

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUGGESTED READINGS
for the Jewel Heart Workshop
INDIAN PHILOSOPHY ON THE EVE OF THE BUDDHA'S ENLIGHTENMENT
October 22, 2022 10Am -1PM

David Mellins

Welcome to the world of optional readings for the upcoming Jewel Heart workshop on Indian Philosophy on the Eve of the Buddha's Enlightenment! I've spent some intriguing hours investigating readings that might help folks gain a foothold on the contemplative world of ancient North India, that Siddhārtha Gautama would have encountered in during his youth and, in particular, during his quest for spiritual freedom and enlightenment.

Since students will almost certainly have varying degrees of free time and varying inclinations to engage in this optional reading, I've created a three tier curriculum that will hopefully cater to different schedules and desires.

Since you have already opened the parent folder where you found this instruction document, you will also notice therein three sub-folders entitled "JH_IPWS_ReadingsOne", "JH_IPWS_ReadingsTwo" and "JH_IPWS_ReadingThree". The first of these presents the most general type of background readings which will provide a socio-political and cultural backdrop to main area of exploration. The second folder contains readings that describe in greater details different trajectories of philosophical inquiry that evolved during the centuries leading the era when Śakyamuni Buddha is understood to have lived. The third folder contains more technical readings on the schools of Ancient Indian Philosophies that most directly explore the causality and categories of existence and being. Here is my recommendation regarding these materials.

All students who wish to engage in these readings should begin by reading the excerpted chapters in the folder "JH_IPWS_ReadingsOne" in order to gain a general understanding of how to best understand the cultures, economics, politics and religions of Ancient Northern India.

Students who wish to delve a bit deeper and examine in greater specificity the burgeoning proto philosophies, which emerged during late Vedic period, as discerned in the Upaniṣads and Buddhist scriptures, should have a look at the readings in the folder "JH_IPWS_ReadingsTwo."

Lastly, those students who wish to explore a more challenging analysis the of earliest Brahmanical philosophical sciences to develop systematic theories for how the world of phenomena comes into existence and, moreover, how the world of phenomena evolves and differentiates should read the chapters excerpted in JH_IPWS_ReadingThree.

Please understand that all of these readings are optional. They will certainly deepen all of our understandings, but they are by no means required to participate or appreciate the workshop.

I'm looking forward to seeing both familiar and new faces alike on October 22.