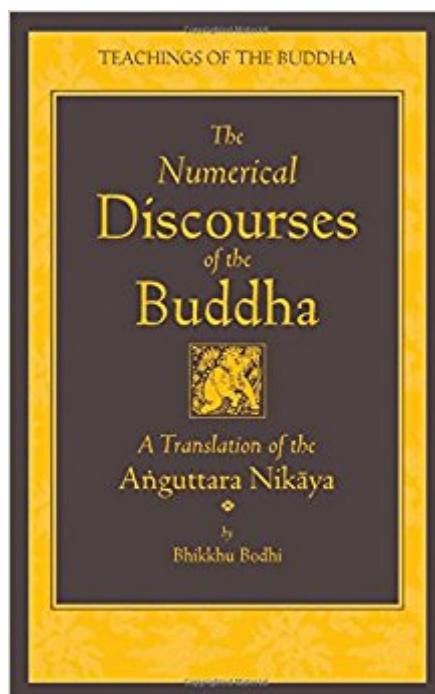


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The Numerical Discourses Of The Buddha: A Complete Translation Of The Anguttara Nikaya (The Teachings Of The Buddha)



Synopsis

Like the River Ganges flowing down from the Himalayas, the entire Buddhist tradition flows down to us from the teachings and deeds of the historical Buddha, who lived and taught in India during the fifth century B.C.E. To ensure that his legacy would survive the ravages of time, his direct disciples compiled records of the Buddha's teachings soon after his passing. In the Theravada Buddhist tradition, which prevails in Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia, these records are regarded as the definitive "word of the Buddha." Preserved in Pali, an ancient Indian language closely related to the language that the Buddha spoke, this full compilation of texts is known as the Pali Canon. At the heart of the Buddha's teaching were the suttas (Sanskrit sutras), his discourses and dialogues. If we want to find out what the Buddha himself actually said, these are the most ancient sources available to us. The suttas were compiled into collections called "Nikayas," of which there are four, each organized according to a different principle. The Digha Nikaya consists of longer discourses; the Majjhima Nikaya of middle-length discourses; the Samyutta Nikaya of thematically connected discourses; and the Anguttara Nikaya of numerically patterned discourses. The present volume, which continues Wisdom's famous Teachings of the Buddha series, contains a full translation of the Anguttara Nikaya. The Anguttara arranges the Buddha's discourses in accordance with a numerical scheme intended to promote retention and easy comprehension. In an age when writing was still in its infancy, this proved to be the most effective way to ensure that the disciples could grasp and replicate the structure of a teaching.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A triumph." (The Middle Way)"As close as we'll get to the original teachings and account of the life of the Buddha." (Tricycle)"A book to be kept close at hand for a lifetime--it will long endure as a classic of scholarship and render the teachings of the historical Buddha accessible to any who have eyes to see and the interest to look." (Inquiring Mind)"An amazing work that speaks to us across 2500 years [to] open up new and precious insights into the depths of Buddhist history and thought." (Mountain Record)"A priceless gift." (Joseph Goldstein, author of A Heart Full of Peace and One Dharma)"Bhikkhu Bodhi is a brilliant translator." (Jack Kornfield, author of After the Ecstasy, the Laundry)

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.

Thank you Bhikkhu Bodhi! I bought the hardcover version of the Anguttara Nikaya - but I have a very limited time to read the 2000+ page. I also commute about 3 hours a day where this would be ideal to listen too. My 91 YO mom also is interested in Buddhist literature - if you could get an audible version of this created I would be (even more) grateful. Thanks so much for the dedication for all the amazing books you have translated.

Bhikkhu Bodhi does a masterful job of bringing this tome to life in the English language. His indexing system is well thought out and flawlessly executed. The book itself is beautifully bound with a decent sized type face. The print stock is thin enough that the book will stay open to the selected page but not so thin as to be flimsy. The pages are headed in such a way that locating suttas is an easy task. I am very happy with this addition to my library.

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.

As far as I am aware, Bhikkhu Bodhi is the preeminent scholar of the Pali Canon and of the Buddha's words. He does not fail here to amplify that assessment.

heh... "how would i describe the plot of this book", indeed...i only wish the discourses hadn't been abbreviated with elisions; i'd rather deal with a huge fat book than miss out on the repetition the Buddha seems to have deliberately employed as a learning aid.

This is a translation of a 2000-year old text in the Pali language, a derivative of Sanskrit. This is part of a group of Buddhist texts called the "Pali Canon".

What a piece of work by B. Bodhi. Respect! Finished reading yesterday after 6 months (I did other - sensual - things in between). Not seldom repetitions. But then: Good things can't be said sort of to often. Some discourses are outstanding.

This is a classic of the Theravada Buddhist canon. It's a complete edition and as such it's an important work.

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