



## **ASOKA'S PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNANCE**

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1. In governance, “you must strive to deal (with them) impartially.
2. “For you are occupied with many thousands of men, with the object of gaining the affection of men.
3. All men are my children.
4. As on behalf of ( my own) children I desire that they may be provided with complete welfare and happiness in this world and in the other world, the same I desire also on behalf of [all] men.”
5. “For I consider it my duty (to promote) the welfare of all men.
6. For no duty is more important than (promoting) the welfare of all men.”
7. No harsh treatment to people.
8. The officers should be, ‘neither fierce nor harsh,’ but of ‘gentle actions.’
9. No undeserved/ no fettering of prisoners
10. Practice of morality is most important in governance “But the practice of morality also is not possible for ( a person) devoid of good conduct.”
- 11.“But one fails to act (thus) on account of the following dispositions: envy, anger, cruelty, hurry, want of practice, laziness (and) fatigue.
- 12.(You) must strive for this that these dispositions may not arise to you.
- 13.And the root of all these is the absence of anger and the avoidance of hurry.”
- 14.‘Unshakable’ ‘ resolution and vow’
- 15.Medical treatment for men and cattle.

16. "This rescript on morality has been caused to be written on the Khopingala mountain by king Devanampriya Priyadarsin.
17. Here no living being must be killed and sacrificed.
18. And also no festival meeting must be held.
19. For king Devanampriya Priyadarsin sees much evil in festival meetings.
20. But there are also some festival meetings which are considered meritorious by king Devanampriya Priyadarsin.
21. Formerly in the kitchen of king Devanampriya Priyadarsin many hundred thousands of animals were killed daily for the sake of curry.
22. But now, when this rescript on morality is written, only three animals are being killed (daily), (viz.) two peacocks (and) one deer, but even this deer not regularly.
23. But even these three animals shall not be killed in future."
24. "—everywhere [two (kinds of) medical treatment were established] by king Devanampriya Priyadarsin, (viz.) medical treatment [for men] and medical treatment for cattle.
25. Wherever there were no herbs that are beneficial to men and beneficial to cattle, everywhere they were caused to be imported and to be planted.
26. Wherever there were no roots and [fruits], everywhere they were caused to be imported and to be planted.
27. On the roads wells were caused to be dug, and trees were caused to be planted for the use of [cattle and men]." ( Source: E.Hultzch, Inscriptions of Asoka, , 1925. )