

🌀 BUILDING A SUTTA LIBRARY 🌀

Use this list to build a basic collection of the discourses of Gotama Buddha that is readable, accurate, and nearly complete. The following is a good foundation for a sutta library; other translations may be obtained later as interest grows. For other reliable translations, visit the Canonical Collections for Practice page at ReadingFaithfully.org. Paperback editions are listed when available. See the second page for useful anthologies and book sources. Those books marked with a ★ can be given priority for people just starting to read the suttas.

CANONICAL COLLECTIONS

These are books of suttas grouped in the ancient categories. Unless otherwise indicated, they are complete translations.

- *The Long Discourses of the Buddha: A Translation of the Dīgha Nikāya*, by Maurice Walsh (Wisdom Publications, ISBN-13: 978-0861711031)
- ★ *The Middle Length Discourses of the Buddha: A Translation of the Majjhima Nikaya*, by Bhikkhu Ñāṇamoli, edited by Bhikkhu Bodhi (Wisdom Publications, ISBN-13: 978-0861710720)
- *The Connected Discourses of the Buddha: A Translation of the Saṃyutta Nikāya*, by Bhikkhu Bodhi (Wisdom Publications, ISBN-13: 978-0861713318)
- *The Numerical Discourses of the Buddha: A Complete Translation of the Anguttara Nikaya*, by Bhikkhu Bodhi (Wisdom Publications, ISBN-13: 978-1614290407)
- ★ *The Dhammapada: The Buddha's Path of Wisdom*, by Acharya Buddharakkhita (BPS, BP203S)
- *The Dhammapada: Teachings of the Buddha*, by Gil Fronsdal. (Shambala, Paperback and Audio-CD Set: ISBN 978-1590306413; Hardcover: ISBN 978-1590306062)
- ★ *The Udāna and the Itivuttaka: Two Classics from the Pali Canon*, by John D. Ireland (BPS, BP214S)
- *The Rhinoceros Horn and Other Early Buddhist Poems (Sutta Nipāta)*, by K. R. Norman, with alternative trans. by I. B. Horner and Ven. Walapola Rahula (PTS, Paperback ISBN 0 86013 154 8)
- *Minor Anthologies Vol. IV: Vimānavatthu (Stories of the Mansions) and Petavatthu (Stories of the Departed)*. This is a single volume containing both books (PTS, ISBN 0 86013 073 8)
- *Poems of Early Buddhist Monks (Theragāthā)*, by K. R. Norman (PTS, Paperback ISBN 0 86013 339 7)
- *Poems of Early Buddhist Nuns (Therīgāthā)*, two translations by Mrs. C.A.F. Rhys Davids and K. R. Norman (PTS, Paperback ISBN 0 86013 289 7)
- *Jataka Tales of the Buddha: An Anthology* (three volume set) by Ken and Visakha Kawasaki (BPS, BP 622S / BP 623S / BP 624S) This is a collection of the commentarial stories without the canonical verses.
- ★ *Handful of Leaves Volumes 1–5*, by Ajahn Ṭhanissaro. An anthology from most of the Sutta Pitaka. (Sati Center for Buddhist Studies, free)

SUTTA ANTHOLOGIES

These are book that contain selections of suttas based on a particular topic. Anthologies are an excellent way to begin reading suttas.

★ *In the Buddha's Words: An Anthology of Discourses from the Pali Canon*, Translated by Bhikkhu Bodhi (Wisdom Publications, ISBN-13: 978-0861714919)

★ *Merit, Into the Stream, A Mediator's Tools, Beyond Coping, A Burden Off the Mind, Mindful of the Body, Recognizing the Dhamma*, all translated by Ajahn Thanissaro (Metta Forest Monastery, free) Metta Forest Monastery also distributes Ajahn's *The Dhammapada*.

• *The Life of the Buddha: According to the Pali Canon*, by Nyanamoli Thera (BPS, BP 101S)

• *Buddha, My Refuge: Contemplation of the Buddha*, by Bhikkhu Khantipalo (BPS, BP 409S)

REFERENCE

• Every sutta library must have a good *English dictionary* readily available for looking up unfamiliar words. It should be a collegiate or advance learner's dictionary.

• *Concise Pali-English Dictionary*, by A.P. Buddhadata Mahathera. Provides simple definitions for thousands of Pali words. Available from Pariyatti.org. (Motilal Banarsidass, ISBN-13: 978-81-208-0605-4, Paperback)

SOURCES

• **Wisdom Publications:** wisdompubs.org

These books may be ordered directly through the Wisdom Publications website or through any local or on line retailer.

• **BPS: Buddhist Publication Society:** bps.lk

The North American distributor for BPS is Pariyatti.org. In Canada many titles are available from Sourcevipassana.ca. Books may also be ordered directly.

• **PTS: Pali Text Society:** palitext.com

The North American distributor for PTS is Pariyatti.org. In Canada many titles are available from Sourcevipassana.ca. Books may also be ordered directly. Where paper back editions are listed, some version in hard back is also available. When ordering PTS books **you must confirm that you are getting the English translation**, otherwise they may sent the Pali language edition.

• **Metta Forest Monastery:** watmetta.org

Send book requests to: PO Box 1409, Valley Center, CA 92082 USA

• **Sati Center for Buddhist Studies:** sati.org/books/

Send book requests to: Sati Center Book Fund, 108 Birch St., Redwood City, CA 94062, USA. Visit the website above to find out about shipping.

Visit ReadingFaithfully.org for more information about these books and tips on developing a daily practice of reading the suttas.