

# Dharma.direct: note for prospective authors

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The allocation of the *dāna* pool is based on weighted readership, and described [here](#).

However, authorship on Dharma.direct is *not* limited to exchanging some relevant content for some *dāna*.

A foundational idea behind Dharma.direct is that membership gives *direct access* to senior practitioners and teachers, in the idea of supportive “admirable friends” (*kalyāṇa-mittatā*).

While it is acknowledged that authors are *not* “selling” a service (with the contractual commitment of a well-defined counterparty for a given price), there still are expectations on authors.

*Dāna* is given by members in the idea of *mutual support* (cf. Iti 107). Ideally, such *mutual support* between practitioners at different stages of the Path is a long shared journey, not a one-off occurrence. Moreover, seniority in the practice suggests serious acquaintance with “right effort” (*sammā-vāyāma*) as well as with “diligence” (*virīya*) and “forbearance” (*khanti*). Authors are therefore expected to lead by example, thus expected *not* to limit their ‘support’ to providing a text and then abandoning it for the lone crowd to chew on it.

The authors of articles featured in the magazine are thus requested to join Dharma.direct *and* to engage with the community (checking in twice a week or more, for the duration their article is featured).

Members can ‘tag’ other members in comments... In particular, readers can ‘tag’ the authors themselves, to seek further explanations or guidance, and it is expected authors would attempt to unravel any confusion, to provide references if need be, etc., *in relation to the article* (unless the reader displays a manifest, disingenuous desire to ‘win’ an argument over a desire to learn; or unless the question is unrelated to the article *per se*).

Readers are also free to express disagreement, but authors are under *no obligation* to answer that; Dharma.direct aims to be a place for transmission, for sharing, for learning... not for *ad hominem* attacks, nor for further splits in the *saṅgha*. You’re invited to explain, to convince, to transmit, but not to fight nor to defend (although you can too, if you so wish).

At its core, Dharma.direct aims to correct a flaw seen in most magazines, where renowned authors regularly make appearances... in one-way communications, in order to push their new book or their next retreat. The celebrity culture might help sell magazines, but Dharma.direct is not sold...

Mentioning a recent book or a retreat, including your own, is perfectly acceptable in Dharma.direct, but hit-and-run, one-way ‘broadcasts’ are not: engagement with the members, to ensure that the curious has indeed understood your teachings, is a moral imperative.

If you’re willing to dispel ignorance or confusion only when it’s convenient for you to do so, then authorship in Dharma.direct isn’t for you! On the contrary, if the above makes sense and resonates with you, and you wish to transmit the Buddhist *Dharma*, then please let us know about it at [contact@dharma.direct](mailto:contact@dharma.direct) (whether you have a specific article in mind, or not... In the latter case, we might suggest some theme).

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