

2.4 Shri Astapadjee Tirth

The first *Tirthankara* lord *Rishabhdev* died on this place. If one can visit this place of pilgrim. Once in a life, he gets ultimate salvation, liberation in that birth only. such very significant place of *Astapad* is located in north of *Himalya*. It is 1,85,000 *Gay* (one *Gay* is equal to 2 miles or 3-2 kms.) far from *Shri Siddh Giri (Palitana)*. It is located at the south gate of *Jambu Dwip* in the middle of *Vaitadhya* and near the *Ayodhya* city of *Bharat Kshetra*. It is a mountain. The mountain is as wide as 526 *Yojans*. And 6 *Kala*. Its height is 32 *Kosh* (One *Kosh* is equals to 4 *gaus*). It has 8 steps (*Asta Pad*). One step is as high as one *Yojan*.

The city *Ayodhya* is near this Tirth. Its length is 12 *Yojans*. Lord *Tirthankara Rishabhdev*, son of king *Nabhi*, along with 10,000 monks, died here on 12th dark day month of *Magh* in this *Avasarpini* period's 3rd *Ara*, when there were 84 lakh years were remaining for this *Ara*'s completion. In his memory. His son, *Bharat Chakravati* made the land surface flat on all its sides, and 24 *Tirthankras*' idols made from diamond and pearls. Each idol has the size of the original size of all the *Tirthankaras*. As well as the same colour of all the *Tirthankaras*. The signs of each lord *Tirthankaras* have been also established like original ones. The *Yakshas* and *Yakshinis* have also been established properly king *Chakravarti Bharat* also established the idols of Mother *Maru Devi*, 99 Brother Monks, Two Sisters-*Brahmi* and *Sundari*. The temple has 84 *Pandols* and its name is *Sinh-Nishadha*. In the *Astapad* Tirth in the east of *Meru* mountain, there are idols of Lord *Adishwar* and *Ajitnath*. In south, there are idols, of Lord *Sambhavnath*, *Abhinandan*, *Sumtinath*, *Padma Prabhu*. In west are the idols of Lord *Suparshvanath*, *Chandra Prabhu*, *Suvidhinath*, *Shitalnath*, *Shreyansnath*, *Vasupujya*, *Vimalnath*, *Anantnath*. In north, *Arnath*, *Mallinath*, *Munisuvrat Swami*, *Naminath* , *Neminath*, *Parshvanath* and *Mahavir Swami*. This in all these directions there are 2 + 4 + 8 + 10 = 24 idols.

On this holy place, the first *Gandhar* (Principal disciple) of Lord *Mahavir Swami Gautam Swami* had composed a *Sutra* named ' *Jag Chintamani* ' *Ravan* and *Mandodari* Performed excellent dance as devotion to Lord *Tirthankara*, and *Ravan* has been awarded the reward of himself becoming a *Tirthankara*, and in next series of 24 *Tirthankaras* *Shri Gautam Swami*, while returning from this *Tirth* has offered milk-sweet to 1503 *Tapas*,

with the power of his '*Labdhi*' a special power of unending prosperity. This resulted in Ultimate knowledge of these 1503 *Tapas*, thanks to *Shri Gautam Swami's* great grace. Today this *Tirth*- a Place of pilgrim is almost ruined. But if one offers total devotion to this *Tirth*, one surely gets ride of troubles. 60,000 *Sagar-sons* sacrificed their own precious lives in efforts to protect this Tirth. Let the great Tirth Flourish for ever.