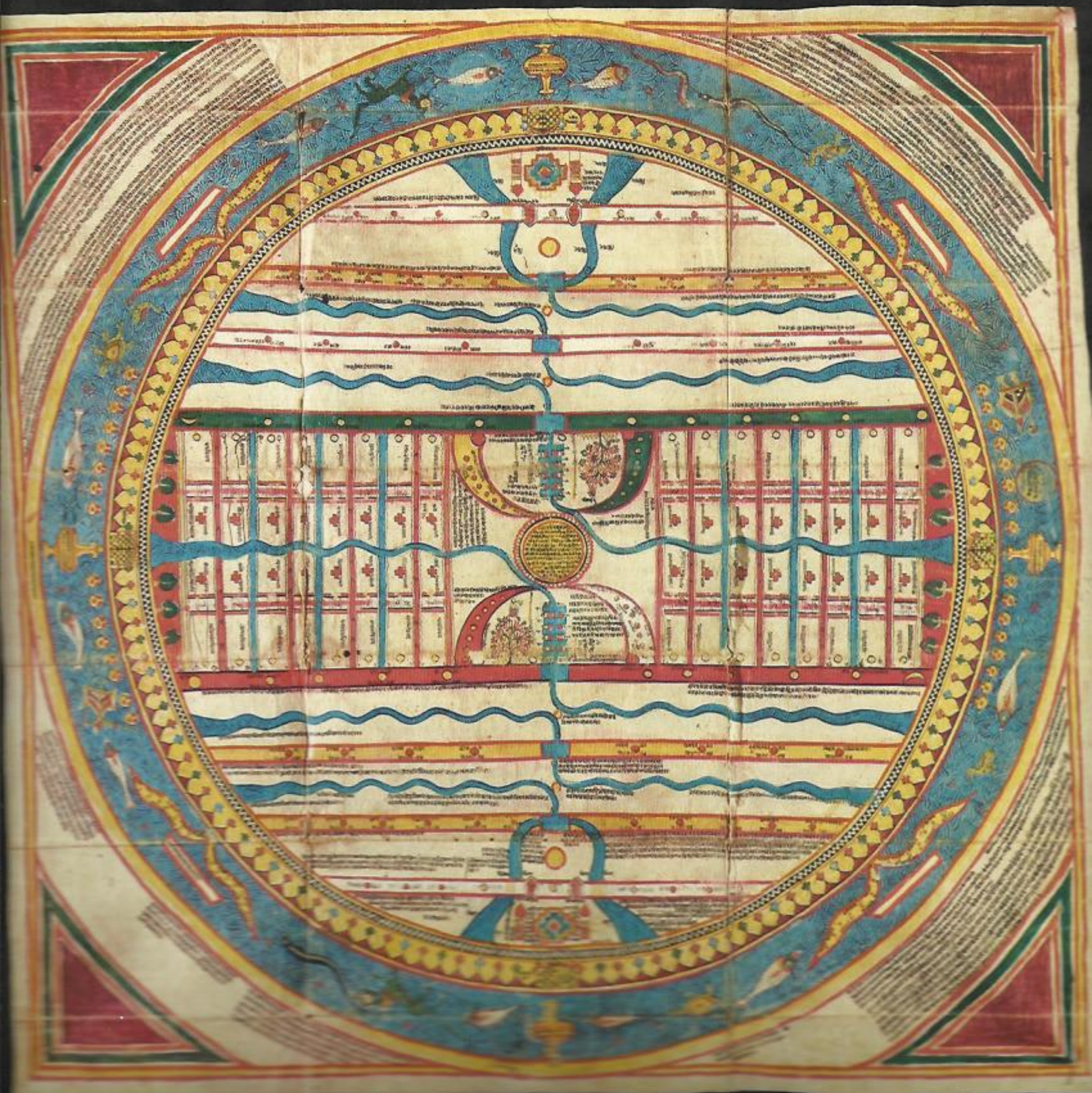


# THE JAIN

## COSMOLOGY





THE  
JAIN  
COSMOLOGY

COLLETTE CAILLAT  
RAVI KUMAR  
English rendering R. Norman

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Frontispiece:

Pārśva, the 23<sup>rd</sup> prophet of Bharatavarṣa, seated in meditation.

[Painted on cloth, XVII<sup>th</sup> century, Rajasthan]

Pārśva is recognisable by his dark blue-green colour, and his seven-fold snake hood. He is one of the most revered of the 24 Tīrthaṅkaras.

The rectangular diagram above the picture indicates the perfect equilibrium and cohesion of all the bodily elements. These are the qualities which, according to the Doctrine, facilitate the poses most suitable for the highest forms of concentration and meditation.

Every Jain prophet has gained immediate knowledge, which is absolute, inescapable, and infallible. With it he perceives immediately the cosmos, especially the two and a half islands of the human world, which are represented by the nine circular diagrams of this picture.

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Basilus presse, CH 4002 Bale, Suisse  
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Inquiries should be addressed to Ravi Kumar, Publishers, Lilakala AG, CH 4002 Basel, Switzerland or to Ravi Kumar, Publishers, Kumar Gallery, Sundarnagar, New Delhi 1100003, India.

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## Pronunciation

The following approximate equivalents of Sanskrit and Prakrit phonemes should be noted:

<i>a</i>	is like English u in <i>but</i>
<i>ā</i>	is like English a in <i>father</i>
<i>ai</i>	in Sanskrit is like English i in <i>bite</i> in Prakrit is two vowels with hiatus between them, like English a-i in <i>ultraism</i>
<i>au</i>	in Sanskrit is like English ou in <i>found</i>
<i>c</i>	is like English ch in <i>church</i>
<i>ch</i>	is an aspirated c, as in <i>church-hall</i>
<i>ḍ</i>	is like English d in <i>drum</i>
<i>e</i>	is like English a in <i>bake</i>
<i>g</i>	is like English g in <i>go</i>
<i>gh</i>	is an aspirated g, as in <i>log-but</i>
<i>i</i>	is like English i in <i>bit</i>
<i>ī</i>	is like English ee in <i>beet</i>
<i>j</i>	is like English j in <i>join</i>
<i>m</i>	is like English m in <i>moon</i> , without nasalisation of a preceding vowel
<i>ṃ</i>	is like French n in <i>bon</i> , with nasalisation of a preceding vowel
<i>o</i>	is like English o in <i>note</i>
<i>ph</i>	is an aspirated p, as in <i>top-hat</i>
<i>r</i>	is like English re in <i>pretty</i>
<i>ś</i>	is like German ch in <i>ich</i>
<i>ṣ</i>	is like English sh in <i>ship</i>
<i>ṭ</i>	is like English t in <i>true</i>
<i>u</i>	is like English u in <i>put</i>
<i>ū</i>	is like English oo in <i>boot</i>