

Hi. I'm Nayaka, and I'm the centre director here at Dhanakosa. The retreat centre is of course empty as we are currently in week three of the lockdown because of the COVID-19 outbreak. Of course, at the moment we still don't know how long this is going to last for or what the long term affect is going to be. Having no retreats also means that we have lost over 90% of our income stream and it is currently costing about £800 a day to meet all the basic running costs of the centre that we still have to meet. We will be working to drive that cost down to £600 a day and may have to drive down it even further if the current situation persists for more than a few months. But just like everyone else, we must carefully manage the benefits of cost savings with the damage done by excess austerity.

However, it will end, travel restrictions will be lifted, and we are confident that we will be here for you when they are. So, hold that thought... you will be able to go on retreat again and benefit from everything that a retreat community has to offer. Not only that, we will be here with the Dana economy. The financial model we have been working with for the last 28 years, which allows people to come on retreat whatever their financial circumstances. Because we pay for Dhanakosa by asking people to make a donation to the future running of the centre rather than by charging them a fixed rate for their retreat the cost of running Dhanakosa is spread more according to people's ability to pay, rather than through the concept of a market based transaction. By working in this way we keep Dhanakosa open to as many people as possible, and not exclusive. Once you have paid your booking fee, all we ask for is a donation.

We know that by the time this situation lifts, we will have sunk a sizable chunk of our reserves into keeping going. We also know that we will not be the only ones who are feeling the pinch economically. It is important to us that we are still be here for you, whatever your financial circumstance. Being on retreat is a unique opportunity to connect more deeply with our own humanity. To see ourselves more clearly, as we really are. And, an opportunity to resource ourselves for the difficulties inevitable in life. We want to make sure that as many people as possible are still able to share this place with us, and benefit from the opportunity of being on retreat. As we all know, the human suffering in the current situation will extend well beyond the loss of life, and well past the end of restrictions. The need for retreat space, and opportunities to untangle the confusion of this experience will be greater than ever.

In the meantime, of course we are trying to keep alive something of the feeling retreats and connection with the Dharma through our free online programme, Facebook groups, and YouTube and judging by the feedback we are getting these resources and this sense of connection is being greatly appreciated by many.

So, here is the ask. The economic impact of this will hit all of us. But it will hit people differently. If you are able to share a bit of what you have with us to help us through this period that will help enormously. It will help us be there for you and others once restrictions are lifted. It will help make this a place that people who have lost their livelihoods can come to, as well as somewhere for people who have managed to preserve them. It helps us share what we have, with everyone, as freely as possible. Dhanakosa has always been an opportunity to share. At this time, this attitude is more important than ever.

So, please consider giving some money to Dhanakosa. The easiest way to give is through the link below either using your own pay-pall account if you have one, or by card. Or of course you could phone the office to make a donation directly. £30 roughly covers the cost of someone's food for a week. £300 goes a good way to covering the apportioned basic overheads for someone who cannot afford to contribute. But, anything is appreciated, as it all helps.

So, Thankyou for your support and time in listening to this. And of course, we are looking forward to opening our doors again in the not too distant future.

In the meantime, may you go well in the weeks and months ahead.

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