

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



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