

Seven Offering without Possessions

Hello, my name is Yugen Saito.

Today, I would like to talk about the "Seven Treasureless Offerings. These are the seven giving's that can be done even if you do not have any possession.

The word "fuse" means to give cloth. I have heard that the origin of the word "fuse" is to give a piece of cloth to others on a rainy day. A single piece of cloth may not be enough to keep out the rain, but isn't it a wonderful act of caring for others?

The word cloth also means to the public at large. Fuse is not only money given to temples at funerals and memorial services.

There are three types of fuse: hōshi, zai-shi, and mu-keishi.

Dharma of Dharma is the law of law, making people listen to the teachings of the Buddha.

Zaishi, possession or property, means to give money or material goods.

Mu-Keishi ,Fearlessness is the absence of fear, to remove people's anxiety and fear, and to give peace of mind.

Even if you do not have money or knowledge to give, you can always give with a kind word or a smile, and with a single thought, anyone can give the seven alms.

Waganse -giving a friendly face

Ganse -kindly upon them.

Gonse -Speak with kind words.

Shinse -To treat others with kindness and compassion.

Shinse -Do what you can do with your body

Shouza-To give a seat to others.

Boshase -giving one's home to others.

Among the various types of offerings, I would like to introduce the phrase "Wagen

Aigo" found in the sutra "Muryoju Kyo" (Sutra of Immeasurable Life).

The phrase "wagen aigo" means a friendly face, or a talk of love.

A soft face will make you smile. Babies always have a smile on their face, which soothes the hearts of those around them. I believe that smile is the smile of Fuse. It is truly the practice of non-financial giving.

And of course, the language of love is also a word of giving.

Dogen said the following about the love language. Dogen says the following about language of love, which I will introduce here in a colloquial translation.

Aigo is a word that is uttered with a heart of love when we come into contact with sentient beings and all living things. Therefore, even the greetings in daily life, such as "Good morning" and "How are you? If we keep this kind of love language in mind and practice it in our daily lives, we will gradually improve our language of love .

Speak with love until you die. Then the merit will continue into the future. It is the basis for subduing enemies who hold grudges against you, and for becoming intimate with people in high positions.

When you hear word love, from people you meet, their faces will be filled with joy and their hearts will be happy. The word love comes from the heart of love, and the heart of love is the seed of compassion. We must learn that language of love has the power to transform the world, and not just praise the abilities of others.

A bit long-winded, but a good quote.

The German poet Goethe said, "Mood is contagious". I think he was right.

Western executives are said to practice smiling in the mirror before going to work. It is not a cold smile or a sly grin, but a smile that brightens up those around them.

Japanese people usually have a normal look on their faces, but to Westerners they seem to be in a bad mood. Westerners, Indians, Chinese, and Arabs also usually have a blunt face, but as soon as they meet an acquaintance, they smile.

They are giving away smiles that brighten up the world around them. We Japanese should learn from them.

The postcard sermon series was given by Rev. Yugen Saito of Hagyu-ji temple . Translation and voice in English by Hirokazu Kosaka.