

## **Don't Transfer the Ox's Load to the Cow**

The ox is capable of carrying burdens; the cow is less capable of carrying burdens. So the point of this slogan is that you do not transfer your heavy load to someone who is weaker than you. Transferring the ox's load to the cow means not wanting to deal with anything on your own. You don't want to take the responsibilities; you just pass them on to your secretary or your friends or anybody you can just order about. In English this is called "passing the buck". Doing that is a bad idea, since we are supposed to be cutting down chaos and creating less traffic in the [samsaric](#) world altogether. We are supposed to be cutting down on administrative problems and trying to sort things out. We could invite other people to be our helpers, but we cannot pass the buck to them. So don't transfer the ox's load to the cow.

*From [Training the Mind & Cultivating Loving-Kindness](#) by [Chogyam Trungpa](#)*

## **Don't Transfer the Ox's Load to the Cow**

Let's say you're Juan's boss. When something comes along that you find unpleasant and don't want to do, you pass it on to Juan. You pass the burden to someone else. It's like that Greek myth about Atlas. He was just walking along innocently and somebody said, "Oh, Atlas, would you mind for a moment just holding the earth?"

We do that. When we don't like it, it doesn't occur to us to actually work with that feeling and communicate with the person who is asking us to do this, to somehow open up the situation and work in an honest, fearless way with what's going on. Instead we just give our burden to somebody else and ask them to hold it. It's called passing the buck.

*From [Start Where You Are : A Guide to Compassionate Living](#) by [Pema Chodron](#),*

## **Don't put the Horse's Load on a Pony**

To give someone else an unpleasant job that is your responsibility or, by resorting to trickery, to shift a problem you have encountered to someone else is like putting a horse's load on a pony. Don't do this.

*From [The Great Path of Awakening : An Easily Accessible Introduction for Ordinary People](#) by [Jamgon Kongtrul](#), translated by [Ken McLeod](#).*

## **Do Not Load the Burden of a Dzo on an Ox**

A dzo is a cross between an ox and a yak - a very strong beast of burden. So the message is: don't take the burden of a dzo and place it upon an ox, which is a weaker animal. This rustic metaphor refers to issues of ability and responsibility. Each of us is endowed with certain talents, whether we were born with them or earned them in this life. We also have

our responsibilities, some of which we may not be inclined to fulfill. If this text were originally written in America, it would probably say here: Don't pass the buck. Recognize what your role is and what you are here to contribute. What are your special abilities and responsibilities? At times these will be enjoyable and rewarding; at other times they may be grunt work. But having identified the grunt work, don't shift it onto other people's shoulders. They may not be as capable as you are for the task.

Excerpted from: [The Seven-Point Mind Training](#)

## **Do Not Load an Ox With the Load of a Dzo.**

In other words, we should not unload our responsibilities onto others who are not capable of carrying them. The dzo is a Tibetan animal similar to the yak, used for heavy work such as ploughing and transporting goods over long distances. If an ox is given the load of a dzo, it cannot carry such a great burden. In the same way, we should not pass on a difficult task to someone who is slightly stupid and does not realize our malicious intentions. Such an action will only relieve us temporarily of a responsibility that will reappear with even more strength in the future. The law of causality is unfailing.<s

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## **Do Not Transfer the Dzo's Burden on an Ox's Back**

The meaning of this is that we should never allow any injury or blame that we deserve to fall on others. An ox cannot carry the load of a dzo. Moreover, we should endeavor to keep to keep from harming the poor and the weak, by burdening them with heavier taxes than others, and so on. All such evil actions should be completely forsaken.

From [Enlightened Courage](#), by Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche.