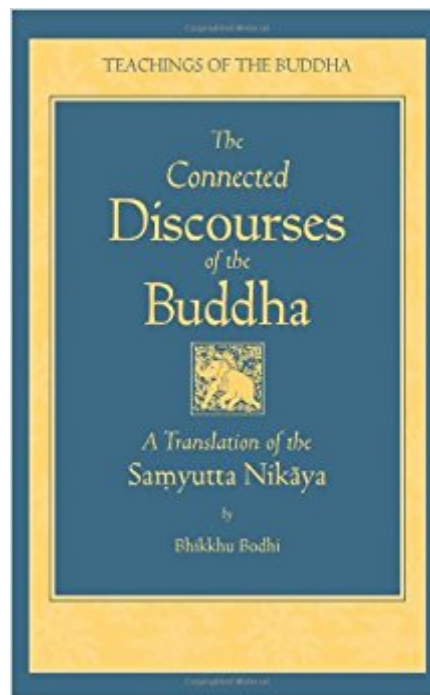




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# The Connected Discourses Of The Buddha: A Translation Of The Samyutta Nikaya



## Synopsis

This volume offers a complete translation of the Samyutta Nikaya, The Connected Discourses of the Buddha, the third of the four great collections in the Sutta Pitaka of the Pali Canon. The Samyutta Nikaya consists of fifty-six chapters, each governed by a unifying theme that binds together the Buddha's suttas or discourses. The chapters are organized into five major parts. The first, The Book with Verses, is a compilation of suttas composed largely in verse. This book ranks as one of the most inspiring compilations in the Buddhist canon, showing the Buddha in his full grandeur as the peerless "teacher of gods and humans." The other four books deal in depth with the philosophical principles and meditative structures of early Buddhism. They combine into orderly chapters all the important short discourses of the Buddha on such major topics as dependent origination, the five aggregates, the six sense bases, the seven factors of enlightenment, the Noble Eightfold Path, and the Four Noble Truths. Among the four large Nikayas belonging to the Pali Canon, the Samyutta Nikaya serves as the repository for the many shorter suttas of the Buddha where he discloses his radical insights into the nature of reality and his unique path to spiritual emancipation. This collection, it seems, was directed mainly at those disciples who were capable of grasping the deepest dimensions of wisdom and of clarifying them for others, and also provided guidance to meditators intent on consummating their efforts with the direct realization of the ultimate truth. The present work begins with an insightful general introduction to the Samyutta Nikaya as a whole. Each of the five parts is also provided with its own introduction, intended to guide the reader through this vast, ocean-like collection of suttas. To further assist the reader, the translator has provided an extensive body of notes clarifying various problems concerning both the language and the meaning of the texts. Distinguished by its lucidity and technical precision, this new translation makes this ancient collection of the Buddha's discourses accessible and comprehensible to the thoughtful reader of today. Like its two predecessors in this series, The Connected Discourses of the Buddha is sure to merit a place of honour in the library of every serious student of Buddhism.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"To hold a copy of The Connected Discourses of the Buddha is like holding treasure in your hands. Bhikkhu Bodhi has, once again, given English readers all over the world another reason to rejoice by making the ancient words of the Buddha come alive in our contemporary lives. Timely and significant, highly readable, and invaluable." (Eastern Horizon)"This new translation of The Connected Discourses of the Buddha has been well worth the wait. With painstaking care, the eminent Buddhist scholar monk, Bhikkhu Bodhi, has translated the 2889 discourses of the Buddha. No one is better qualified. Collected into their different themes, The Connected Discourses point the way to enlightenment. This book serves as one of the finest resources available for insight into the human condition. The Buddha addresses issues such as body/mind, daily life realities, suffering and joy, awareness and meditation. This book is rich in spiritual teachings, suitable for daily reflection, study, a manual for psychologists, a teaching guide at universities, and offering a wealth of benefits to anyone interested in the true heart of the Buddha's teachings. I regard it as an indispensable guide to an awakened life. With 2080 pages, it is an extraordinary publishing initiative. This book is worth every penny. Buy it. It is money well spent." (Christopher Titmuss, author of Light on Enlightenment and An Awakened Life)"I am eagerly awaiting Bhikkhu Bodhi's new translation of the Samyutta Nikaya, The Connected Discourses of the Buddha. His brilliant, scholarly, and eminently readable version of The Middle Length Discourses set a benchmark for translations of the Buddha's words into English. This new work will make accessible even more of the original teachings, offering guidance, instruction and inspiration on the path of awakening. It is a priceless gift." (Joseph Goldstein, author of Insight Meditation: The Practice of Freedom)"It is extremely good news to have Bhikkhu Bodhi--a brilliant translator--bring out a new edition of the Sayutta Nikya, one of the richest and most important of all Buddhist texts." (Jack Kornfield, author of A Path with Heart)

Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi is an American Buddhist monk from New York City, born in 1944. He obtained a

BA in philosophy from Brooklyn College and a PhD in philosophy from Claremont Graduate School. After completing his university studies he traveled to Sri Lanka, where he received novice ordination in 1972 and full ordination in 1973, both under the leading Sri Lankan scholar-monk, Ven. Balangoda Ananda Maitreya (1896-1998). From 1984 to 2002 he was the editor for the Buddhist Publication Society in Kandy, where he lived for ten years with the senior German monk, Ven. Nyanaponika Thera (1901-1994), at the Forest Hermitage. He returned to the U.S. in 2002. He currently lives and teaches at Chuang Yen Monastery in Carmel, New York. Ven. Bodhi has many important publications to his credit, either as author, translator, or editor. These include *The Middle Length Discourses of the Buddha* (Majjhima Nikaya, 1995), *The Connected Discourses of the Buddha* (Samyutta Nikaya, 2000), and *The Numerical Discourses of the Buddha* (Anguttara Nikaya, 2012). In 2008, together with several of his students, Ven. Bodhi founded Buddhist Global Relief, a nonprofit supporting hunger relief, sustainable agriculture, and education in countries suffering from chronic poverty and malnutrition.

Amazing to read the discourse that sets turning the wheel of truth, aka 4 noble truths in their home in the scripture. The problem with learning about Buddhism in the west is that there are 1 million books written by Westerners about what Buddhism is about. It's very hard to access the original Scriptures. This book remedies this by making the Scriptures accessible, beautiful, a true gift to read.

This large chunk of the Pali canon, in its recent translation, is full of startling revelations and details and wisdom. Right up there with the Christian Bible for must-reads in a modern world. Better IMO to read this near-to-the-source translation than a lot of the stuff online about Buddhism, which has morphed itself in strange ways from this original material. The Buddha was an awesome being with superior insights, compassion, and clarity of thought, and it all still rings through in these discourses. Highly recommended.

This is the first collection of the Buddha's discourse I have read, and I enjoyed reaching the primary source of my favorite books about mindfulness and being at ease. Some parts are crystal clear and fascinating, and helped me to see things as they really are. Some parts are hard to read because of the many repetitions, even repetition series. But I imagined how they were delivered verbally, and the repetitions helped the audience understand and memorize the contents - they were surely beneficial for me too. I loved Bhikkhu Bodhi's translation. Of course I have no idea about the original

Pali text, but the translation is logical, clear, easy to understand and enjoyable. The introduction and footnotes were helpful too.

Satisfied. The book received was in excellent state. I'm studying and learning very much from the original noble, precious teachings of the Buddha translated in English. Really appreciate the efforts of the translator.

No need to look any further, it doesn't get much better than this. This along with the four other Nikayas and the Vinaya are a precious gift of infinite value to the human race and will bring its earnest practitioner to the deathless lands. Recommended to all lovers of truth.

This translation is a masterpiece of our time. An Epic translation unmatched in scholarship or praise. It is a volume that any student of early Buddhism, scholar and lay-person alike will cherish and refer back to time and again. Little criticism can be found in the scholarship of the translation, and for those who are curious, thorough notes are given at the ends of chapters, but I am forced to subtract a star just for the fact that one wishes that a work of this scope would be published in a superior binding than what is found in the current edition. The binding is unfortunately glued instead of sewn, and it can be expected that this is not a book that will last to be passed down to kin. I would like to see a publication of superior quality someday.

Some abhidhamma in it. Buddha did not teach abhidhamma. Some translations from Pali are not very correct

This is a complete translation of a Theravada Buddhist classic. A fundamental Buddhist scriptural text.

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