

Worshipping the Six Directions

The Reciprocal Social Responsibilities

I. *The Eastern Direction*

- A. Children worship the *eastern* direction in relation to parents. They should:
1. support them
 2. perform their duties for them
 3. keep up the family tradition (e.g., maintain charities they supported)
 4. be worthy of their inheritance
 5. after their deaths, offer gifts in memory of them.
- B. Parents, showing compassion to their children:
1. restrain them from evil
 2. encourage them to do good
 3. teach them some skill
 4. find a suitable marriage partner for them
 5. in due time, give them their inheritance.

II. *The Southern Direction*

- A. Pupils worship the *southern* direction in relation to teachers:
1. by rising to greet them
 2. by waiting on them
 3. by being attentive
 4. by serving them
 5. by mastering the subjects they teach.
- B. Teachers, showing compassion to their pupils:
1. give them thorough instruction
 2. make sure they have understood their subject
 3. explain all aspects of their craft
 4. introduce them to their friends and colleagues
 5. provide them protection in all quarters.

III. *The Western Direction*

- A. A husband worships the *western* direction in relation to his wife:
1. by honoring her
 2. by not disparaging her
 3. by being faithful to her
 4. by relinquishing authority to her
 5. by providing her with ornaments.
- B. A wife, showing compassion to her husband:
1. properly arranges her work
 2. shows hospitality to his relatives
 3. is faithful to him
 4. protects his earnings
 5. is skillful and diligent in all her tasks.

IV. *The Northern Direction*

- A. A friend worships the *northern* direction in relation to his friends and colleagues:
1. by gifts
 2. by kindly speech
 3. by promoting their well-being
 4. by treating them like himself or herself
 5. by being truthful and not misleading them.
- B. The friends and colleagues, showing compassion to a friend:
1. protects them when they are heedless
 2. looks after their property and belongings when they are heedless
 3. serves as a refuge when they are afraid
 4. does not desert them when they are in trouble
 5. shows concern for their children.

V. *The Nadir*

- A. An employer worships the *nadir* in relation to his workers:
1. by assigning them work according to their ability
 2. by providing them with food and wages
 3. by looking after them when they are ill
 4. by sharing special foods with them
 5. by giving them vacations at a suitable time.
- B. The workers, showing compassion to their employer:
1. get up before him
 2. retire at night after him
 3. take only what they are given
 4. do their work properly
 5. uphold his good reputation.

VI. *The Zenith*

- A. A householder worships the *zenith* in relation to ascetics and brahmins:
1. by doing work for them with loving-kindness
 2. by speaking to them with loving-kindness
 3. by thinking of them with loving-kindness
 4. by opening their doors to them
 5. by supplying their material needs.
- B. Ascetics and brahmins, showing compassion to householders:
1. restrain them from evil
 2. encourage them to do good
 3. are compassionately benevolent towards them
 4. teach them what they have not learned before
 5. improve their knowledge of what they have learned
 5. point out the path to heaven.