



Haribal
and
The Fish

Once upon a time there was a fisherman named Haribal. He lived in the grand city of Vanijjya.

One day he heard the words of Lord Mahävir. He was speaking about ahinsa. Haribal was very impressed with the lord's words. Yet he was a fisherman, how could he eat if he gave up the trade? "Return the first catch of fish to the water," said the lord. Haribal vowed to do that. Everyday he would release the first catch of the day to the water.

One day he caught a huge fish. He put a mark on it and sent it back. Then he caught that fish again and again, each time he would send it back. That day he went without any fish.

This was a test of the heavenly being. He came to Haribal and told him that he was pleased that he kept his promise. "Remember

me whenever you need me," said the heavenly being and flew away.

Haripal then began observing the other principles of a Jain householder. He became the Shravak of the lord Mahavir and lived a happy life.

We must keep our promises it helps us live a better life.