

Hand Untying Knots, Part 10

Good morning everyone! This is today's Dharma Espresso on Hand Untying Knots, part 10.

Page | 1

Let me tell you an old story.

Once upon a time, there was an old lady who often went to the mountains and forests to gather medicinal herbs. One day, she found a huge and beautiful pearl among the plants. Holding the shining pearl in her hand, she knew it was of great value. She put it in the basket and continued her work. On her way, she crossed a young man who seemed to have climbed up the mountain for hours and looked exhausted. With a smile, he begged her for a little bit of water. She sat down and happily pulled out some water from her basket. Then he asked, "I am very hungry too. Do you have something that I can eat?" From her basket she pulled out some sticky rice. Meanwhile the big pearl fell out which the young man picked up and exclaimed, "Wow! This pearl is so pretty! Do you need it? Can I have it?" With a smile, she replied, "Of course, you can have it." The young man felt so happy. Besides drink and food, he also got a valuable pearl. He finally stood up and said good-bye. The old lady continued to search for medicinal herbs.

We thought the story ended there. However, a few days later, the young man came back while the old lady was busy picking up her plants. She wondered if he needed water and sticky rice again. To her astonishment, he said, "Thank you for your pearl, but I want to give it back to you." She opened wide her eyes: "Why do you want to return it?" He answered, "I'd like to ask you something else. How can you give me this pearl without hesitation? There must be something very strong and beautiful in your mind that makes it easy for you to give away this pearl. I am asking for that something." The old lady laughed out loud because she actually had nothing in her mind.

Having nothing in mind is the miracle of life. The old lady was in her highest mental state. Dear everyone, if you practice the Hand Letting Go or the Hand Giving of the Six Hands Dharma, your answer to the young man would be, "My dear, please go back home and practice the Hand Letting Go or the Hand Giving Dharma". If you spend a few minutes to think about your life, you will notice that most of the time you keep adding more things to your mind rather than taking them out. Why can't you realize that originally your mind was empty with nothing in it? That's why the Bodhisattvas of The Ten Practices Stage believe we should always be a big donor who continuously gives out. A big donor does

Hand Untying Knots, Part 10

not need to have a lot of money, only needs to have a generous and empty mind, to always give, find ways to give, and not to receive, which is very wonderful!

Page | 2

The story continues with the old lady shaking her head after her big laugh. She held the young man's hands and said, "*There is nothing in my mind that you can learn. However you can learn by doing what I did, which means to go and find someone to give this pearl without hesitation like I did to you.*" The young man not only felt surprised but also enlightened. He understood clearly what she meant. He thanked her, then climbed down the mountain with the pearl. We don't know the rest of the story. But we can guess the young man would do exactly what the old lady did to him, which means he wouldn't keep the pearl, but would give it to someone else.

When you think it over, you'll notice that in life it is quite hard to get rid of something precious or most valuable to you. You want to keep it for yourself and don't want to share it with anybody. However, the more you keep, the more you detach yourself from the right path. The more you accumulate, the less you look peaceful. This lesson is simple, and the old lady's action is the highest in life, resulting from a mind that is always serene. We should strive for our mind to be regularly empty, unoccupied, serene, calm, tranquil, and quiet. We should not live to have it encumbered.

I like to conclude this story with a saying from Lao-Tzu (Taoist Master): "*Too much leads to delusion and foolishness*". Therefore, sometimes the action of giving itself is liberation and clarity.

Thank you for listening. Have a day of joy, awakening, and especially with an empty mind.

Dharma Master Heng Chang

(Translated and transcribed by Compassionate Service Society)