

3. Majjhima Sila (Middle Morality)

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- **1. Abstention from destroying of seeds**
- And then there are certain respected samanans and brahmanas (recluses in general) who,
- living on the food offered out of faith⁶ , **are given to destroying such things as seeds and**
- vegetation. And what are such things? They are of five kinds, namely,
- • root-germs,
- • stem-germs,
- • node germs,
- • plumule-germs and
- • seed-germs.
- Samana Gotama abstains from destroying such seeds and vegetation. Bhikkhus!
A
- worldling might praise the Tathagata in this manner.

- **2. Abstention from storing things**
- And then there are certain respected samanas and brahmanas who, living on the food
- offered out of faith, are given to storing up and using things offered, such as cooked rice,
- beverages, clothing, sandals, beds, unguents and eatables. Samana Gotama abstains from
- storing up and using such things. Bhikkhus! A worldling might praise the Tathagata in
- this manner.

- **3. Abstains from watching entertainment**

- And then there are certain respected samanas and brahmanas who, living on the food
- offered out of faith, are given to watching (entertainments) that is a stumbling block to
- the attainment of morality. And what are such entertainments? They are: dancing,
- singing., music, shows, recitations, hand-clapping, brass-instrument-playing, drumplaying,
- art exhibitions, playing with an Iron ball, bamboo raising games, rituals of
- washing the bones of the dead, elephant-fights, horse-fights, buffalo-fights, bull-fights,
- goat-fights, sheep-fights, cock fights, quail-fights, fighting with quarter-staffs, boxing,
- wrestling, military tattoos, military reviews, route marches and troop-movements.
- Samana Gotama abstains from watching (entertainments) which is a stumbling block to
- the attainment of morality. Bhikkhus! A worldling might praise the Tathagata in this manner.

- **4. Abstains from Gambling**

- And then there are certain respected samanas and brahmanas who, living on the food
- offered out of faith , are given to gambling (and taking part in sports and games) that
- weakens one's vigilance (in the practice of morality). And what are such sports and
- games? They are: playing chess on eight-squared or ten-squared boards; playing
- imaginary chess using the sky as a chess-board; playing chess on moon-shaped chess
- boards; flipping cowries with thumb and finger; throwing dice; playing tip cat; playing
- with brush and paints; playing marbles; playing at whistling with bided leaves; playing
- with miniature ploughs; acrobatics; turning palm-leaf wheels; measuring with toy-
- baskets
- made of leaves, playing with miniature chariots; playing with small bows and arrows;
- alphabetical riddles; mind-reading and simulating physical defects. Samana Gotama
- abstains from gambling (and taking part in such sports and games) that weakens one's
- vigilance (in the practice of morality). A worldling, bhikkhus, might praise the Tathagata
- in this manner.

- **5. Abstains from using high and luxurious beds and their furnishings**
- And then there are certain respected samanas and brahmanas who, living on the food
- offered out of faith, are given to using high and luxurious beds and their furnishings. And
- what are they? They are: high couches; divans raised on sculptured legs; long-fleeced
- carpets; woolen coverlets with quaint (geometrical) designs; white woolen coverlets;
- woolen coverlets with floral designs; mattresses stuffed with cotton; woolen coverlets
- with pictorial designs; woolen coverlets with fringes on one or both sides; gold-brocaded
- coverlets; silk coverlets; large carpets (wide enough for sixteen dancing girls to dance
- on); saddle cloth and trappings for elephants and horses; upholstery for carriages, rugs
- made of black panther's hide, rugs made of antelope's hide, red canopies and couches
- with red bolsters at each end. Samana Gotama abstains from using such high and
- luxurious beds and their furnishings. A worldling, bhikkhus, might praise the Tathagata
- in this manner.

- **6. Abstains from beautifying or adorning themselves**

- And then there are certain respected samanas and brahmanas who, living on the food
- offered out of faith, are given to beautifying or adorning themselves. And what are such
- embellishments and adornments? They are: using perfumed cosmetics, getting massaged,
- taking perfumed baths, developing one's physique, using mirrors, painting eye-lashes
- dark, decorating (oneself) with flowers, applying powder and lotion to the body,
- beautifying the face with powder and lotion, wearing bangles, tying the hair into a topknot,
- carrying walking sticks or ornamented hollow cylinders (containing medicinal
- herbs) or swords, using multi-colored umbrellas or footwear (with gorgeous designs),
- wearing a turban or hair-pin set with rubies, carrying a Yak-tail fan and wearing long
- white robes with fringes. Samana Gotama abstains from such embellishment and adornment. A worldling, bhikkhus, might praise the Tathagata in this manner.

- **7. Abstains from engaging in unprofitable talk**
- And then there are certain respected samanas and brahmanas who, living on the food offered out of faith, are given to engaging themselves in unprofitable talk (that is contrary
- to correct practice conducive to the attainment of deva realms and Nibbana), such as talk
- about kings, thieves, ministers, armed forces, calamities, battles, food, drinks, clothing,
- beds, flowers, unguents, relatives, vehicles, villages, market-towns, cities, provinces,
- womenfolk, heroes, streets, water-fronts, the dead and the departed, trivialities, the
- universe, the oceans, prosperity, adversity, and so on*. Samana Gotama abstains from
- engaging himself in such unprofitable talk. A worldling, bhikkhus, might praise the
- Tathagata in this manner.

8. Abstains from engaging in mutually disparaging disputes

- And then there are certain respected samanas and brahmanas who, living on the food
- offered out of faith, are given to mutually disparaging disputes. And what are they? (They
- are as follows:) "You do not know this Doctrine and Discipline. I know this Doctrine and
- Discipline. How can you ever know this Doctrine and Discipline? Your practice is
- wrong. My practice is right. My speech is coherent and sensible. Your speech is not
- coherent and sensible. What you should say first, you say last; and what you should say
- last, you say first. What you have long practiced to say has been upset now. I have
- exposed the faults in your doctrine. You stand rebuked. Try to escape from this censure
- or explain it if you can," Samana Gotama abstains from such mutually disparaging
- disputes. A worldling, bhikkhus, might praise the Tathagata in this manner.

9. Abstains from serving as messengers or couriers.

- And then there are certain respected samanas and brahmanas who, living on the food
- offered out of faith, are given to serving as messengers or couriers. And what are such
- services ? They are: going from this place to that place, or coming from that place to this
- place and taking things from this place to that place, or bringing things from that place to
- this place, on behalf of kings, ministers, brahmins, householders and youths. Samana
- Gotama abstains from serving as messenger or courier. A worldling, bhikkhus, might
- praise the Tathagata in this manner.

- **10. Abstains from practice deceitful pretensions (to attainments)**
- And then there are certain respected samanas and brahmanas who, living on the food
- offered out of faith, practice deceitful pretensions (to attainments), flattery (for gain),
- subtle insinuation by signs and indications (for gain), Using pressure (to get offerings)
- and the seeking of more gain by cunning offer of gifts. Samana Gotama abstains from
- such pretension and flattery. A worldling, bhikkhus, might praise the Tathagata in this
- manner and so on: by this is meant 'forests, mountains, rivers and islands.'





Thank you!