



TI-SARANA BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION

Ti-Sarana NEWS

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Message from Bhante:

GIVING AND TRANSFERENCE OF MERITS

THE BUDDHIST PERSPECTIVE

Giving occupies a pre-eminent place in the network of Buddhist ethics or moral principles that govern an individual's conduct. In the performance of an act of giving, two persons - the giver or donor, and the receiver or beneficiary - and the thing being given or donation are involved. Giving (*dāna*) is defined as furnishing with something to any personality or personalities out of concern about his/their moral or spiritual achievement, and also providing something to a needy individual or group as assistance out of compassion. Thus giving is motivated either by worthiness of the recipient or recipients or by the observation of any individual's or a group of individuals' need.

The acts of caring, sharing and rendering service also come within the gamut of the concept of giving. The act of giving is listed as the first of many codes of moral conduct. Namely; it is the first in the list of **Ten Perfections** (*dasa pāramitā*), **Ten Meritorious Deeds** (*dasa puññakiriya*), **Ten Royal Duties** (*dasa rājadhamma*) and **Four Ways of Showing Favour** (*cattāri samgahavatthu*). In the **Mangala Sutta** it is mentioned as **one of the thirty-eight blessings** (*mangala*).

In Buddhism, different shades of its meaning is conveyed by words such as "generosity", "liberality", "gift" (*cāga*) and "letting go" or "giving up" or "renouncing" (*pariccāga*). Basically giving is twofold: the first is giving material things (*āmisadāna*) useful for one's daily life and the second is aiding others to achieve intellectual, moral and spiritual progress (*dhammadāna*). Out of these two forms of giving, the second is described as the better and the foremost. In categorizing these two types of giving, many collective words such as gift (*cāga*), giving up (*pariccāga*), encouragement (*anuggaha*), treatment (*santhāra*), treating the guests (*ātittheyya*) and offering (*pūjā*) are given in the *Anguttaranikaya*. In order to make one's act of giving more beneficial and meritorious, one's mind has to be pure and pleasant in the three instances of the performance of giving, namely; before the act of giving, at the time of the act and after the act.

Transference of Merits and its Importance

In Buddhist technique of training, 'giving' has been accorded the pride of place, apparently for two reasons. Firstly, it contributes to gradual eradication of craving, the first of the three roots of evil, which binds one to cyclic existence thereby subjecting one to suffering. The second reason is, by performing an act of giving with pure and pleasant mind, one acquires merit, which continues to assist one to lead a

(Continued on page 2)

favourable quality life in one's future births. In addition, the merits that one acquires by performing meritorious deeds can be transferred to departed ones, who have been born in woeful states and are yearning for merits from the living for their well-being. It is considered as a form of expressing gratitude by the living to the departed in consideration of their relationship or their material and spiritual contributions when they were alive in the human world to upkeep the standard of those living relatives.

Merits will never exhaust by transference. The very thought of transferring merits for the good of the departed results in the increase of one's merits. From the time of the Buddha, transference of merits to the departed was a religious tradition accompanied with the act of giving. Even before the Buddha, the tradition was in vogue among the people of other faiths in different forms. Probably it is because of this reason that in the famous **Tirokudda Sutta**, this tradition is referred to as a **Conventional ritual of kinsfolk** (*ñātidhamma*). It is also said in the discourse that the departed ones, who are happy with the transference of merits to them; they share it; enjoy it and give thanks and express their gratitude to the living, saying: "Because of our relatives we are prosperous now. May they live long happily!"

Qing Ming Memorial Service at Ti-Sarana

Members and devotees of Ti-Sarana perform the act of transferring merits to the departed twice a day as a routine practice after the Pūjā Service. In addition, following the age-old Chinese tradition, the **Qing Ming Memorial Service** is held annually for seven days to transfer merits to the departed relatives and friends for their well-being.

This year, the service will commence on March 30th and continue until April 5th. During the period of the memorial service, on April 3rd, a *dāna*, or alms giving to the *mahāsaṅgha* will be held. Since this is a once-a-year opportunity, members and devotees are encouraged to join the evening service and the alms giving ceremony on the stipulated days and express their gratitude to their departed relatives and friends as a mark of grateful remembrance and for their happiness.

Ven. Dr. P. Gnanarama Mahātherā

Qing Ming Memorial Service (30th Mar. 2011 to 5th Apr. 2011)

Every evening, starting from 30th Mar. 2011 (Wed.) to 5th Apr. 2011 (Tues.) we will perform the Memorial Service after the Pūjā Service. Gifts of essential requisites will be offered to our Bhantes. By making the effort to perform the Pūjā Service, coupled with the offerings of gifts to the Bhantes, merits are acquired which we can transfer to our departed family members, relatives and friends.

On 3rd Apr. 2011 (Sun.) a special Qing Ming Memorial Service will be observed to remember our departed relatives and friends. Venerables from other Buddhist organizations will be invited so that we can perform the Sanghika Dāna. This is a very special Sanghika Dāna. Offerings of food and essential requisites will be made to the venerables who represent the entire Saṅgha community – past, present and future. We will then share this very powerful meritorious deed with all our departed relatives and friends for their well-being.

Members and devotees are encouraged to participate in the memorial service, especially the Sanghika Dāna and share the merits acquired with the departed relatives and friends.

Programme on 3rd Apr. 2011 (Sun.)

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|------------|--|
| 11.00 am | Buddha Pūjā |
| 11.30 am | Sanghika Dāna for Venerables |
| 11.35 am | Reading of names of donors and their departed relatives and friends |
| 11.55 am | Offering of gifts to Venerables |
| 12.00 noon | Recitation of Tirokudda Sutta and Transference of merits to departed relatives and friends |
| 12.10 pm | Blessings by Venerables |
| 12.20 pm | Vegetarian lunch for members and devotees |

Lunar New Year Celebrations at Ti-Sarana



Inviting Bhanter to commence Blessing Service on Lunar New Year's Eve



Tying blessed threads for members and devotees



Pūjā at 12.30am, after Blessing Service



Lo Hei for good health, peace and prosperity

House Visits By Bhanter on 2nd Day of Lunar New Year to bless members and their family



At Mrs. Quah's house



At Mrs. Tan's house



At Mrs. Lau's house



At Mrs. Ong's house

Inauguration of Pagoda Lamps of Blessings on 11th Feb. 2011 (ninth day of Lunar New Year)



Blessing Service by Bhanter at the Relic Chamber



Blessings to Members and Devotees



We like to have a blessed thread



Collecting packets of blessed oranges and rice

Members and devotees are welcome to apply for niches or renew their existing niches on the Pagoda Lamps of Blessings by contributing \$40 per annum. All funds collected are used for the welfare of the Bhanter, Sunday Dhamma School activities, maintenance of the Association premises and the Sangha Abode.

Every Tuesday evening Suttas/Parittas from the Great Book of Protection are recited by our Bhanter to invoke the blessings of the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha on all donors who contribute \$40 per annum for a niche on the Pagoda Lamps of Blessings. Names of donors whose birthday fall during the week will also be read out for blessing. All members and devotees are encouraged to participate in the chanting with the Bhanter and to experience the efficacy of Paritta chanting for their protection from all unfavourable auspices, dangers, obstacles, fears, bad dreams and unpleasant conditions.

Activities of the Sunday Dhamma School

Annual Speech Day

Our Sunday Dhamma School held its Annual Speech Day on Sunday, 16th Jan. 2011. There were smiles all around when the students went up to receive their YMBA certificates which were presented by our principal, Ven. Dr P. Gnanarama and Ven. R. Ānanda. Letters of appreciation were presented to the Dhamma Teachers by Bro. Khemaka David Chew, President of Ti-Sarana.

All the students were encouraged to continue their Dhamma studies and more importantly, put into practice what they have learnt.



Receiving the certificate from Ven. Gnanarama



Receiving the certificate from Ven. Ānanda



A letter of appreciation from Bro. Khemaka Chew



Children with their teachers



YMBA students with their teachers



My present from Bhante!

I now know when and why Suttas are chanted and taught by the Buddha – they relate to incidents that took place during the Buddha's lifetime. Those who can spare a few hours on Sunday morning should attend our Dhamma Classes.

Sumanā Helen Mei
YMBA Class Student, Junior Part I

A big thank you to all our excellent teachers, Bhante Ānanda, Bro. Willie Lim and Sis. Apple Chow, for their commitment and patience. We have a class of wonderful classmates, who are always very supporting and encouraging towards each other.

Carol Chung
YMBA Class Student, Senior Part II



Sis Sumanā

Bhante Ānanda is able to demonstrate the applicability and relevance of Abhidhamma in our daily lives and showed that it is something practical and useable that we can benefit from.

Subodhā Evelyn Tan
Wednesday Abhidhamma Class



Sis Carol

Observance of 8-Precepts on 22nd Apr. 2011 (Fri.)

The Sunday Dhamma School will hold its annual observance of 8-Precepts on 22nd Apr. 2011 (Good Fri. Holiday). Please mark this day on your calendar and spend a meaningful day learning the Dhamma and practising mindfulness with us. Please register your interest on the notice board in the Shrine Hall.

WELFARE ACTIVITIES



TI-SARANA BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION
(www.tisarana.org.sg)

MUSICAL HI-TEA GET-TOGETHER
(A 2011 Fund-Raising Event By
Ti-Sarana ... For its welfare projects)

Place: Orchard Hotel
422, Orchard Road
Grand Ballroom
Date: 10th April 2011 (Sun)
Time: 1.30pm to 5.00pm

We look forward to your support !

Tickets : \$50 & \$100 per pax (Tables at \$500, \$1000 & \$5,000 are available) Contact: Bro Andrew, Hemanta, Richard & Sis Sim Geok

Musical Hi-Tea Get-Together on 10th Apr. 2011 (Sun.)

We will be holding a Musical Hi-Tea Get-Together on 10th Apr. 2011 (Sun.) for members and devotees and friends at the Grand Ballroom, Orchard Hotel from 1.30 pm to 5 pm. Tickets to the event are priced at \$5,000, \$1,000 and \$500 per table OR \$100 and \$50 per head are available for booking.

Programme at Grand Ballroom, Orchard Hotel

1.30 pm	Arrival of Guests
2.00 pm	Welcome Address by President, Ti-Sarana Buddhist Association
2.10 pm	Blessings by Venerables Screening of video clips
2.30 pm	Jazz Concert by Japanese Friends
3.15 pm	Buffet Hi-Tea
4.15 pm	Local Performances
5.00 pm	End of Gathering

All the funds raised will be used to support our welfare projects and we deeply appreciate your kind patronage. We look forward to an afternoon of fellowship and happy gathering of friends and well-wishers. Please contact Bro. Andrew Gan, Hemanta Yeo, Richard Wong and Sis. Sim Geok to book your tickets.

Dhamma School Welfare Day (20th Mar. 2011, Sun.)

The Sunday Dhamma School will be organizing a Welfare Day on Sunday, 20th Mar. 2011. An outing for some wheelchair bound senior citizens from the Bright Hill Evergreen Home to the Marina Barrage is being planned. As these senior citizens will require quite a bit of assistance, we are appealing for volunteers to help. Please sign up at the Notice Board in the Shrine Hall. Transport will be provided from TBA and we will leave for Bright Hill Evergreen Home at 8 am sharp. After the outing we will also provide lunch for the residents of Bright Hill Evergreen Home. We look forward to your participation.

Mettā Youth Centre, Matara

In December 2010, 7 children sat for their "O" Level examinations. During the month long school holidays in December 2010, some children took the opportunity to visit their family members and relatives, with some fortunate enough to be able to spend a few weeks with their loved ones.

The children have since gone back to school in January 2011 and settled back to their daily activities at MYC.



MYC Children with their care-givers

34th Anniversary of Ti-Sarana Buddhist Association

A Sanghika Dāna will be held on 26th March 2011 (Sat.) to celebrate the 34th Anniversary of Ti-Sarana. Venerables from other Buddhist organizations will be invited as well for this special Dāna.

To commemorate our anniversary, “The Manual of Buddhist Devotions” compiled by Bhante R. Ānanda will be launched. This booklet consists of not only important Suttas and Parittas but also provides a simple guide on how to practise “Meditation on the Buddha” and “Meditation on Loving-Kindness”. This useful booklet will be distributed free of charge to all members and devotees.

All members and devotees are cordially invited to participate in the Pūjā Service at 11 am and the Sanghika Dāna to celebrate the joyous occasion together. In the Evening, after the Pūjā Service, Bro. Khemaka David Chew will lead all members and devotees in a pledge to re-affirm their commitment to Dhamma work at Ti-Sarana.

We look forward to your presence.

Programme on 26th Mar. 2011 (Sat.)

- 10.45 am Arrival of Venerables
- 11.00 am Buddha Pūjā
- 11.30 am Launch of “The Manual of Buddhist Devotions”
- 11.45 am Blessings by Venerables
- 11.50 am Dāna for Venerables
- 11.55 am Vegetarian lunch for members and devotees

- 6.30 pm Pūjā Service
- 6.50 pm Transference of merits to all departed ones
- 7.00 pm Re-affirm Commitment to Dhamma Work at Ti-Sarana
- 7.15 pm Blessings by Venerables
- 7.20 pm Gilanapaccaya for Venerables
- 7.25 pm Light Refreshment for members and devotees

34th Annual General Meeting

The 34th Annual General Meeting of Ti-Sarana Buddhist Association will be held on 27th Mar. 2011 (Sun.) at 12.30 pm. Notice of Meeting will be sent to all members in due course.

Calendar of Events - March/April 2011

- 6th Mar. 2011 “Path to Liberation (III) – Developing Insight and Wisdom” Dhamma Talk by Ven. R. Ānanda Thera (at 12.30 pm)
- 13th Mar. 2011 “Importance of Sri Lanka to Buddhism and its holy sites” Dhamma Talk by Mr. T.Y. Lee (at 11.45 am)
- 20th Mar. 2011 Ti-Sarana Dhamma School Welfare Day – An outing with Seniors to The Marina Barrage
- 27th Mar. 2011 TBA Annual General Meeting
- 3rd Apr. 2011 Qing Ming Memorial Service
- 10th Apr. 2011 Musical Hi-Tea Get-Together at Orchard Hotel
- 24th Apr. 2011 Dhamma Discussion led by Ven. R. Ānanda (at 12.30 pm)