

Merit Dedication for Non-Buddhists

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on 17 December 2015

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What is dedication of merit? Dedication of merit is an amazing practice which allows the ‘merit,’ the pure energy that occurs in our mind, when we have wholesome thought, speech, and action, to be dedicated to others. We may compare the merit energy to the transferable electricity or frequency which cannot be seen with naked eyes. However, the difference is that the merit dedicator does not lose his or her merit energy when s(he) dedicates merit to others. When someone dedicates merit, and the dedicated person accepts it willingly (appreciating or rejoicing in the dedicated merit either mentally and/or physically), merit energy will occur in both the dedicator’s and the dedicated person’s mind as

their minds become meritorious. This is like lighting up the first torch and using this first torch to light up other torches. However, the merit energy which occurs to the dedicated person's mind is only around 10 to 20% of the original merit volume in the dedicator's mind depending on the level of appreciation of the dedicated person. Dedication of merit can be made either to living or diseased persons. The important thing is that the dedicated persons must know about the dedication and accept the dedicated merit with appreciation. If the dedicated persons are alive, the merit dedicator should inform them, so they can acknowledge or accept the dedication. If the dedicated persons passed away already, the merit dedicator should have a strong will to inform the spirits of the dedicated persons. If the dedicated persons' spirits are in the realms that make it difficult for them to receive the merit, they may not be able to receive the merit energy properly. This is like sending a gift to your beloved one as a registered parcel. If the

recipient does not sign to accept the parcel, the gift is not well received. Also, if the gift is sent to a recipient who lives in a country which is having a war, the gift may not be well received as well. It is the same to the spirit of the dedicated person who is being punished in any of the hell realms, it is difficult for him to receive the dedicated merit. Although it is hard to know if the dedicated persons receive merit energy from the dedicator or not (except that you check with your insight power gained from meditation practice), the merit dedicator always earns more merit energy from dedicating merit because his mind becomes even more ‘meritorious’ whenever he does the merit dedication. The accumulated merit energy in one’s mind is crucial as it can bring about happiness, prosperity, success, benefits, as well as enlightenment to the merit owner.

Words for Merit Dedication

“I would like to recollect all the meritorious deeds I have done since my first lifetime until now such as the merit gained fromand dedicate to the Wholesome and Holy Lord(s) throughout the existence.

I would like to dedicate all of my merit to the monarchs, royalties, presidents, prime ministers, and the leaders of my country and other countries all over the world.

I would like to dedicate all of my merit to my wholesome masters and teachers, people of my country and all over the world, my preceptors, school and university teachers, my ancestors, grandparents, parents, siblings, cousins, relatives, husbands, wives, sons, daughters, children, grandchildren, descendants, family members, friends, associates, followers, spiritual fellows, those whom I am indebted to, superintendants,

subordinates, my family's celestial guardians, all of the aforesaid, in every lifetime of mine.

I would like to dedicate all of my merit to those who secure my country such as the polices, firemen, veterans, and army soldiers, and those who secure and promote the wholesome and righteous religions both in my country and all over the world.

I would like to dedicate my merit to the wholesome gods and goddesses of all levels, deities, celestial beings, spirits, the supernormal guardians (*kayasiddhi*), and others, who promote, look after, protect, guard, and secure me, my family, the wholesome religions, the public places and public properties, all of the aforesaid, throughout the existence.

I would like to dedicate my merit to those whom I used to harm either mentally, verbally, and physically. May all of them know about my merit sharing and accept the shared merit, then kindly forgive me for all of my unwholesome deeds. May

my bad karma(s) be lessened or forgiven completely.

I would like to dedicate my merit to the judges, secretaries and officials of purgatory hells, and punished beings in the purgatory hells and other hells of all levels and zones throughout the existence.

I would like to dedicate my merit to astral bodies, spirits, ghosts, hungry ghosts, demons, and monsters everywhere either near or afar throughout the existence.

I would like to dedicate my merit to my family's pets and animal companions, and all other sentient beings both in the wholesome and unwholesome realms throughout the existence."

"May all of the dedicated ones know about my merit dedication and accept the dedicated merit. With the power of merit that the dedicated ones receive from me, may they and I become purer mentally, verbally, and physically... May they and I become even more righteous and wholesome only,

as well as being prosperous in the wholesomeness and righteousness. May they and I become more beautiful, wisdomful, radiantful, graceful, peaceful, happier, healthier, wealthier, and have more beneficial virtuous subordinates and fellows, praise, gain, fame, as well as attaining the ultimate truth of life forevermore. May the merit yields only wholesome results to them and myself forevermore.”