



# Jain Society of Greater Detroit

PRATISHTHA MAHOTSAV JUNE 27-JULY 6 1998

## PUNIA SHRAVAK (era of Mahavirswami)



Shravak Inspirations

**Punia** Mahashravak of Rajrahi was a staunch follower of Bhagvan Mahavir. He was so devout that he took the vow to feed one fellow shravak daily. He donated all his ancestral property and subsisted on his meager daily earnings that came from spinning cotton. The income of the both the husband and wife was so small that to feed even one fellow religious person either one had to fast. He had accepted the twelve lesser vows of a shravak and was doing *samayak* every morning and evening. Once upon finding out from Bhagvan Mahavir that his soul was on the path to hell, King Shrenik asked him how it could be avoided. Bhagvan Mahavir told him to go to Punia Shravak and get the *punya* (merit) of one *samayak*. King Shrenik wanted to buy the *punya* of Punia Shravak's *samayak* and asked the cost of one. Punia Shravak told him that he ought to ask Bhagvan Mahavir what the cost of one *samayak* should be. Bhagvan told him that the cost of Punia's *samayak* was priceless.