



# **BUDDHIST DICTIONARY**

## **VIETNAMESE-ENGLISH**

By **Thiên Phúc Trần Ngọc**

### **Entries Related to Vegetarianism**

**Trai Nhật** : Vegetarian Day.

In Buddhism, ideally speaking, Buddhists should be lifetime vegetarians; however, this [might be or] is very difficult for [some] lay people. So certain days out of each month are denoted as a day not to eat meat. The reason behind this is simple. The Buddha taught that each sentient being, including animals, values life, so not to eat meat is to practice being compassionate. Vegetarian Days of the month are the first, the fourteenth, the fifteenth, and the thirtieth lunar calendar.

**Trung Giới Nhi (Mà) Phàm Phu Tán Thán Như Lai** : According to the Brahmajala Sutta in the Long Discourses of the Buddha, ordinary people often praise the Tathagata for these average matters:

- 1) Whereas, some ascetics and Brahmins, feeding on the food of the faithful, are addicted to the destruction of such seeds as are propagated from roots, from stems, from joints, from cuttings, from seeds, the ascetic Gotama refrains from such destruction.
- 2) Whereas some ascetics and Brahmins, feeding on the food of the faithful, remain addicted to the enjoyment of stored-up goods such as food, drink, clothing, carriage, beds, perfumes, meat, the ascetic Gotama refrains from such enjoyment.
- 3) Whereas some ascetics and Brahmins remain addicted to attending such shows as dancing, singing, music, displays, recitations, hand-music, cymbals and drums, fairy shows, acrobatic and conjuring tricks, combats of elephants, buffaloes, bulls, goats, rams, cocks and quail, fighting with staves, boxing, wrestling, sham-fights, parades, manoeuvres and military reviews, the ascetic Gotama refrains from such displays.
- 4) Whereas some ascetics and Brahmins remain addicted to such games and idle pursuits as eight-or ten-row chess, chess in the air, hopscotch, spillikins, dicing, hitting sticks, hand-pictures, ball-games, blowing through toy pipes, playing with toy ploughs, turning somersaults, playing with toy windmills, measures, carriages and bows, guessing letters, guessing thoughts, mimicking deformities, the ascetic Gotama refrains from such idle pursuit.
- 5) Whereas some ascetics and Brahmins remain addicted to high and wide beds and long chairs, couches adorned with animal figures, fleecy or variegated coverlets, coverlets with hair on both sides or one side, silk coverlets, embroidered with gems or without,

elephant-rugs, horse-rugs, or chariot-rugs, choice spreads of antelope-hide, couches with awnings, or with red cushions at both ends, the ascetics Gotama refrains from such high and wide beds.

- 6) Whereas some ascetics and Brahmins remain addicted to such forms of self-adornment and embellishment as rubbing the body with perfumes, massaging, bathing in scented water, shampooing, using mirrors, ointments, garlands, scents, unguents, cosmetics, bracelets, headbands, fancy sticks, bottles, swords, sunshades, decorated sandals, turbans, gems, yak-tail fans, long-fringed white robes, the ascetic Gotama refrains from such self-adornment.
- 7) Whereas some ascetics and Brahmins remain addicted to such unedifying conversation as about kings, robbers, ministers, armies, dangers, wars, food, drink, clothes, beds, garlands, perfumes, relatives, carriages, villages, towns, and cities, countries, women, heroes, street gossip and well gossip, talk of the departed, desultory chat, speculations about land and sea, talk about being and non-being, the ascetic Gotama refrains from such conversation.
- 8) Whereas some ascetics and Brahmins remain addicted to disputation such as: 'You don't understand this doctrine and discipline – I do!' 'How could you understand this doctrine and discipline?' 'Your way is all wrong – Mine is right!' 'I am consistent-- you aren't!' 'You said last what you have said first, and you said first what you should have said last!' 'What you took so long to think up has been refuted!' 'Your argument has been overthrown, you're defeated!' 'Go on, save your doctrine – get out of that if you can!' The ascetic Gotama refrains from such disputation.
- 9) Whereas some ascetics and Brahmins remain addicted to such things as running errands and messages, such as for kings, ministers, nobles, Brahmins, householders and young men who say: "Go here – go there! Take this there–bring that from there!" The ascetic Gotama refrains from such errand-running.
- 10) Whereas some ascetics and Brahmins remain addicted to deception, patter, hinting, belittling, and are always on the make for further gains, the ascetic Gotama refrains from such deception.

**Trai:** Uposatha in Skt. means abstinence or to purify by fasting, latter Uposatha means the ritual period for food, eating at or before noon; latter Uposatha has further meaning of abstinence from meat and fish.