

Jain Society of Greater Detroit

PRATISHTHA MAHOTSAV JUNE 27-JULY 6 1998

BHIMJI SANGHPATI (Vikram Shatak 14)



Bhimji was a rich merchant of Khambhatt. One day, so that he may get on the path of self-evolution, he asked acharya Devendrasuri, "Gurudev, give me a vow so that I may break the cycle of birth, death and rebirth." Gurudev made Bhimji take a vow to speak only the truth and nothing but the truth. One day, some robbers caught Bhimji and asked him how much money he had at his home. Bhimji told the robbers the truth that he had 4000 gold coins in his house. He was kept imprisoned and a ransom demand was sent to his son for 4000 gold coins in return for Bhimji's freedom. His wily son made counterfeit coins and sent them to the robbers. The robber asked Bhimji to identify them and say whether they were original or counterfeit. Bhimji, speaking the truth once again, said that the coins were counterfeit ones. The robbers thought that Bhimji could have easily told a lie and could have escaped. But this great person, without fearing death, told the truth. The robbers released him and began to venerate Bhimji.