

## Right Thought

What, now, is Right Thought?

1. Thought free from lust (*nekkhamma-sankappa*).
2. Thought free from ill-will (*avyapada-sankappa*).
3. Thought free from cruelty (*avihimsa-sankappa*).

This is called Right Thought. (*Dîgha Nikaya*, 22)

### Mundane and Supermundane Thought

Now, Right Thought, I tell you, is of two kinds:

1. Thought free from lust, from ill-will, and from cruelty—this is called 'Mundane Right Thought' (*lokiya samma-sankappa*), which yields worldly fruits and brings good results.
2. But, whatsoever there is of thinking, considering, reasoning, thought, ratiocination [forming judgments by a process of logic; reason], application—the mind being holy, being turned away from the world, and conjoined with the path, the holy path being pursued—these 'verbal operations' of the mind (*vaci-sankhara*) are called the 'Supermundane Right Thought' (*lokuttara-samma-sankappa*), which is not of the world, but is supermundane, and conjoined with the path.

### Conjoined with Other Factors

Now, in understanding wrong thought as wrong, and right thought as right, one practises *Right Understanding* (1st factor); and in making efforts to overcome evil thought and to arouse right thought, one practises *Right Effort* (6th factor); and in overcoming evil thought with attentive mind, and dwelling with attentive mind in possession of right thought, one practises *Right Mindfulness* (7th factor). Hence there are three things that accompany and follow upon Right Thought, namely: Right Understanding, Right Effort, and Right Mindfulness. (*Majjhima-Nikaya*, 117)

**Source:** Nyanatiloka (compiler, translator). *The Word of the Buddha: An Outline of the Teaching of the Buddha in the Words of the Pali Canon*. 14th edition. Kandy, Ceylon: Buddhist Publication Society, 1967. (Page 47.) [This format has been produced by Alexander Peck.]