

The Compassion Network Wiki-Canon

[T01n0072 三歸五戒慈心厭離功德經](#)

The Buddha Speaks of the Merit of the Three Refuges and the Five Precepts, Kindness and Weariness Leading to Departure Sutra

[Translator unknown.]

Thus I have heard, at one time the Buddha was at the country of Śrāvastī in the Garden of Orphans and the Solitary. The Buddha told Elder Anabindi about a Brahmacarin Virama who gave away significant amounts of his wealth and valuables. He had 84,000 gold bowls full of silver nuggets and 84,000 silver bowls full of gold nuggets. Furthermore, he had 84,000 gold and silver bathing basins. He also had 84,000 oxen with horns covered in gold and silver. He had 84,000 maidens dressed in ornaments. Furthermore, 84,000 sitting cloths were covered with a multitude of ribbons, the same with 84,000 pieces of clothing. They further installed gold and silver saddles on 84,000 elephants and stallions. Furthermore, he gave away 84,000 mansions. He gave away everything he owned within the city's bounds as people took whatever they wished. Furthermore, he donated a building to the monastic order.

Blessings from the above acts of charity are lesser than taking the Three Refuges. Those who receive the Three Refuges bestow fearlessness upon all beings, which is why blessings from taking refuge with the Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha are uncountable.

Blessings from the above acts of charity plus that of taking the Three Refuges are lesser than the blessings from taking the Five Precepts. Merit from receiving the Five Precepts is more superior.

Blessings from the above acts of charity plus that of taking the Three Refuges and the Five Precepts are lesser than the blessings of thinking kindly about beings for as brief a moment as the time it takes to snap a finger.

Blessings from the above acts of charity plus that of taking the Three Refuges, taking the Five Precepts, and thinking kindly about beings cannot compare with the blessings from thinking that everything in the world is odious. The reason being, thinking about how nothing in the world is enjoyable allows the practitioner to end suffering in continual transmigration finally, realizing Buddhahood. Hence this kind of blessing is most supreme. At that time, the elder heard what the Buddha said and delightfully followed suit.