

दान

act of giving



Surya Nanda



मोघमन्नं विन्दते अप्रचेताः सत्यं ब्रवीमि वध इत् स तस्य ।
नार्यमाणं पुष्यति नो सखायं केवलाघो भवति केवलादी ॥

Rg Veda-10-117-6

The foolish man, that shows no hospitality, acquires food in vain. I speak the truth, when I say that food shall cause his ruin. He finds no faithful comrade nor a friend; he who eats alone verily eats nothing but a sin.



Dāna

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Dāna is generosity or giving, whether it is alms, gifts or donations.



Dāna *act of giving*

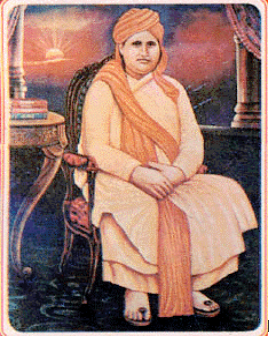


We have all been recipients of Dāna.
We have received from our parents, family members,
friends, and sometimes, even from strangers.



इज्याऽध्ययन दानानि तपः सत्यं धृतिः शमाः ।
अलोभ इति मार्गोऽयं धर्मस्याऽष्टाविधः स्मृतः ॥

To be on the path of dharma is to implement the following eight things in life: Worshipping God with Yajna, Learning Vedas and other scriptures, giving in charity, practicing austerity, truthfulness, forbearance, equanimity of mind, and absence of greed.



दानधर्मं निषेवेत नित्यमैष्टिकपौर्तिकम् ।
परितुष्टेन भावेन पात्रमासाद्य शक्तितः ॥

He shall practice, to the best of his ability, charity and righteousness in connection with yajna and acts of piety with a cheerful heart.

Manu.4.227



Dāna

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- Don't try to find a rational reason for giving away money.
- Charity is irrational, nevertheless, it benefits the giver in many ways.
- It's good for your conscious. it makes you, feel a better person.
- Giving creates a sense of satisfaction and joy in you and in the heart of the recipient.

Studies show that when individuals spend money on gifts for friends or charitable organizations, their happiness increases while those who spend on themselves get no such boost.



Dāna *act of giving*



The pursuit of wealth is for sharing.

It is not just plain charity. It is sharing of resources.

It is exhilarating to know that you have something you can give to another and, in the process, help him/her out.



Dāna *act of giving*

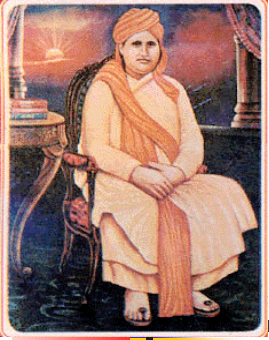


दानं भोगो नाशस्तिस्त्रो गतयो भवन्ति वित्तस्य ।
यो न ददाति न भुङ्क्ते तस्य तृतीया गतिर्भवति ॥

Wealth can follow only three directions. It can be (a) given in charity, (b) utilized (c) destroyed . The wealth of the person who neither gives in charity, nor utilizes it, essentially follows the third path (of destruction).

Pancha tantra

By Acharya Suryanarayan Nanda
for Arya Samaj Greater Houston



Dā na *act of giving*



Charity is **Nārāyaṇa Sevā**- service to god through service to man.

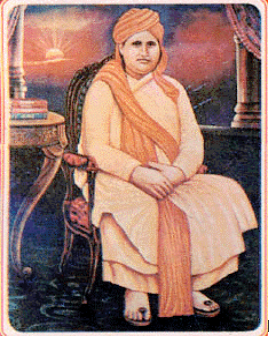
The receiver of charity is to be treated as **Devatā**.



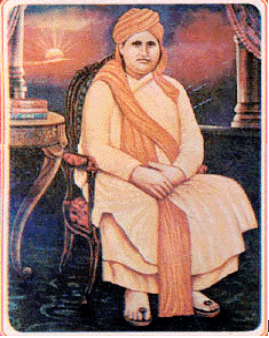
Dāna *act of giving*



- It has the effect of purifying and transforming the mind of the giver, because it is the best weapon against greed (**lobha**), which is wrapped up with egoism and selfishness.
- When we decide to give something, we simultaneously reduce our attachment to the object; to make a habit of giving can thus gradually weaken the mental factor of craving, one of the main causes of unhappiness.



- Dāna is one of the greatest acts of **spirituality**.
- Giving for the sake of giving. Expecting nothing in return. Have you done it ? Can you feel the freedom and happiness that comes with it ?
- This can be characterized by unattached and unconditional generosity, giving and letting go.



Our scriptures say while charity is made it is done with humility and respect to the recipient.

During Havan we say '*Indraaya swaahaa, idam Indraaya idam na mama*', it means "*This is offered to Indra. This is Not Mine.*"

This is very important as otherwise your Ego gets blasted as a donor.