

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 Mahāvīr. He was
speaking about ahimsā.

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.

Haripal 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.



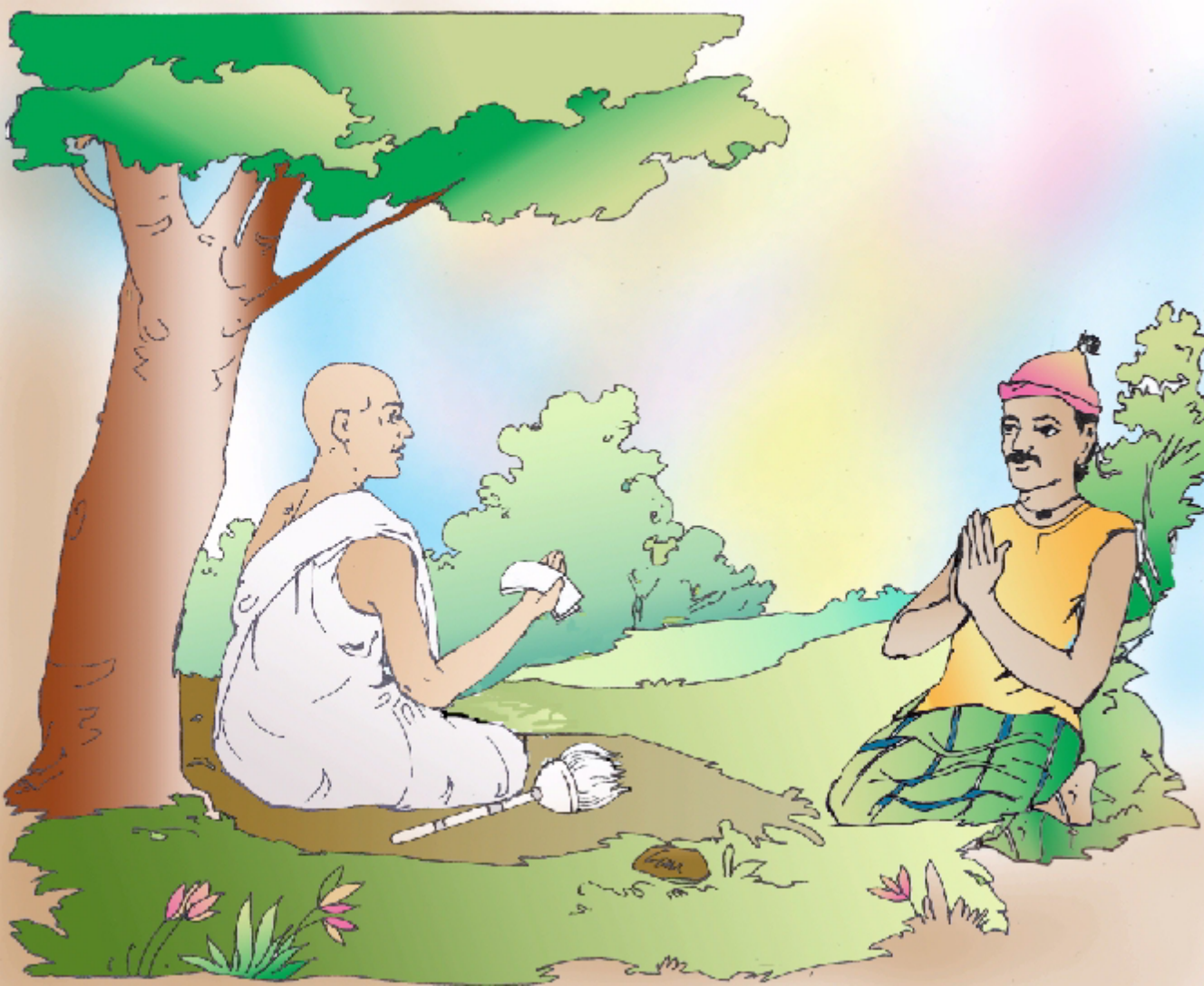
This was a test of the heavenly being. He came to Haribal and told him that he was pleased that he kept his promise.

“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.

In time he
had more
adventures
and lived a
happy life.

We must keep our promises.

It helps us live a better life.