

The Value of Jain Philosophy and the Anuvrat Movement to Democratic Communication

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- The Challenge to Functioning Democracies: How to argue and deliberate with others
 - Combination of assertion and openness
- Humans are good at *thinking* they are open
 - Partisan Perfect Reasoning
- How can we truly be open, assertive citizens?

- Contribution of Jain Thought: our actions are correlated with self-focused passions
 - How do we minimize the passions connected to partisan thought? Two suggestions:
 - One complex: *anekāntavāda* (*syādvāda* + *nayavāda*)
- (Stroud, *Philosophy & Rhetoric*, 2014)

- One simple: the *anuvrat* model
 - *Anuvrat* for Democratic Citizens:
 - I will act as if every issue has two sides to it
 - I will believe that each side is motivated by reasonable and good intentions
 - I will attend to a wide range of evidence and information
 - I will try to find ways to argue and conclude disagreement while maintaining the value of all participants