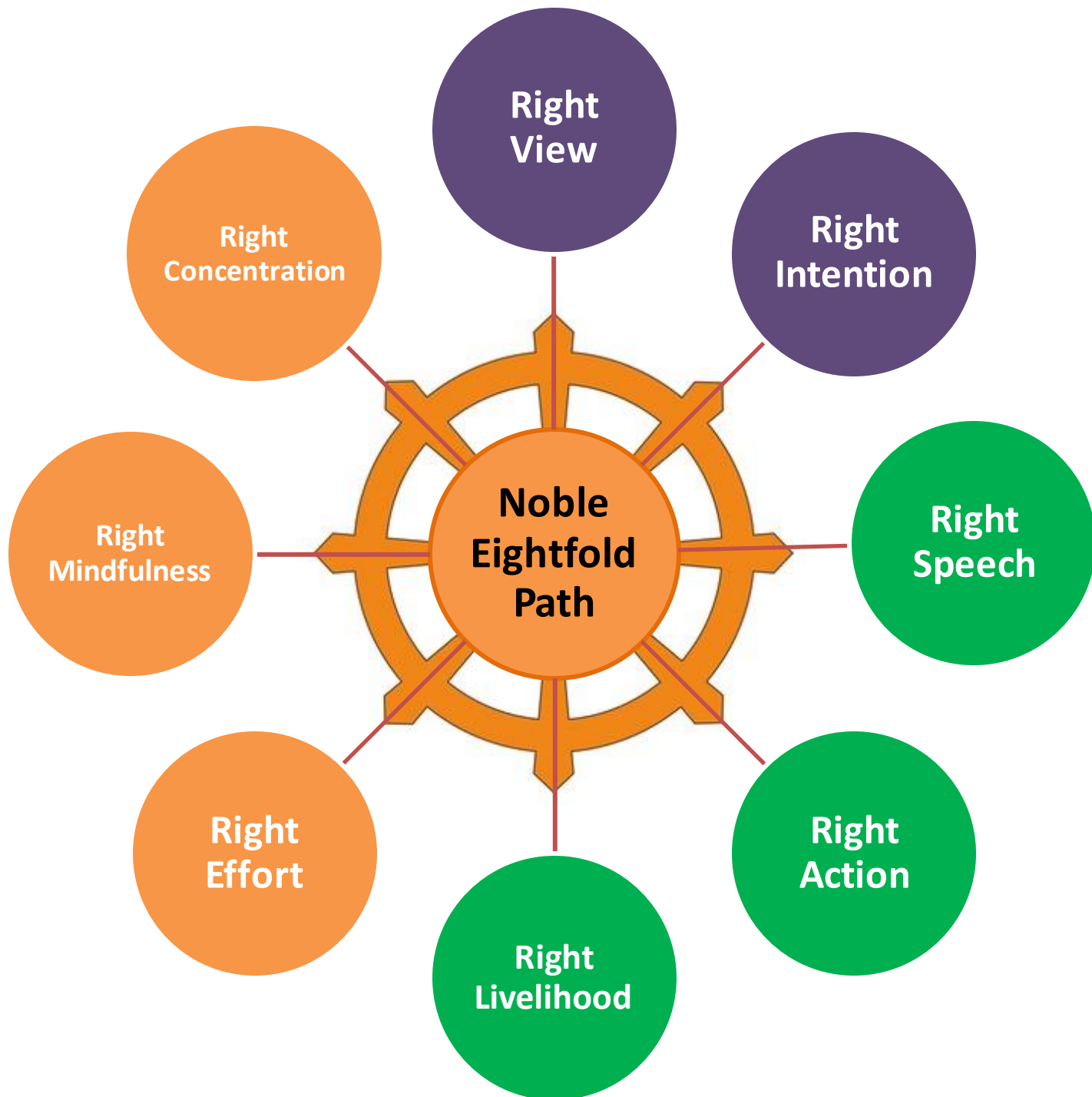


Right View

Dr. Ong Tien Kwan



Two Types of Right Views

Mundane	Supramundane (Aryan)
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Belief in Kamma2. Belief in rebirth	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Four Noble Truths

Right View

"And what is right view? Knowledge with regard to stress, knowledge with regard to the origination of stress, knowledge with regard to the cessation of stress, knowledge with regard to the way of practice leading to the cessation of stress: This is called right view."

— DN 22

Right View is Forerunner

"And how is right view the forerunner?

One discerns wrong view as wrong view, and right view as right view. This is one's right view.

And what is wrong view? 'There is nothing given, nothing offered, nothing sacrificed. There is no fruit or result of good or bad actions. There is no this world, no next world, no mother, no father, no spontaneously reborn beings; no brahmans or contemplatives who, faring rightly & practicing rightly, proclaim this world & the next after having directly known & realized it for themselves.' This is wrong view...

"One tries to abandon wrong view & to enter into right view: This is one's **right effort**. One is mindful to abandon wrong view & to enter & remain in right view: This is one's **right mindfulness**.

Thus these three qualities — right view, right effort, & right mindfulness — run & circle around right view."

— MN 117

Consequences of Wrong View

"In a person of wrong view, wrong resolve comes into being. In a person of wrong resolve, wrong speech. In a person of wrong speech, wrong action. In a person of wrong action, wrong livelihood. In a person of wrong livelihood, wrong effort. In a person of wrong effort, wrong mindfulness. In a person of wrong mindfulness, wrong concentration. In a person of wrong concentration, wrong knowledge. In a person of wrong knowledge, wrong release.

"This is how from wrongness comes failure, not success."

— AN 10.103

Feed the Skillful, Starve the Unskillful

"Don't go by reports, by legends, by traditions, by scripture, by logical conjecture, by inference, by analogies, by agreement through pondering views, by probability, or by the thought, 'This contemplative is our teacher.' When you know for yourselves that, 'These qualities are unskillful; these qualities are blameworthy; these qualities are criticized by the wise; these qualities, when adopted & carried out, lead to harm & to suffering' — then you should abandon them...

"When you know for yourselves that, 'These qualities are skillful; these qualities are blameless; these qualities are praised by the wise; these qualities, when adopted & carried out, lead to welfare & to happiness' — then you should enter & remain in them."

— AN 3.65

Is your World View Right View?

Importance of views

- **attitudes** and orientation towards existence/life
- with **far-reaching** consequences
 - structure our perception
 - order our values
 - interpret meaning of life
 - condition our actions
 - determine our **choices** and goals

Views & Choices

“There is no single factor so responsible for the arising of unwholesome states of mind as wrong view, and no factor so helpful for the arising of wholesome states of mind as right view”

“There is no single factor so responsible for the suffering of living beings as wrong view, and no factor so potent in promoting the good of living beings as right view”

- AN 1:16.2

Mundane Right View

- Right view of the ownership of actions (kammassakata sammaditthi)
- "Beings are the owners of their actions, the heirs of their actions; they spring from their actions, are bound to their actions, and are supported by their actions. Whatever deeds they do, good or bad, of those they shall be heirs."

Kamma

- "Monks, it is **volition** that I call action (kamma). Having willed, one performs an action through body, speech, or mind."
- Begins in the mind, expresses through mental, verbal and bodily actions.
- Wholesome (kusala) and unwholesome (akusala) kamma
 - "When a noble disciple understands what is kammically unwholesome, and the root of unwholesome kamma, what is kammically wholesome, and the root of wholesome kamma, then he has right view."

Wholesome and Unwholesome

Wholesome

- Morally commendable
- Helpful to spiritual growth, and
- Productive of benefits for oneself and others

Unwholesome

- Morally blameworthy
- Detrimental to spiritual development, and
- Conducive to suffering for oneself and others

10 Types of Actions

Wholesome

1. Preservation of life
2. Generosity / charity
3. Right conduct in senses
4. Truthful speech
5. Harmonious speech
6. Gentle speech
7. Non-idle speech
8. Non-covetousness
9. Non-ill will
10. Right View

Unwholesome

1. Destroying life
2. Taking what is not given
3. Sexual misconduct
4. False speech
5. Slanderous speech
6. Harsh speech
7. Idle speech
8. Covetousness
9. Ill Will
10. Wrong view

Roots (mula) of Action

- Thoughts → action
- Right thoughts dependent on right view
- Right view → Right thoughts (non-greed [alobha], non-hatred [adosa], non-delusion [amoha]) → Right actions
- Kamma is wholesome or unwholesome according to whether its roots are wholesome or unwholesome

Summary

- The types of view we hold determine the types of thoughts we generate, which ultimately determines our choices & actions
- Right view → Right intention (thought) → Right action → wholesome results