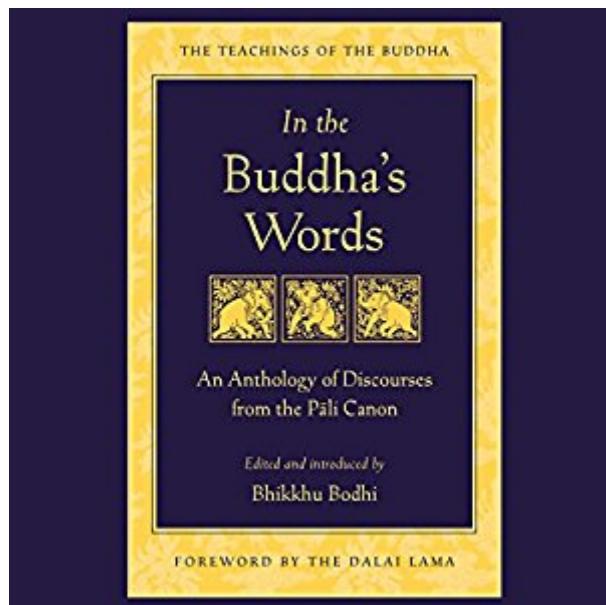


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In The Buddha's Words: An Anthology Of Discourses From The Pali Canon



Synopsis

This landmark collection is the definitive introduction to the Buddha's teachings - in his own words. The American scholar-monk Bhikkhu Bodhi, whose voluminous translations have won widespread acclaim, here presents selected discourses of the Buddha from the Pali Canon, the earliest record of what the Buddha taught. Divided into 10 thematic chapters, *In the Buddha's Words* reveals the full scope of the Buddha's discourses, from family life and marriage to renunciation and the path of insight. A concise, informative introduction precedes each chapter, guiding the listener toward a deeper understanding of the texts that follow. *In the Buddha's Words* allows even listeners unacquainted with Buddhism to grasp the significance of the Buddha's contributions to our world heritage. Taken as a whole, these texts bear eloquent testimony to the breadth and intelligence of the Buddha's teachings, and point the way to an ancient, yet ever-vital path. Students and seekers alike will find this systematic presentation indispensable.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Lovely, affordable collection of discourses from the Buddha, presented with historical context from someone clearly well-educated on the subject. The commentary before chapters of discourse serves only to provide background rather than to interpret the text, which can be a problem in other sources. It's worth mentioning that this probably shouldn't be your first book on Buddhism, primarily because it's directed at adherents specifically. You won't get as much out of it as you might

otherwise, and there's a bit of background needed to really "get it." If you're looking to figure out what Buddhism is all about without diving into a ~450 book of scripture, you want the Dhammapada. The Dhammapada is, in Bhikkhu Bodhi's words, "the most succinct expression of the Buddha's teaching." It's a brief text, and a fairly beautiful one, so check that one out before you dive into the more repetitive, liturgical content you're going to find here.

This was the book I got to warm up before diving into the canon (any previous knowledge of sutras from my part are from mahayana traditions). It was simply the perfect choice. For me, a long time -- 10+ year -- zen practitioner and academic (unrelated to buddhism scholarship), it only took a few pages to trust Bhikkhu Bodhi thanks to his display of care and ground. I say this not only because it is the first time I had in my hands a work from him (later on, I enjoyed his participation in other books and, finally, his translation works of the canon), but because of the care which one should approach the sea of "buddhism" books available. This is a careful selection, distillation, and presentation. As another reviewer put it, "systematic and lucid, and profoundly thought provoking". It was key to inspire me to go further.

This book is the finest exposition of the Doctrine (Dhamma) of the Buddha I have read in my decades long journey on the Buddha's Way. Venerable Bhikkhu Bodhi's approach is both of a pre-eminent scholar and a dedicated practicing senior monk of this noble path. This methodical and adherence to accuracy in expounding of the Dhamma should be of immense value to any sincere discerning seeker not given to any dogma, belief systems and or superstitions. I personally feel so lucky to have run into this book and i couldn't be more thankful to Venerable Bhikkhu Bodhi for authoring it.

Bhikkhu Bodhi is worth reading regardless of the specific Buddhist topic. As a Western Buddhist scholar and monk, his perspective makes the teachings more accessible and less confusing to Western students. Significantly his writings, and this volume in particular, are considered (according to my Sri Lankan teacher) basic texts for all Buddhists, Asians, Americans and others. The questions above are laughably inappropriate--this is not a novel, it is a reference that the serious student will read over and over again.

A must have if you're on the Buddha's path. Necessary reference work.

If you're looking for an introduction to Buddhism that is easy to read for an outsider, I recommend the Dhammapada translation by Eknath Easwaran. The book was a bit long winded, particularly towards the end. At a certain point it felt although I was hearing the same wisdom with different phrasing, which is fine to a point. The book is excellent if you're looking into Buddhism deeply, historically, or simply wish to dive into the Theravada tradition.

It is a fantastic way to study Buddhism through the direct texts. Also Bhikkhu Bodhi's introductions are clear and helpful. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in Buddhism, wanting to review what they know or wishing to understand better the beautiful teachings of the Buddha.

For what it is, it is one of the best available.

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