

Early Buddhism	Mahayana	Contemporary Considerations
<p>Laypersons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Giving of alms: what is needed for life itself - Food, clothing, shelter, land, medicines, etc. - Luxury goods <p>Renunciants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Giving of Dharma (teachings) - Teaching of renunciation - Teaching of merit <p>Jataka Tales: Accounts of Shakyamuni cultivating generosity in numerous, successive lives.</p> <p>Individual Awakening</p>	<p>The Dharma is for Everyone.</p> <p>Gifts of “Worldly Giving”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Giving from the concept of “I, give, that one receives, this is the gift.” - Ranges from small stingy gifts to enormous gifts - Aim is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop compassion. - Serve without discrimination. - Transform greed and selfishness. <p>Gifts of the “Threefold Purity”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Giving without any concept of “giver, receiver, gift or reward.” - Realizing emptiness of giver, receiver, gift: total dependence on web of life. - Aim is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emergence of nonself-centered being. - Flourishing of compassion. <p>Development of Mind & Character (Wisdom)</p>	<p>Global Awareness (Affirm dependence on the whole of Life)</p> <p>Creating a culture/society/world where generosity is a norm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asking “how” can we treat the causes of suffering globally - Actions that diminish suffering on global level <p>Ensuring that generosity includes justice for everyone. Developing insight into social circumstances. Acting from a place of global interdependence and equality.</p> <p>Living from The Three Tenets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not-Knowing: equally open to all - Bearing Witness: renouncing fixed sense of self & points of view - Loving Action: taking actions that serve the whole of life. <p>Collective Awakening & Wisdom</p>

Everyday Generosity	Guiding Questions
<p>Meditations/Reflections on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The interdependence of all things and life forms. - “What is mine is yours.” - The joy, well-being, and good fortune of others. - Impermanence, codependent arising, no-self. - Giving thanks. - Receiving. - Offering gratitude. Offering appreciation. - Seeing my life as a gift. - Seeing my life as arising according to conditions, seen and unseen. - Recognizing how my fundamental attitudes influence self-and-other. - Making apologies. - Making justice. - Offering forgiveness. - Offering humor and lightness. - Recognizing opportunities for giving (receptivity). <p>Everyday: write down one act of generosity that you did that day.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How do I give with integrity? - Who might benefit from my giving? - Who besides the recipient does my giving affect? - Am I open to opportunities for giving? - When do I give too much? - Can I see when to stop giving? - How do I determine when, how, and what to give? - Does my giving enhance both recipient and others, including myself? - What are my expectations about giving? - What are my ingrained habits in giving? - What are my expectations about receiving? - Am I able to take the well being of the recipient into account? - Do I give and then block receiving? What effect does this have on relationships? What effect does this have on the community? - What is an appropriate amount of self care? - Can I see both the long-term and short-term wisdom of my giving?