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Part 4

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The Value Of Dhamma Service

(The following is adapted from a Dhamma discourse to Vipassana meditators at Dung Kwang School, Kaoshiung, Taiwan on 24 August 1998.)

The Enlightened One gave us the noble path, walking on which we can reach the final goal of full liberation from all misery.

As we progress on the path we keep purifying the mind. As the mind gets purified it naturally starts overflowing with the qualities of love, compassion, and goodwill for others. While walking on the path of liberation, one not only works for one’s own liberation but also for the liberation of others by helping them to come on the path of Dhamma. The Buddha’s path is for one’s own liberation as well as the liberation of many others.

As one progresses on the path, one keeps developing different pāramitās—qualities which help one to cross the ocean of life and death. When these pāramitās are fulfilled, it becomes easy to reach the final goal.

Dāna is a very important pāramī. And, according to the words of the Enlightened One, the dāna of Dhamma is the greatest of all.

Why is it the greatest? Let us understand.

According to the law of nature, the seed that we sow will give fruits, many fruits and each fruit will contain the same type of seed. If we give dāna of food, then the fruit will be that we will get sufficient food in our present life and future lives.

According to the same law of nature, whatever type of dāna you give, you will get that type of fruit in the future in a greater quantity. When you give the dāna of Dhamma, the