

Commemorating the occasion of Dhanteras to Dharmateras

Summary (13.11.20)

Please Note: This is an English summary of the udbodhan by a seeker, Rimaben Dhanky and has been uploaded here for the benefit of the English reader.

Today is Teras. For the spiritual aspirants, it is Dharma Teras and Dhanya Teras. It is Dharma Teras, as dharma is our wealth. It is Dhanya Teras because Pujyashri Lalluji Muni met Param Krupalu Dev for the first time.

Dharma is practiced through: 1. Daan- Charity. 2. Sheel- Good character 3. Tap- Austerity. 4. Bhaav- Feelings and thoughts. For those who are greedy, charity or donation is their dharma. For those who are addicted to various addictions, good character is their dharma. For those who are involved in sensual pleasures, austerity is their dharma. Your meditation and swadhyay (self-study) come under tap. Your seva or selfless service comes under vaiyavach (To serve and care for the Guru or teacher and old people).

Today and from today, we will appreciate those who have given donations. In the scriptures, many types of donations are shown. It includes a donation of food, clothes, scriptures, giving charity to those who need it, compassion, etc. But if you want to understand it simply- VVSS- vitta daan- a donation of money, vastu daan- a donation of things, samay daan- a donation of time, and shabda daan- a donation of words.

Many times, you don't have time and you are too busy with office work. You have no time to worship the Lord. How can you be useful to the Mission? You can donate money. Vitta daan is a feeling, more than just money. You might have millions of rupees, but you don't feel like doing charity. You are not a philanthropist. You may be from a middle-class family and give one rupee a day. Vitta daan is related to the feelings and not the amount. Do you want to serve your family or the whole universe? Many people feel that they would only serve the family. It is the householder's responsibility to donate his wealth. Chakravarti's attainments, wealth, the fruition of meritorious karma, etc. are tremendous. But the moment he dies, all the attainments and wealth go away. His children do not get any of that just because they are a chakravarti's children. Bharat Chakravarti's sons had to put effort to earn money. A father decided to give 10 lakh rupees to his son in his will. He called his son and informed him about it. The son asked him to go to Guru Bhagwan. In front of Guru Bhagwan, the son said, "This is not my money, so I am not going to keep it. I will give it in a donation. Do you want to donate it yourself or do you want me to donate?" You can either give it or leave it, you can't take money with you in the next birth.

Your height is measured by the shadow of the afternoon, that is real you. Otherwise, all the height that is measured during the morning or evening is seen because of your meritorious karma. You will need only that much space at the end. Your power, wealth, etc. are because of your meritorious karma. If your meritorious karma is less, money takes a lot of time to come to you. If your greed is more, you spend a lot of time to earn. Check out how much time you give to money and how much time you give to the Lord. You will run for the work, wealth, power, and in the end, you will be alone. That's why the Enlightened Ones say, "When you donate wealth, you keep everyone along with you."

Pujya Gurudevshri knows a person. Every year, he went with many friends to some hill station or a movie or dinner party. One day he told everyone, "I am taking everyone to Palitana, will you come?" Everyone went with him. Once he told everyone, "It is ayambil oli, I am going to do it, will you do it?" Everyone started doing ayambil. He spent money on all these things. He always wanted people to be together. One day he told everyone, "I am becoming an ascetic, will you come?" All his friends also became ascetics with him.

The name Rajabai Tower came up because of a Jain merchant- Premchand Raichand. He was the king of stock exchange. His mother used to do samayik each day. One day, his mother was trying to see the watch, but she could not see it. She asked her son, "What is the time?" Premchand Raichand felt that there will be so many mothers like this, who cannot see the watch. Let me build a clock tower that rings every hour for such women to complete their samayik. This was the instinct that he wanted everyone to be together.

By donating money, you should do bhakti. If you do not have money, you can donate things. If you have something that you have not used for 12 months, donate those things. This includes clothes, utensils, etc. Do not buy anything before you donate those things. If you can afford, buy new things and give in donation. Jainism encourages swamivatsalya (food for all the people who follow Jainism). Sambhavnath Bhagwan was doing swamivatsalya and acquired Tirthankar name karma.

In the scriptures, there is a story. In Surat, a person kept swamivatsalya. There was a specific time for the same. He had made sweets. The person himself was also there. By 2 pm, everything got over. At 2.10 pm, two people came over. They were turned away. Kewali Bhagwan told the person, "You had great bondage of meritorious karma, but you made a mistake. Those two people were future Tirthankar and future Ganadhar Bhagwan. You refused them and now you have a lot of obstruction karma." You should always eat something from swamivatsalya for his appreciation. You should do bhakti of those who are doing bhakti of your Lord.

Samay daan- a donation of time: You may not have so many things or so much money. But if you have time, start doing vaiyavach of the elders, Guru Bhagwant, or regime. Be enthusiastic about doing this vaiyavach. Always have the feeling of serving others. Do not say that I missed out on my meditation. You must have all the 12 austerities in your life every day. You have to contribute to the Jain order, country, etc. Your emotions should pass through everything, which will come through reverence for Guru and vaiyavach for sick people and elderly people.

Many people want to become 'Vanaprastha', but they do not know what they would do after becoming vanaprastha. You should know your limitations and get into seva. Some people want to remain busy, so they enter the seva. Some people want to offer something to Prabhu, so they are doing seva. Some people take out time to contribute to the regime. Why are you having so much delusion? Your end will come in two lines of a newspaper.

Donation of words: You should be sweet in your words. Your day to day transactions with others should have softness. You can call someone 'blind' or 'Surdas'. The whole Mahabharata happened due to bitter words. Please address even the lift man with respect. Your sweet words may stabilize a person or he may experience affection- both of these would make your samyag darshan stronger. You can donate in many ways.