

On Tsok Accumulations

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Thank you all for doing the tsok accumulations! This is not just a few people's job, or just to help a few people's problems. Everyone has the job of needing to do these accumulations, because we all need to gather great merit. Whatever your problem is, it is because you don't have enough merit. Those who are accumulating the tsok recitations, they are helping everyone to have great fortune. Do you need good fortune? Then accumulate merit, as much as you can, please. When you are accumulating the tsok recitations with faith, where previously there was nothing--no merit, no good fortune--now there is something! That is the power of tsok, creating merit where there was none before.

Everyone thinks they need to go running here and there, they need their freedom to work or to pursue their entertainments, and thus they are too busy to come to practice. Actually, the real freedom is having merit. Right now, I have no freedom to come to practice. Even though I want to, I have no merit to come. My body is my boss and it says no. But to practice together, creating virtue together and purifying your negativity together, that is the absolutely best thing. Nothing is above that. Nothing more swiftly dispels obstacles in this life or creates the merit for excellent future circumstances.

All that you enjoy as your freedom comes from merit, not from you being a big important deal. All the obstacles that frustrate you come from your own negative karma, not from someone punishing you. Do you want to benefit yourself? Do you want to benefit others? You need merit to do that. Our minds are filled with the 84,000 varieties of non-virtue, which is why we don't naturally accumulate merit all the time. We quite naturally accumulate negativity, though, almost all the time. That is how we waste our chances of liberation and omniscience, even in this human life.

Do you need a long life, free of sickness? You need plenty of merit. Do you need to free yourself from your suffering? You have the chance to! You are not powerless. You are not animals, faculties deadened by inborn stupidity, perpetuating your animal experience through rebirth after rebirth in darkness. You are not hell beings, your succession of bodies stuck in the fires again and again. So please, use your human opportunity!

Thank you so much for doing the practices, for accumulating the tsok recitations. Knowing that you are all practicing purely and correctly, that means more to me than all the 'I-love-you's that people call up and tell me on the phone, the bunch of liars. This

is the real 'I love you,' and better than that, this is the best thing you can do for yourself. If someone were to offer me 100 billion diamonds or this, everyone doing sincere practice, this would be my instant and unhesitating choice. All the great masters say that we need to be harmonious and keep pure discipline. So please cultivate loving-kindness and compassion, and do not harbor the three poisons in your heart. Thank you, everyone, I know so many people are working so hard.

Tashi Delek!

-Gyatral