

The Meaning and Purpose of Transferring Merits

We must understand the meaning of transferring, it refers to “turn around and head to the destination.” All the merits we accrued, what do we do with them? We use them as the provision for going to Sukhāvātī. We do everything only for this cause, not seeking comfort and fortune at the present time. We also try our best to share the fortune that we have accrued with all beings; for instance when we have money, we do not enjoy it for our own pleasure but offer it to all beings, to safeguard and propagate true Dharma. Wherever the suffering beings are, we will help them, this is “to share with all beings.”

Do not worry, “what do I do if I give out this money and do not have money later?” Having this kind of thought attests that you do not have utmost sincerity. You still think of yourself and do not “transfer all good roots wholeheartedly.” Transferring merits is not transferring to ourselves but to all beings and to bodhi. This bodhi refers to “being reborn into Sukhāvātī.”

A Grand Heart Brings About the Freedom and Ease Financially

Honestly speaking, the more you give, the more you get. As the saying goes, “The bigger your heart, the greater fortune you will have”. Look at our revered Shifu, he has a grand heart thus his fortune is also plentiful. His fortune is now just like *The Sutra of Ten Virtuous Deeds to Bodhi* describes, “Having freedom and ease financially.” Basically, it means whatever he wants to do, the money will come. There will be people helping him. He does not have to do it by himself, yet everything can be accomplished.

Venerable Wu Xing often mentioned this example: Ten years ago, Shifu went to Bangkok, Thailand to participate in a UNESCO conference. At that time, the Prime Minister of Thailand, General Chavalli and his wife, both devout Buddhists, offered Shifu a meal at their home. They are very devout, each dish was served by someone with a kneeling posture. Everyone talked happily during the meal.

After eating, the Prime Minister's wife said that she had to go to sing at a TV station. Why sing? For fundraising. That year happened to be the 50th birthday of the Thai prince, and General Chavalli wanted to build a Sangha hospital for him by fundraising. Thailand is a Buddhist country. In Buddhist countries, especially the countries of Theravada, there are many monks who uphold precepts very strictly. It is inconvenient for any female nurses of a general hospital to take care of them. General Chavalli thus brought forth the aspiration to build a Sangha Hospital, where male nurses would specifically be hired to treat and care for these monks.

What did their fundraising rely on? It relied on singing. As a dignified prime minister's wife, she still needed to sing. Shifu asked, "How much have you raised?" They answered, "We have already raised 500 thousand US dollars." "How much more is needed?" "Two million." Shifu said, "You do not need to sing. I'll take care of this two million dollars." At that time, Venerable Wu Xing was also there, he immediately pulled the corner of Shifu's robe. He thought Shifu had heard it wrong and confused US dollars with Thai Baht. He said, "Shifu, this is two million US dollars!" But, what is said cannot be unsaid. There was no other way.

After the meal, Shifu asked, "Go take a look, is there enough money in our account?" Shifu was concerned about money only after he made a promise. The Venerables had no choice but called to ask in frustration. As a result, the news quickly spread to a great Dharma guardian's ears. Upon hearing this news, he thought, "Shifu wants to help build this hospital; it is a good thing, let me fulfill it." The two million US dollars was wired to the fundraising account in three days.

Look! Any good thing Shifu wants to do, as long as he gives rise to a thought, someone will give the offering. Basically, it is like the enjoyment of the Heaven of Paranirmita-Vasavartin, the sixth of six heavens of the desire-realm where one partakes in the pleasures created by the celestial beings of Nirmāarati Heaven, the fifth of the six heavens of the desire-realm where every form of joy is attainable at will.

Fortune Is a Must in a Turbulent World

Our Shifu of course does not request money for his own pleasure but for helping all beings. Whatever he thinks of, money comes to him. Incredibly, he will have whatever is needed, just the right amount, neither too much nor too little. This can then be called "people with great fortune." You may ask whether he has money or not. He does not. But the money will appear when needed. So, we do not necessarily need money, but we must have fortune. People with fortune do not always have money, yet people with money do not always have fortune.

Nowadays, society is in turmoil, and there are many disasters. We must cultivate fortune as much as possible. When we have fortune; wherever we go, we will always have blessings, not disasters. Without fortune, it is useless to have so much money. When disasters really **strike**, you can neither eat nor drink money. A big pile of money will be just like wastepaper. What can we do with it? Why don't we use it to cultivate fortune? With this concept, we should not enjoy fortune for ourselves but share it with all beings. When we do so, our fortune will grow bigger and bigger because fortune is proportional with our heart.

We also don't need to worry "what do I do if I do not have the ability to do the good things we wish to do?" Do not be afraid! Just wholeheartedly do it. When we reach a certain point, our fortune will induce more people to help us. It can facilitate us to accomplish great undertakings. Of course, accomplishing a good thing is also due to the fortune of all beings. All

we need is to do it wholeheartedly, we do not need to worry of gain, loss, success, or failure. To do it wholeheartedly is already a consummate merit. It does not matter if we accomplish it or not. It is a good thing if we are able to accomplish it due to all beings having this fortune. Yet it is not our fault if we are unable to accomplish it due to all beings' fortune not being sufficient. We feel regret yet must continue to cultivate fortune for all beings. So, we must keep our effort to practice earnestly.

Bravely Undertaking a Mission

On Tomb Sweeping Day, 2012, in Hong Kong, we held a Three Yearning Ceremony of 12,000 people for world-protection and disaster-relief. Why did we gather so many people? This is the discovery of quantum scientists. They have a formula: If 1% of the square root of seven billion world population, which is about 8,000 people, congregate their power of mind together to eradicate evilness and cultivate goodness, using their utmost sincerity and imperative heart to pray for the world—in Buddhism, we use reciting Amitabha to transfer merits—it can resolve the karmic disasters of the seven billion population of our world. That is why we need participation on such a big scale.

The result was wondrous. It was perfect from the beginning to the end. Think about it, It is not easy to organize even a small Dharma gathering, let alone a big assembly of 12,000 people. How much investment did it need? However, we must understand, we will elicit Amitabha's blessings as long as we bring forth great aspiration to undertake it bravely.

The final calculation of the cost of the entire assembly was about 1.2 million Hong Kong dollars. We had no idea where the money would come from, yet the money appeared when needed. Therefore, we deeply believe that blessings will be inconceivable as long as we selflessly contribute on behalf of all beings. What if I do not do it well? If it is not done well, that is all beings' insufficient fortune. When we had done our best, the result would have been consummate.

This is about “transferring good roots wholeheartedly.” It means “let go of yourself and do not think of yourself,” you can then obtain real fortune and great ease. We aspire to be reborn into Amitabha’s land! We no longer have other aspirations in this life—only the aspiration of seeking Sukhāvātī rebirth.

Thanks for learning with us. Namō Amitabha!