

Ethics – the criterion for what is ethical

The only truly spiritual measure of moral actions is whether or not they lead to nirvana, or at least contribute to the basis upon which nirvana is attained: that is, whether or not they are performed out of a conscious concern for others as well as for oneself. Another way of putting this is simply to say that a truly virtuous action is its own reward. What better incentive for cultivating a generous, open state of mind than knowing it will lead to even more positive states, and ultimately to Enlightenment? If... your skilful states of mind result in wealth and prosperity, there is no harm done, but such material rewards can only be a by-product of truly skilful behaviour, not its *raison d'etre*.

Sangharakshita, *Living Ethically*, p.24

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