

31st August 2021

Transfers

**“Because he acts in accord with the teachings,
he can transfer merit to others.”**

Gautama Buddah, Vimalakirti Sutra, Chapter 1

The English Premiership Transfer Window closes at midnight tonight and doesn't open again 'til January 2022. That may be of little interest to you, but it seems important in the football world. With eye-watering sums of £1,000,000 and more being attached to Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi, Kylian Mbappe, Erling Haaland, Romelu Lukaku, Jack Grealish and others, transfer news for many is the order of the day. But this died-in-the-wool football fan is left bewildered by it all. Simply put, such sums of money, and the importance we place on the value of sporting stars, beggar belief.

I'm involved with transfers too, but at a *much* lower level. I'm trying to transfer files from one laptop to another without the use of a flash-drive, using network sharing systems, over the Wi-Fi. Following me so far? I don't really understand it either. And it's testing my IT skills to the limit.

We all know about “transfers”: transferring money; transferring ownership when we sell a car; transferring responsibilities to an employee. Whether you're bemused like me with football transfers, or more on top of things than I am with my laptops, we are familiar with transfers. But my opening quote today got me thinking about transfers in a different way.

The writings of the Buddah remind us that, if we live in the right way, “in accord with the teachings”, then we can “transfer” that merit to others. What a wonderful concept! Living a life based on righteousness, compassion, altruism, love, call it what you will, shouldn't be a selfish thing. Built in naturally is “transfer”. The good we live by influences other people. It's kind of obvious, isn't it, but it bears repeating. We can “transfer merit”. “Role models”, “heroes”, “exemplars” are the labels we might use. The good we do with our lives is given away, transferred, to do good to others, so that, in time, they might transfer that goodness to someone else.

Never mind the £1,000,000 football transfers, or my struggles with IT. Ask yourself this: what good teachings do I live by, and what merit do they allow me to transfer to the folk I might influence day by day?

A prayer for today

Lord, if you transfer your Love to me, help me to transfer its merit to others. Amen

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