

What are Right Actions? What are Wrong Actions?

Keith R Parker

Ans: Right and wrong actions are polar opposites. Right actions support life and evolution; wrong actions retard life and evolution. Positive emotions accompany right action; negative emotions accompany wrong actions. Performing right actions break the bondage of karma; wrong actions fix us to the bondage of karma. Right actions have an end, fulfilling inner contentment; wrong action endlessly cycle us through one unfulfilling action after another.

What are right actions?

Right actions are those that foster growth in spiritual and material wellbeing for oneself and others. This is the singular definition and purpose of right action: to perform actions that uplift all. The practice of karma yoga is right action.

In serving the desires of others, we break the cycle of *impression-desire-action* on the level of our desire to find contentment in material things. Instantly, we break the bondage of karma and the outflow of our attention instantly ceases. In that same instant, we turn within and find contentment where it as always been, deep within.

Content, we reach the goal of all desires and actions, have nothing to gain or lose, and need not act at all. Our actions now serve a cosmic purpose: uplifting all to higher levels of spiritual and material wellbeing. Having ‘cast away the bondage of karma’ and gained lasting contentment through repeated acts of service, all our actions respond to Nature’s desire for a more abundant, just and peaceful world — and in this way, we uplift all 24/7.

What are wrong actions?

Wrong actions obstruct growth in spiritual and material wellbeing and through performing them, we become a negative force in the world. Wrong actions cause harm to others and ourselves; hamper achieving worthwhile outcomes; produce stress, strain and damaging influences on others and our environment; diminish what has been created for the greater good.

Wrong actions result from selfish attitudes of avarice, envy, anger, fear, jealousy, self-importance.... These selfish attitudes point our attention ever outward towards sensory experiences, reinforcing bondage of karma, and

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distancing us from inner contentment. Selfish attitudes lay the groundwork for wrong actions and the downward spiral in negativity they spawn.

Back to right action.

Selfless right actions obviate selfish wrong actions. Mutually exclusive right and wrong actions cannot co-occur. Right actions in service to others leave no room for negative emotions and attitudes and the harmful wrong actions they engender. Consequently, selfless service to others, precludes selfish, self-serving wrong actions.

Act on the natural inclination to serve.

Right action is an effect and not a cause. Right action is a result of having broken the bondage of karma. Right action is not a means to break the bondage of karma. Pretentiously behaving like Jesus or Buddha or the Dalai Lama is not going to cut it and will only strengthen the bondage of karma; donning a white robe and wearing open sandals in the snow will result in cold feet, maybe frostbite. Rather, simply act on the natural inclination to serve others. That's all it takes. The moment you do, right actions and inner contentment manifest as if they had been there all along, reinforcing skill in action and strengthening results.

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