



Virtues that protect the world Lokapāla-Dhamma - Category 2 / 2
Dhamma teachings that safeguard society and bring inner peace.

Pāli: **Hiriottappiyaññeva lokaṃ pāleti sadhukaṃ.**

[Pronunciation: hi-ri-od-tab-pi-yan-ye-wa, lo-kang, paa-le-ti, sa-dhu-kang]

“Hiri and Ottappa preserve the world well.”

- (V. V.)

Definition and Meaning

What is Hiri?

Hiri refers to moral shame—a deep inner sense of conscience that feels ashamed to commit any wrong, dishonest, or immoral action. Whether in public or private, even if no one witnesses the deed, a person

with Hiri refrains from wrongdoing due to their own inner sense of shame.

What is Ottappa?

Ottappa means moral fear—the fear of the consequences of immoral or sinful actions. It includes awareness of the harm or danger that may result from breaking laws or ethical principles. Because of this fear of the negative effects, one avoids doing evil.

The Role of Hiri and Ottappa in Society

Together, Hiri and Ottappa are called Lokapāla-Dhamma, meaning the “virtues that protect the world.” These two qualities are essential for maintaining harmony and peace in society.

The Protective Power of These Virtues

When people truly understand the dangers of violating moral principles, they develop both shame in wrongdoing and fear of its consequences. As a result, they refrain from harming others and uphold ethical conduct. This leads to inner peace, Ethical behavior, Social harmony, Collective well-being.

In Summary: The Two Lokapāla-Dhamma

Hiri – Moral shame; a pure conscience that prevents wrongdoing.

Ottappa – Moral fear; an ethical concern about the consequences of harmful actions.

These two inner virtues safeguard the world, nurturing peace, righteousness, and loving-kindness among all beings. When individuals cultivate Hiri and Ottappa, society thrives in unity and compassion.

Together, they are the Lokapāla-Dhamma, vital to personal integrity and the preservation of a peaceful world.

“When Hiri and Ottappa arise in the heart, peace arises in the world.”

— Teachings of the Buddha

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#Virtues

#Hiri

#Ottappa

#Peace

#BuddhistEthics

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