Service and Sacrifice

The Basis of Liberation from Suffering
Three Factors

1. Death

2. Birth

3. Sacrifice

Jesus:

“If any will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” - Matthew 16:24
Three Factors

Synthesis of Buddhism:

“Commit not a single unwholesome action, cultivate a wealth of virtue, tame this mind of ours; this is the teaching of all the buddhas.”

The Three Grounds:

- **bhavana:** cultivation of “mind” / consciousness
- **dana:** generosity, giving
- **sila:** virtue, morality, purity
SERVICE

c.1100, “celebration of public worship,” from Old French servise, from Latin servitium “slavery, servitude,” from servus “slave”

Sanskrit: देवा Seva, used in Karma Yoga. “service, devotion, worship, reverence, sexual intercourse”
SACRIFICE

from Old French sacrifise (12c.), from Latin sacrificium, from sacrificus “performing priestly functions or sacrifices,” from sacra “sacred rites” (properly neuter plural of sacer “sacred”) + root of facere “to do, perform”

Hebrew זבח: zabach nm. “sacrifice, offering; feast; slaughter.” v. “to sacrifice, slaughter; slay, kill”
All whosoever who are happy in the world
Are (so) through the wish for the happiness of others;
While all whosoever who are miserable in the world
Are (so) through the wish for the happiness of themselves.

But what need is there to elaborate more?
Just look at the difference between the two:
An infantile person acting for his own self-aims
And Sage (Buddha) acting for the aims of others.

- Bodhisattvacharyavatara by Shantideva
Three forces create life, through:

- 1. Death
- 2. Birth
- 3. Sacrifice
“Action does indeed bind the Self except when done as sacrifice; So action must be consecrated, offered to Deity high above.

“When beings came from Creator He ordained all to sacrifice; By sacrifice are worlds sustained And by it everyone does live.”
INRI

Ignis naturae
renevatur integra
“Things exist through all other things, all things are knit with all others, so that the being of a thing is contribution by others.

“No one exists independently as all are, also all others, thus existence of anything is sacrifice by other things.”
“All is, then, sacrifice alone,
As Yajna known, the holy deed
One does belongs wholly
To everyone and everything.”

- Bhagavad-gita
Yajna

यज Sanskrit; “Sacrifice, fire, worship, offering, praise, prayer, devotion.” From:

ya य: “light, wind, carriage, mover, joiner”

jna ज: “consciousness, knowledge, understanding, knowing, wise, having a soul, thinking soul, planet Mars, planet Mercury”
Prajna

प्रज्ञा Sanskrit; the highest paramita.

“Intelligence, wisdom, awareness.” From:

pra य: “before”

jna ज: “consciousness, knowledge, or understanding.” “intelligent, knowing, wise, having a soul, thinking soul, planet Mars, planet Mercury”
Generosity

1. **Dana** दान

2. Sila: Ethics, morality, discipline.

3. Kshanti: Patience

4. Virya: Energy, diligence

5. Dhyana: Concentration

6. Prajna: Wisdom

**Three Types**

1. to give the teachings that liberate the consciousness from suffering

2. to give fearlessness, protection

3. to give material things
“The world is bound by actions other than those performed for the sake of sacrifice; do thou, therefore, O son of Kunti, perform action for that sake (for sacrifice) alone, free from attachment!” - Bhagavad-gita