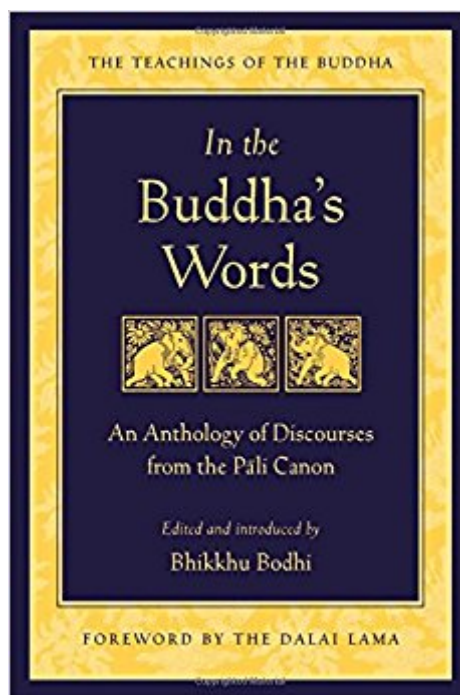




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In The Buddha's Words: An Anthology Of Discourses From The Pali Canon (The Teachings Of The Buddha)



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 ten 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 reader toward a deeper understanding of the texts that follow. *In the Buddha's Words* allows even readers 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.

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Customer Reviews

"I am sure that many people will benefit from *In the Buddha's Words*." (Thich Nhat Hanh)"A remarkable book. *In the Buddha's Words* is an anthology drawing primarily of the first four [widely available translations of collections of the Buddha's spoken teachings], and manages quite successfully to both summarize them and extract their essence. [. . .] Although this material has been available for some time now, one of the things that has remained a difficulty for many readers

is its complexity and scope. In the Buddha's Words provides a framework with which to see the teachings' overall structure, and it does so in a skillful way. Bhikkhu Bodhi's introductions alone, strung together, would themselves serve as a beautiful and accessible overview of the dhamma. [. . .] I think this anthology will rapidly become the sourcebook of choice for both neophyte and serious student alike. In the Buddha's Words reveals the mature understanding of someone who has not only a complete mastery of his material, but also of someone who has deeply understood the nature and intention of the dhamma and who shares it with us as an expression of his own caring. This publication will be very much welcomed by Western meditators and students of the dhamma. [. . .] Any amount of study or practice that helps to deepen wisdom and assist us to emerge from layers of delusion is precious. This book could contribute to this enterprise more than almost anything else in print. It gives us access to the very texture of the dhamma, the specific words and phrases, which guided and inspired the Buddha's original students. Bhikkhu Bodhi has created a framework upon which he has placed the key elements of the dhamma for all to plainly see and investigate for themselves. With a map of such clarity in hand, one may tread the landscape with confidence. Those for whom the Buddha's teaching is a living tradition will find this book to be a dear friend and spiritual companion. My overall response to the work is one of gratitude--to the author, the translator and editor, the publisher, and all the other helpers and benefactors who have contributed to making this gift to the world." (Andrew Olendzki, Executive Director of the Barre Center of Buddhist Studies -- excerpted from a three-page review in *Buddhadharma*) "As close as we'll get to the original teachings and account of the life of the Buddha." (Tricycle) "Congratulations and gratitude to Wisdom for the new publication *In the Buddha's Words*--if someone relatively new to Buddhism were to buy only one book, this should be it!" (Jean Smith, author of *NOW!* and editor of *365 Zen*) "In the Buddha's Words has ten chapters, each with an insightful introduction and a handful of sutras, many newly translated, edited and condensed to make them more manageable for the non-scholar. The book begins with a rich explanatory General Introduction that alone would be worth the purchase of the book." (Right View magazine, from the Mid-America Buddhist Association)

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 ten 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 reader toward a deeper understanding of the texts that follow. In the Buddha's Words allows even readers 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.

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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