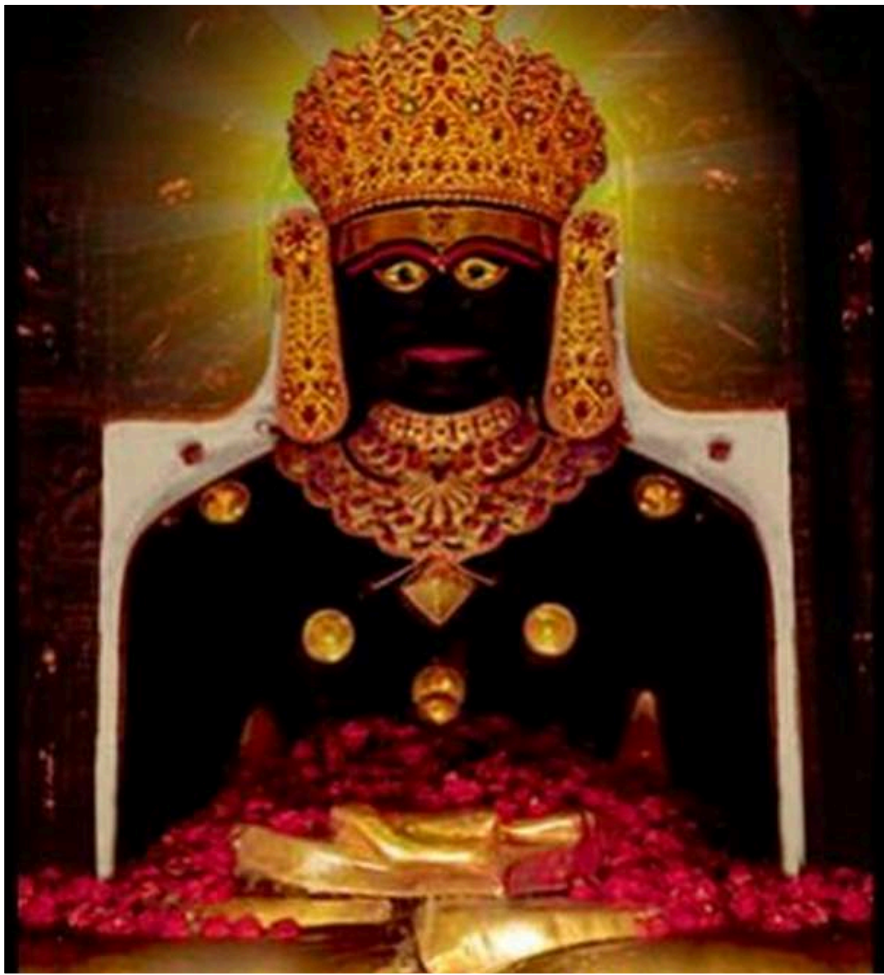




# NEMINATH BHAGWAN



Neminath Bhagwan is the twenty-second Tirthankara of the present time cycle.

Neminath, growing up, was completely dispassionate about worldly relations and pleasures.

As a young man, after much persuasion, he agreed to be married to Princess Rajimati. Most Jains will be familiar with the story of his wedding procession during which he hears the shrieks of animals penned up, ready to be slaughtered to feed the wedding guests. Shocked and repulsed by this, he feels deep compassion for the lives of the animals and orders them to be released immediately.

*He states “as these animals were prisoners in the cages, we all are prisoners in cages of karma which are much stronger than these fences. See the feeling of joy evident in the animals freed. Know that happiness is in freedom, not in bondage. I want to tread the path of breaking this bondage of karma – of birth and death and embrace eternal bliss.”*

Neminath called off the wedding, sacrificed the pleasures of married life and material life and renounced the world and become a Jain ascetic. **So this was compassion, but compassion with personal sacrifice.**

# NEMINATH BHAGWAN

**This event in the life of Neminath Bhagwan teaches us to do our utmost to avoid harming any living being. From our Pratikraman ritual, we will be familiar that first amongst the 18 sinful acts is the vow of Pranatipat – the killing of any living being.**

Neminath Bhagwan is said to have lived for 1000 years. Took diksha at the age of 300 and therefore spent 70% of his for the salvation of the world. He attained moksha on Mount Girnar.

**The life of Neminath Bhagwan teaches us to do our utmost to avoid harming any living being. Similarly, the importance of compassion – Karuna Bhav is highlighted as a means of salvation from the cycle of birth and death.**

