

Generosity Morality

## DANA & SILA

### What is Dana?

#### Dana

- Definition:
  - To give, share or donate.
- Subject matter:
  - Extends to one's **property and mind** (knowledge).
- Target:
  - Encompasses all beings, including persons and animals.
- The act:
  - Without expectation of return.
  - Based on wholesomeness in mind (e.g. generosity, loving kindness, etc).
- Benefits:
  - Loved by others.
  - Helped by others if in trouble.
  - Leads to good conduct and development of a pure mind.
  - **Merits**, blessings and self-confidence.

#### Types of Dana

- **Material:**
  - In the form of food, money and other tangible items.
  - **Service:**
    - Such as doing charitable work.
    - One of the best kinds of service is to **learn, practise and teach the Dhamma.**
  - **Body:**
    - Involves giving a part of our physical self such as donating **blood** or pledging our **organs** after death.
    - The merit of the dana increases with the sila and spiritual attainment of each recipient, e.g. whether he is a layman, monk, Buddha, etc.

- A dana that is well offered has the following qualities:

- Personally offered instead of delegated.
- Respectfully offered.
- Of a suitable nature. *voucher, cash, currency*
- Offered to the correct recipient.

### What is Sila?

#### Sila

- Definition:
  - Precept or discipline.
  - Good practice.
- Function:
  - **Fences off** "bad things" or "unwholesomeness" which destroy our body and mind.
  - Benefits:
    - Increases vigilance, especially of the consequences of one's thoughts and actions.
    - Enhances one's good reputation and conscience.
    - A good rebirth, either as a human being or deva.

#### Types of Sila

- Panca Sila (5 Precepts)
- Atthanga Sila (8 Precepts)
- Dasa Sila (10 Precepts)
- Ajiva-Atthamaka Sila (5 Precepts with Right Living)

#### Panca Sila

1. Panatipata veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami.
2. Adinnadana veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami.
3. Kamesu micchacara veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami.
4. Musavada veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami.
5. Sura-meraya-majja-pamadatthana veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami.



## 5 Precepts

I undertake to observe the precept to abstain from:

1. destroying the life of beings;
2. taking things not given;
3. sexual misconduct;
4. false speech; and
5. distilled and fermented liquors that cause intoxication and heedlessness.

## Results of non-abstinence

- Bad action: *Talking*
  1. *Talking* life
  2. Stealing
  3. Sexual misconduct
  4. Lying
  5. Drinking of distilled and fermented liquors
- Result:
  1. Short life span
  2. Loss of wealth
  3. Rivalry and revenge
  4. False accusations
  5. Mental derangement

## Atthanga Sila

1. Panatipata veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami.
2. Adinnadana veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami.
3. Abrahmacariya veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami.
4. Musavada veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami.
5. Sura-meraya-majja-pamadatthana veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami.
6. Vikala-bhojana veramani sikkha padam samadiyami.
7. Nacca-gita-vadita-visukadassana-malag andha vile-pana dharana-mandana-vibhusanathana veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami.
8. Uccasayana-mahasayana veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami.

## 8 Precepts

I undertake to observe the precept to abstain from:

1. destroying the life of beings;
2. taking things not given;
3. incelibacy;
4. false speech;
5. distilled and fermented liquors that cause intoxication and heedlessness;
6. taking food at an unseasonable time (i.e. after the sun has crossed the Meridian);
7. dancing, singing, music and unseemly shows; the use of garlands, perfumes and unguents; and from things that tend to beautify and adorn (the person); and
8. (using) high and luxurious seats (i.e. those exceeding 2 feet in height).

## Dasa Sila

- Splitting of the 7th precept of the Atthanga Sila into 2 parts to form the 7th and 8th precepts of the Dasa Sila:
  7. Nacca-gita-vadita-visukadassana veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami.
  8. Mala-gandha-vilepana-dharana-mandana-vibhusanathana veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami.
- Renumbering of the 8th precept of the Atthanga Sila as the 9th precept of the Dasa Sila:
  9. Uccasayana-mahasayana veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami.
- The 10th precept of the Dasa Sila:
  10. Jata-rupa-rajata-patiggahana veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami.

## 10 Precepts

I undertake to observe the precept to abstain from:

...

7. dancing, singing, music and unseemly shows;
8. the use of garlands, perfumes, unguents; and from things that tend to beautify and adorn (the person);
9. the use of high and luxurious seats; and
10. accepting gold and silver.

## Ajiva-Atthamaka Sila

- Panca Sila + 3 additional precepts:

6. Miccha-vaca veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami.
7. Miccha-kammanta veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami.
8. Miccha-ajiva verainani sikkhapadam samadiyami.

#### 5 Precepts with Right Living

I undertake to observe the precept to abstain from:

...

6. wrong speech;
7. wrong action; and
8. wrong livelihood.

[To be discussed ...]

- Wrong speech:
  - Lying; slandering; harsh words; and frivolous talk.
- Wrong action:
  - Killing; stealing; and sexual misconduct.
- Wrong livelihood:
  - Trading in arms, human beings, flesh, intoxicating drinks and poison.