

April 13, 2019 – An introduction to Faith and its three forms

The three forms of Faith are:

1. **Confident/Trusting faith** is a confidence in the qualities of the master and the **Three Jewels**, which cannot be shaken by temporary circumstances or events, and a trust in the laws of cause and effect strong enough to survive the worst kind of circumstances such as illness.

2. **Vivid/Clear faith** comes from thinking of the qualities of the master and the **Three Jewels**. It is a very vivid and joyful state similar to the way a small child feels when seeing its mother.

3. **Eager/Longing faith** is the eager wish to abandon negative actions having reflected on their faults; and the eager wish to undertake positive actions having considered the benefits they bring. It is similar to the yearning that someone suffering from extreme thirst has for water.

The Formulae of the Three Jewels' Blaze (Sutra):

Faith is the prerequisite of all good qualities-

A procreator of them, like a mother

Who then protects and increase them.

It clears away doubts, frees you from the four rivers

[ignorance, attachment, craving, and wrong views],

And establishes you in the prosperous city of happiness and goodness.

Faith cuts through gloom and clarifies the mind.

It eliminates pride and is the root of respect.

It is a jewel and a treasure.

Like hands, it is the basis of gathering virtue.

It is the best of feet for going to liberation.

The Ten Dharmas Sutra:

Virtuous qualities cannot grow

In a person without faith,

As a green sprout

Does not shoot from a burnt seed.

The Precious Garland:

One who does not give up Dharma

Through desire, aversion, fear or ignorance

Is called one who has great confidence (faith) in the Dharma

This person is the supreme vessel for achievement of the ultimate state.

1) Cause of Faith 2) Nature and function 3) Classifications

Web resources:

<https://thubtenchodron.org/1999/12/refuge-guidance/>

<https://studybuddhism.com/search?q=faith>