

Shunyata literally means "openness" or "emptiness." Shunyata is basically understanding nonexistence. When you begin realizing nonexistence, then you can afford to be more compassionate, more giving. A problem is usually that we would like to hold on to our territory and fixate on that particular ground. Once we begin to fixate on that ground, we have no way to give. Understanding shunyata means that we begin to realize that there is no ground to get, that we are ultimately free, non-aggressive, open. We realize that we are actually nonexistent ourselves. Then we can give. We have lots to gain and nothing to lose at that point. It is very basic.

Trungpa Rinpoche

We can afford to open ourselves and join the rest of the world with a sense of tremendous generosity, tremendous goodness, and tremendous richness. The more we give, the more we gain

Trungpa Rinpoche

From 'The Sutra of the Recollection of the Noble Three Jewels'

Generosity is the transcendent friend,  
Generosity is the ornament of the world.  
Through generosity, one turns back from the lower realms.  
Generosity is the stairway to the higher realms.  
Generosity is the virtue that produces peace

The essence of generosity is letting go. Pain is always a sign that we are holding on to something - usually ourselves. When we feel unhappy, when we feel inadequate, we get stingy; we hold on tight. Generosity is an activity that loosens us up. By offering whatever we can a dollar, a flower, a word of encouragement - we are training in letting go.

Pema Chödrön