

Noble Eightfold Path

In

Early Buddhism

View



Perspective...

- Right View, *sammādiṭṭhi*
- Right Intention, *sammāsaṅkappo*
- Right Speech, *sammāvācā*
- Right Action, *sammākammanto*
- Right Livelihood, *sammāājīvo*
- Right Effort, *sammāvāyāmo*
- Right Mindfulness, *sammāsati*
- Right Stillness, *sammāsamādhi*

Right View

- Before we can set foot into the path we have to start with right view.

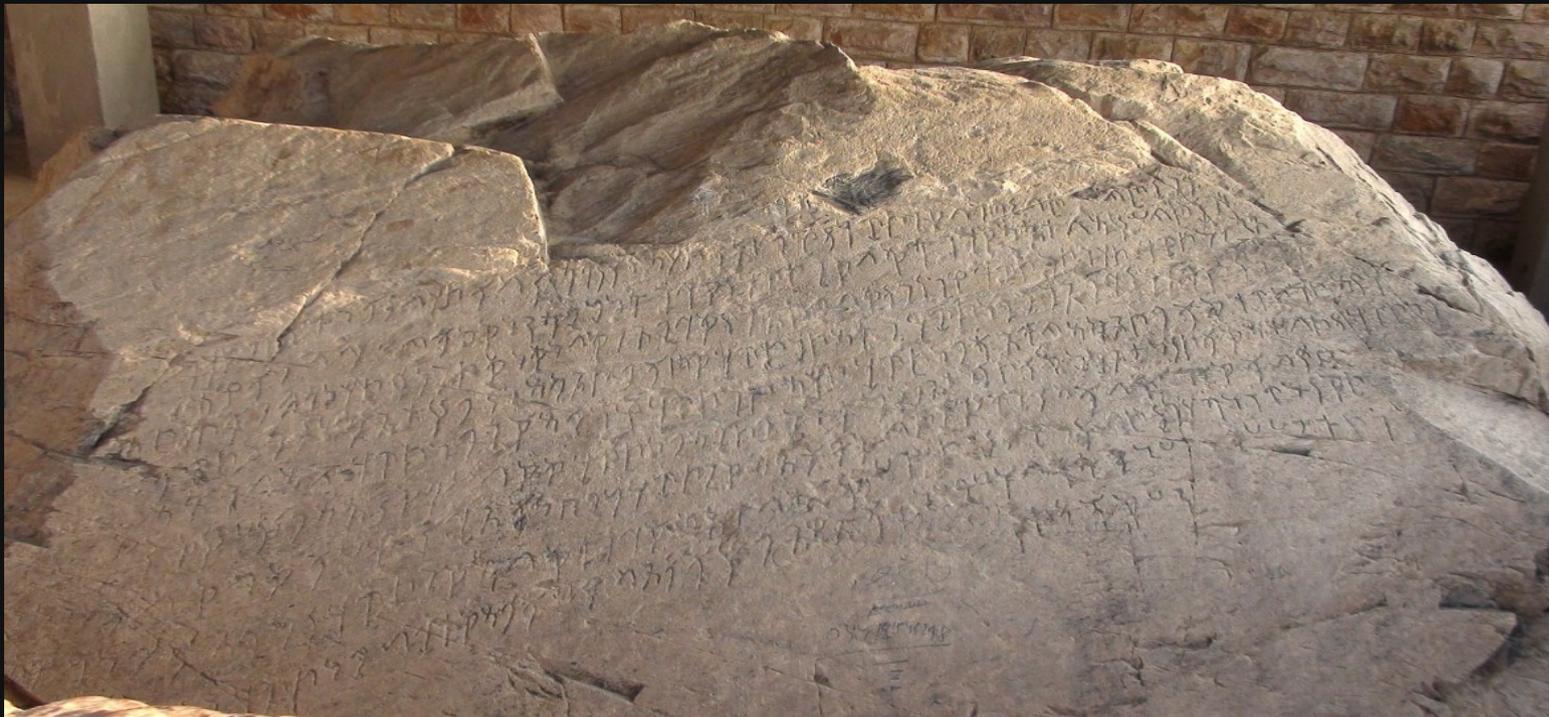
If we just get into a car and start driving we won't get into our destination.



Right View

- Every religion has “the right view”?
- Would you go to war because of Buddhism?

Emperor Ashoka had rock edicts inscribed at various sites across his kingdom



“The king ... honours all religious sects ... with gifts and with honours of various kinds...

Whoever praises their own sect or blames another's sect out of devotion to their own sect with a view to showing it in a good light, instead severely damages their own sect.

Coming together is good, so that people should both hear and appreciate each other's teaching.” (Major Rock Edict 12)

Which religion is right

Whichever produces most:

- Peace
- Harmony / understanding
- Freedom
- Love
- It has to work in real world

Right View

It is understanding the 4NT.

But it is not enough just to listen the Dhamma. You also need to:

- learn
- memorise
- analyse / reflect
- discuss

By experimenting with N8P we understand the 4NT.

How do you know what is Right?

View is just a map:

- A map doesn't have to be perfect, it just has to get you there.
- It has to lead to stillness, harmony, disappearing of problems.

Take all of the teachings like hypotheses, don't just believe them.

“Better than a thousand useless words is one useful word, hearing which one attains peace”. (Dhp 100)

Right view of 4NT

Should give us a realistic cause of suffering:

- The cause is not outside ourselves.
- Greed, hatred, delusion.

Up to us to practise the N8P.

Right view will grow and straighten:

Irrigators regulate the rivers;

Fletchers straighten the arrow shaft;

Carpenters shape the wood;

The wise control themselves. (Dhp 80)

Definition of right view

“And what is right view? Knowledge of suffering, knowledge of the origin of suffering, knowledge of the end of suffering, knowledge of the way leading to the end of suffering.”

(SN 45.8)

Knowledge of suffering

Rebirth is suffering;

Old age is suffering;

Illness is suffering;

Death is suffering;

Association with the disliked is suffering;

Separation from the liked is suffering;

Not getting what you wish for is suffering.

In brief, the five aspects of personality affected by grasping are suffering.

Knowledge of the cause of suffering

It's the craving that leads to future rebirth, mixed up with relishing and greed, taking pleasure here and there.

That is, craving for worldly pleasures, craving to continue existence, and craving to end existence.

Knowledge of the end of suffering

It's the fading away and end of that very same craving with nothing left over; giving it away, letting it go, releasing it, and not adhering to it.

Knowledge of the path leading to the end of suffering

Right view, right intention,
right speech, right action,
right livelihood, right effort,
right mindfulness, and
right stillness.

Alternative definition of right view

“There is meaning in giving, sacrifice, offerings.

There are fruits and results of good and bad deeds.

There is an afterlife.

There is obligation to mother and father.

There are beings reborn spontaneously.

And there are ascetics and brahmins who are well attained and practised, and who describe the afterlife after realising it with their own insight.” (MN 41)