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Generosity

"A father became upset with his 3-year-old daughter for using a sheet of gold wrapping paper. Money was tight, and he was infuriated when the child tried to use the paper to decorate a small box. The next morning the little girl brought the gift box to her father saying "This is for you, Daddy." He was embarrassed by his earlier reaction, but his anger flared again when he found that the box was empty.

He yelled at her, "Don't you know that when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside it?" The little girl looked up at him with tears in her eyes and said, "Oh, Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into the box until it was full – they are all for you."

Crushed, the father put his arms around his little girl and begged her forgiveness. The father kept that gold box by his bed for years. Whenever he was discouraged, he would take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love and generosity of the child who had put it there."

Do you ever wonder.... "Have I been generous lately? Have I given even when I felt I could not afford to?" Are there people close to you or even strangers you could help in some small way? I believe we should never ask 'Why should I give?' – but choose to act with a generous spirit and an open heart. We may never know the consequences of these simple acts of kindness and generosity.

The Budo way is to give of ourself without counting the cost. Sometimes people may not appreciate what we have given but even this cannot stop us being generous.

Material success or wealth is neutral in itself, neither good or evil. It becomes evil only when one is attached to it or to amassing it for selfish reasons. It is good when one is not attached to it, and readily uses it selflessly to benefit others in need. Wealth should lead to generosity, or it will become a spiritual obstacle. If there is propensity for great generosity for great charity, the richer the merrier!

- Shen Shi'an

Others are my main concern. When I notice something of mine, I steal it and give it to others.

- Shanti Deva

David Dangerfield

