

ADMINISTRATOR'S TACTICS*

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The purpose of this article is to stimulate the interest of officials in applying Buddhism in the practice of public administration.

The following text came from "Vidhura Jadok" (one of the stories of the incarnations of the Lord Buddha) in the tenth part of "Mahanibat Jadok". The scripture said that the King of Kuru had a very learned man at his court named Vidhura. It is said that he taught sons and daughters and relatives of civil servants the following:

1. A new civil servant with no fame and recognition should neither be too bold nor too timid otherwise it will be damageous to the job.
2. A civil servant should be careful and heedful. If his superior knowing his conduct, intelligence, and honesty would become intimate and trustful.
3. Whenever called to duty by the superior, carry on the job with honesty and without prejudice.
4. Prompt attention should be given to the assignment with no complaint.
5. Despite His Majesty's consent, his subjects must not walk on the carpet laid to be the royal path.
6. Don't use the same things possessed by the King or superiors, nor eat what the King or superiors eat. Be humble in every way.
7. Don't be presumptuous and make oneself equal to one's superior.
8. Whenever the King is enjoying the company of his officials and consorts, the King's servants should not act in friendly manners with any of these people, they must be modest and discreet.
9. The King's servants should not befriend with the King's ladies-in-waiting.
10. Affairs of the state should not be conducted in secrecy or privacy.
11. Don't steal the King's treasure.
12. Don't be tempted to engage in personal comfort such as sleeping.
13. Don't drink too excess.

* Summary of ราชวสดีธรรม-หลักปฏิบัติที่ราชการ

14. Don't kill animals pardoned by the King.
 15. Do not be arrogant because of one's rank and become presumptuous to the King by sharing his seats.
 16. When having an audience with the King, sit within his sight and hearing.
 17. Do not forget oneself when the King or superiors wish to befriend.
 18. If appointed the King's councillor do not become arrogant nor proud to the King or superiors.
 19. Despite permission to enter the royal palace, prior request at entrance should be made every time.
 20. Whenever the King favours his son or any royal family member by granting the right of possession over the land, estate or to be the head of any state, do not express any immediate support or objection to that royal decision.
 21. Whenever the King wishes to extend any promotion or granting reward to any one, consider thoroughly before interfering.
 22. Do not be influenced by greed and do not irritate your superiors or fellows with your talking.
 23. Do not spend the nation's budget extravagantly and lavishly.
 24. Always maintain administrative duty and do not violate the law.
 25. Do not be too fond of being in the company of female because it will spoil your record and alter your progress.
 26. Do not be too talkative or be speechless.
 27. Whenever your speech is required, be discreet. See that your talking is clear and expressive, and be silent at the right moment.
 28. Public servants should have endurance and calmness, not be provoked easily or tend to use sarcastic words.
 29. Be sincere and keep your words, be soft spoken and do not hurt anybody or provoke disintegration of the unit.
 30. Respect your elders and support your parents in old age.
 31. Be ashamed of wrong doings and immoral conducts and befriend members of the family.
 32. Be modest and always have pleasant manners.
 33. Be tactful in accomplishing assignment and do it promptly and effectively.
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34. Be well-trained in self control, be strong but polite and not proud and aggressive, be firm and untempted to all earthly temptation.

35. Be diligent in carrying out duty as public servants.

36. Be honest and stay clean in performing functions.

37. Estimate yourself and don't overstep your status.

38. Be humble, modest and respect your superiors.

39. Keep away from spies and foreign agents, stay loyal to your King and nation.

40. Seek company of learned and religious men and instill their goodness and wisdom.

41. Do not destroy but maintain the royal custom in giving alms and don't undertake any interference when the King wishes to give alms to the poor.

42. Be wise, educated and know how to behave according to the time and place and have good judgement.

43. Be diligent in duty performance, do not be careless and negligent and use the best mean to achieve an end.

44. Always inspect the farm, livestock and storage of the crops and estimate the family budget.

45. Do not favour any family member who misbehaves but praise, support and reward good servants.

46. Public servants should have modesty, honesty, and righteousness.

47. Public servants must get acquainted with the King's royal family's likings and always do as told and never go against their wills.

48. The King's attendants cannot react whatsoever in spite of their tempers.

49. Worship His Majesty because he is a learned man and is the only one who grants.

While it is true that these precepts are out dated, certain adaptations when in good taste will still produce a good deal of benefit to officials. The author wishes that all officials should heed these suggestions.
