

Teach and Be Blessed
A Paraphrased excerpt from
VAJRA-CCHEDIKA-PRAJNA-PARAMITA
(THE DIAMOND SUTRA)

The Blessed One said, “What do you think, Subhuti, if there were as many Ganga Rivers as there are sand grains in the one great Ganga? Would you say that the sand grains in all of those rivers would be a great many?” Subhuti concurred; indeed there would be that many. The Blessed One said, “I do appreciate you, Subhuti, I communicate to you. The number of sand grains in all those Ganga rivers – if a woman or a man were to fill that many worlds all with seven kinds of jewels and were to present them unto the Such-come Worthy Ones, fully Awakened Ones, then, do you think Subhuti, that woman or man would have produced a great heap of merit-origination from such an act?” Subhuti replied, “Much, Blessed One, indeed much.” The body of merit that woman or man would have produced would be immeasurable, uncountable.

The Blessed One said, “Again, Subhuti, on one hand a man or a woman confers such a great gift to the enlightened Ones. If, on the other hand, a son or a daughter of a noble family were to pick out a single verse of four quarters from this composition on dharma and teach and illuminate it to others, the latter would produce the greater body of merit originating from such an act (of teaching), immeasurable and uncountable.”

The Blessed One said, “If a woman or a man, Subhuti, would everyday renounce as many claims to the self as there are grains of sand in the Ganga River, and were to do so each day for as many cycles of creation and dissolution as there are grains of sand in the Ganga river, and on the other hand, a son or a daughter of a noble family were to pick out a single verse of four quarters from this composition on dharma and teach and illuminate it to others, the latter would produce the greater body of merit originating from such an act (of teaching), immeasurable and uncountable.

What do you think, Subhuti? If a woman or a man were to fill with seven kinds of jewels as many Sumerus, Kings of Mountains, as there are in 3000 worlds, and were to give them to the Such-come, Worthy Ones, Well Awakened Ones, and on the other hand a son or daughter of a noble family were to pick out a single verse of four quarters from this composition of dharma, of perfection of wisdom, and were to teach it to others, the heap of merit of the former act is not equal even to a hundredth part of the latter.

Furthermore, O Subhuti, the region of the earth where this sutra will be elucidated that region will become worthy of honour by all celestial, human and sub-human worlds; it will be worthy to be bowed unto, to be circumambulated, that region will be as a sacred shrine”.

Dear Teacher,

May your teaching seat also become a sacred shrine.

Blessings,
Swami Veda Bharati