

LESSON 08 VOW OF LIMITED NON-STEALING (STHOOL ADATTÁDÁNA VIRAMANA VRATA)

The third vow is not to take any gross item which is not given. It is called stealing.

Stealing is not good at any time and house holder must remember that. The bigger or grosser the stealing more will be the passions and under this vow those must be stopped. The stealing is taking other people's property without the consent of the owner. The gross form is when the things taken are considered valuable by its owner. But, we must remember no matter gross or small stealing, any stealing brings karmas. So

Stealing could be of various natures like taking something from someone's house, storage house, highway robbery, by opening someone's lock, or keeping lost property of someone else. We are warned never to buy stolen property, to encourage stealing, to smuggle or to encourage smuggling or to evade tax, not to use false weights or measures, to adulterate goods or to sell wrong goods. Still some more forms are robbery, burglary, aggravated burglary, shoplifting, pick-pocketing, embezzlement, misappropriation of funds, ripping off, pilfering documents, copying someone else's data, games, music, videos, taking someone else's identity, plagiarism etc.

For whatever reasons, lapses may happen to observe this vow. The following are common examples:

- 1) Buying stolen goods.
- 2) Encouraging the act of stealing and giving shelter to thieves.
- 3) Evading taxes and breaking laws or smuggling goods or supplying an enemy with goods in time of war
- 4) Keeping false weights and measures and wrong balances in business
- 5) Counterfeiting the currency or adulteration of commodities.

The result of the observance of this vow is that you will be trusted and you will earn respect in the community.

If we steal then we accumulate bad karmas and when they mature we may not get wealth enough to eat and may have to be dependent on others for maintenance and life can be miserable.