

Interpreting Ashoka's Edicts

	Edict	Interpretation	Category	Why we put the edict in this category.
A	"On the road,... trees have been planted for the enjoyment of animals and men. I have had ponds dug and shelters built along the roads. Everywhere I have had wells dug..."		Buddhist Values General Well Being Justice Security	
B	"It is good to be obedient to one's mother and father, friends and relatives. It is good not only to spend little but to also own the minimum amount of property."		Buddhist Values General Well Being Justice Security	
C	"My officers have been appointed for the safety and happiness of the people. I have given them authority in judgment & punishment. It is desirable that there should be uniformity in the judicial process."		Buddhist Values General Well Being Justice Security	
D	"The world and the other world, the world after death, are hard to gain without great love of Righteousness, great self-examination, great obedience, great effort."		Buddhist Values General Well Being Justice	

			Security	
E	"If the unconquered peoples on my border ask what is my will, they should understand this: I desire that they should trust me and have only happiness in their dealings with me."		Buddhist Values General Well Being Justice Security	
F	"This has been engraved, so that the officials of the city should see to it that no one is ever imprisoned or tortured without good cause. To ensure this, I will send out on a tour of inspection once every five years officers who are not fierce or harsh."		Buddhist Values General Well Being Justice Security	
G	"There is no gift comparable to the gift of Dharma, and this is: good behavior toward slaves and servants, obedience toward parents, generosity toward friends, acquaintances, and relatives... and abstention from killing living beings."		Buddhist Values General Well Being Justice Security	
H	"Everywhere, I, Ashoka, King Priyadarsi, Beloved of the Gods, have arranged for two kinds of medical treatment: medical treatment for men, and medical treatment for animals."		Buddhist Values General Well Being Justice Security	

I	"Men who are sentenced to death are to be given three days' respite. Thus, their relations may plead for their lives, or men may make donations or undertake a fast for a better rebirth in the next life."		Buddhist Values General Well Being Justice Security	
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