

Tetsugen, a student of Zen, resolved on a mighty undertaking: the printing of seven thousand copies of the sutras, which till then were available only in Chinese.

He traveled the length and breadth of Japan to collect funds for this project. Some wealthy people offered him as much as a hundred pieces of gold, but mostly he received small coins from peasants. Tetsugen expressed equal gratitude to each donor, regardless of the sum of money given.

After ten long years of travel, he finally collected the funds necessary for the task. Just then the river Uji overflowed and thousands were left without food and shelter. Tetsugen spent all the money he had collected for his cherished project on these poor people.

Then he began the work of raising funds again. Again it was several years before he got the money he needed. Then an epidemic spread all over the country, so Tetsugen gave away all he had collected to help the suffering.

Once again he set out on his travels and, twenty years later, his dream of having the scriptures in the Japanese language finally came true.

The printing block that produced this first edition of the sutras is on display at the Obaku Monastery in Kyoto. The Japanese tell their children that Tetsugen got out three editions of the sutras in all; and that the first two are invisible and far superior to the third.

I THINK LOVING THOUGHTS TODAY.

Loving Thoughts

If I have been focusing on the imperfect side of people and conditions, I now transform my thoughts by beginning to think loving thoughts, particularly about the people and circumstances that touch my personal life. Such good thoughts flowing through my own mind bless me before reaching out to others. I see others responding to my thoughts with love and kindness.

I send kind and loving thoughts to all persons today. I contribute love and peace in my world as I radiate blessings of love and goodwill. As I let divine love fill my whole being, I see the good in everyone I meet or even think about today.

As I pray for love and understanding between myself and others, I am blessing and helping them as well as myself in the best possible way. I know that I am a power for good, and my loving attitude is an influence that blesses and inspires others.

"I will bless you . . . so that you will be a blessing."—
Gen. 12:2

A Guru asked his disciples how they could tell when the night had ended and the day begun.

One said, "When you see an animal in the distance and can tell whether it is a cow or a horse."

"No," said the Guru.

"When you look at a tree in the distance and can tell if it is a neem tree or a mango tree."

"Wrong again," said the Guru.

"Well, then, what is it?" asked his disciples.

"When you look into the face of any man and recognize your brother in him; when you look into the face of any woman and recognize in her your sister. If you cannot do this no matter what time it is by the sun it is still night."

To overcome
every obstacle,
to unite our beings
without loss
of individual personality
there is a single force

which nothing can
replace
and nothing destroy,
a force which urges us
forwards and
draws us

upwards;
this is the force of love.
Ravi Tejhadde Chaudhri

I tell you,
don't let your hearts
grow numb.

Stay Alert.

It is your soul which
matters. If only these words—
words in which I am laying
bare my innermost thoughts—
could force you to destroy
the deceit which
the world tries to put us asleep.

Albert Schweitzer