

For the public good

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A frustrated businessman suffered from a big business loss and has run out of money and family properties. When he went bankrupt, one day he met Sakyamuni Buddha and asked Buddha “why did these bad things happened to me?”

Sakyamuni Buddha who understands the existence of karma told the businessman immediately that “in many generations of your life, you never give alms. You never create a good karma with anyone. Without a good cause, how will a good result ever happen to you?” The businessman replied “I already lost everything I had, how can I give alms with my empty hands?” Sakyamuni Buddha answered “although you have nothing, you are still capable of doing the following to make good karma with others:

1. Giving a kind and pleasant countenance: Facing all living creatures with kind and pleasant countenance; let those around you become joyful.
2. Giving positive language: Speak positively to encourage people; let those speak to you benefit from the conversation.
3. Giving a benignant look: Using a benevolent look to face people; let those look at you feel peaceful.
4. Giving thoughtfulness: Show consideration to others; let them feel warm.
5. Giving physical assistance: Provide assistance to others; reduce their physical burden.