

Dana - Generosity

Dāna, a word from the ancient Pāli language of the Buddha's time, is translated as the act of giving and refers to the practice of generosity. The Buddha taught the cultivation of generosity as a vital spiritual quality and as one of the foundational spiritual practices to cultivate lovingkindness, compassion, non-clinging and joyful awareness of our interconnectedness.

The word dāna is also used to refer to the practice of generosity that provides the financial and material support that sustains Dhamma teachers, Dhamma centers and Dhamma center staff. This ongoing circle of giving and receiving has proved to be a strong foundation for keeping the Buddha's teachings available since ancient times. Buddhism has flourished for over 2600 years and continues to be available to us to this day because of the generosity of millions of people exactly like us from different countries and cultures over the millennia.

Those who endeavor to steward places of Dhamma practice, teaching and preservation, must make a large and ongoing leap of faith. We strive to live from a place of deep trust that those who value and practice the teachings will be inspired to provide the needed support.

When generosity is cultivated among the whole sangha of practitioners, a spirit of reciprocity and common purpose is also cultivated. Those with more material means have the opportunity to offer more than they might in a strictly commercial transaction, and those who have less material means may offer less. Dana-based does not mean "free" and reciprocity in some form is always expected. *Labor and skills are also heartily appreciated and necessary forms of dana.*

Sometimes people new to Buddhism would like more specific guidance regarding appropriate amounts. If it is helpful to think of what one might spend in a more traditional setting, please do so. What might you spend for a night at an Air BnB? What might you spend for an hour of counseling? What might you spend for a continuing education class? That said, these sorts of things are not within financial reach of many people and Dhamma centers should be available to all. Please keep one's own wellbeing in mind when deciding how much to donate. If you can offer more to subsidize those with lesser means, please consider doing so.

The cost of building and maintaining Kevala and her caregivers is currently \$85/night per space, 365 days per year. A portion of this cost is covered by guests. Additional funds come from Santi's travel and teaching, and from generous donors who wish for Dhamma centers to thrive. Both Kevala Retreat and the onsite caretakers depend on you for their continuance. Please give generously, within your means, and with a spirit of reciprocity.