

Two Traditions of Jaina Cosmology

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5 Traditional Indian thought on the universe is represented by
Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism. Of them the Jaina cosmology has a
long history and seems to be most influential because it developed the
idea of *lokapuruṣa*, but so far few papers or works have explored its
details.

10 Here first we discuss a short history of cosmology in Jainism
and examine two opinions on the structure of the universe according to
the main sects of Jainism.

 The oldest information of Jaina cosmology is found in an
āgamic work *Viyāhapaṇṇatti* or *Bhagavati* and later the Jainas developed
15 the ideas which they expressed āgama works and others. We can see the
concrete form of the Jaina cosmology in paintings of the middle ages.

 Deferent thoughts on the universe appear in the standard work
of Jainism; *Tattvārtha Sūtra*. The third and fourth chapters of the book
deal with structure of the three parts of this universe. Readings of the
20 sūtras in them supported by the two sects are quite different from each
other while such difference seldom happens in other chapters. This
seems to suggest that cosmology in Jainism has two fundamental
sources.