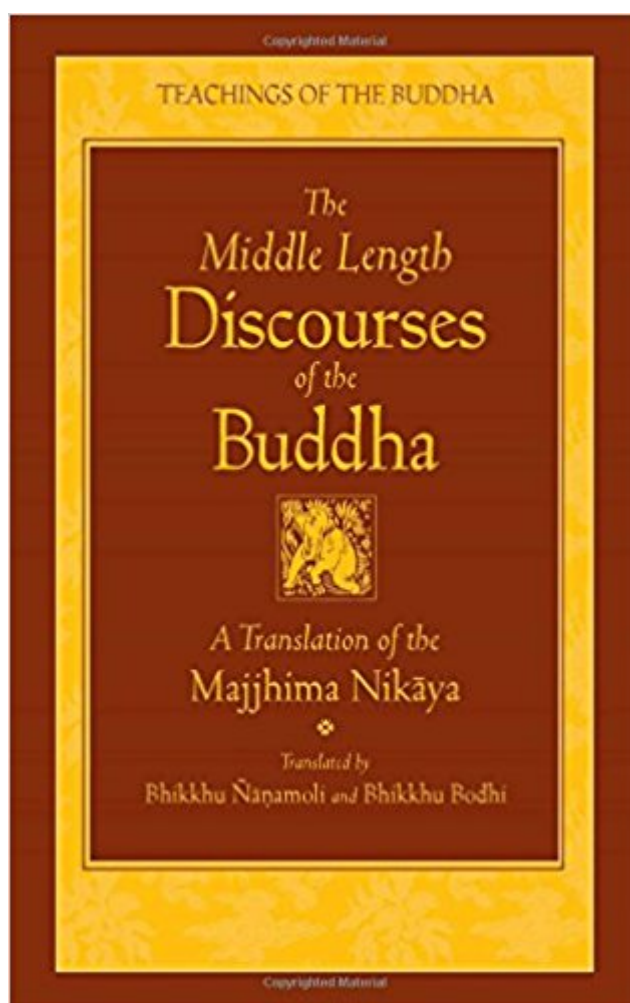


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# The Middle Length Discourses Of The Buddha: A Translation Of The Majjhima Nikaya (The Teachings Of The Buddha)



## Synopsis

This book offers a complete translation of the Majjhima Nikaya, or Middle Length Discourses of the Buddha, one of the major collections of texts in the Pali Canon, the authorized scriptures of Theravada Buddhism. This collection--among the oldest records of the historical Buddha's original teachings--consists of 152 suttas or discourses of middle length, distinguished as such from the longer and shorter suttas of the other collections. The Majjhima Nikaya might be concisely described as the Buddhist scripture that combines the richest variety of contextual settings with the deepest and most comprehensive assortment of teachings. These teachings, which range from basic ethics to instructions in meditation and liberating insight, unfold in a fascinating procession of scenarios that show the Buddha in living dialogue with people from many different strata of ancient Indian society: with kings and princes, priests and ascetics, simple villagers and erudite philosophers. Replete with drama, reasoned argument, and illuminating parable and simile, these discourses exhibit the Buddha in the full glory of his resplendent wisdom, majestic sublimity, and compassionate humanity. The translation is based on an original draft translation left by the English scholar-monk Bhikkhu Nanamoli, which has been edited and revised by the American monk Bhikkhu Bodhi, who provides a long introduction and helpful explanatory notes. Combining lucidity of expression with accuracy, this translation enables the Buddha to speak across twenty-five centuries in language that addresses the most pressing concerns of the contemporary reader seeking clarification of the timeless issues of truth, value, and the proper conduct of life. Winner of the 1995 Choice Magazine Outstanding Academic Book Award, and the Tricycle Prize for Excellence in Buddhist Publishing for Dharma Discourse.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This new translation of the Majjhima Nikaya, part of the Pali Canon touching on the nature of Nirvana and the Four Noble Truths, is considered by scholars to be the most reliable source for the original teachings of the historical Buddha. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"A triumph." (The Middle Way)"Everyone who reads The Middle Length Discourses must be struck by the richness of its contents." (Buddhist Studies Review)"A book to be kept close at hand for a lifetime--like the teacher and beneficial friend it will surely become for those with a deep interest in the dhamma...a book for our generation that will, I think, 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)"This new translation of the Majjhima Nikaya...is considered by scholars to be the most reliable source for the original teachings of the historical Buddha." (Library Journal)"...remarkable both in its scope and in its contemporary rendering of the Buddha's words." (Tricycle)"Most welcome..." (Mountain Record)"It can be difficult for Westerners to penetrate the 'official' Buddhist canon, but one English-language translation stands above the rest: The Middle Length Discourses of the Buddha, published by Wisdom Publications." (Mark Schneider, religion reporter, Canadian Television News)

Great (and huge!) translation of the Middle-Length Discourses of Shakyamuni Buddha. These discourses are recorded conversations between the Buddha and his followers and sometimes with esoteric beings like the Maras and Brahma. This is highly technical material that will take the reader some time to digest. This collection is from the Pali Canon, or the Theravada scriptures. Mahayana Buddhists will nonetheless find much in these pages worth reading and contemplating.

If you really want to make a real practice, it's worth reading the original Nikayas. They are far more readable than most people would suspect, I haven't finished reading this one but from what I have read, I wasn't disappointed. It's the closest you are going to get to the original words of the Buddha without either having to read Pali palm leaves or a time machine. Good dhamma is good for you.

This book was very impressive! It gave me a compressive understanding what the Buddha taught about 2500 years ago very vividly. I would like to recommend to you listening the author Bikku Bodhi's lectures about this book on the web sites. (<http://bodhimonastery.org/a-systematic-study-of-the-majjhima-nikaya.html>) If you listen his lecture you can understand the content of the book more easily. Actually his lecture is one of the best and the most kind one I ever had in my life about Buddha's teaching. Through reading this book and listening of his lecture you can get the insight of the origin of your suffering and how to deal with them successfully. Thank you!!

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.

The fourth edition of this essential reference has just been released by the publisher Wisdom Publications. Until .com can obtain a new supply, it can be obtained directly from Wisdom Publications for \$39.96, a 20% discount from the new list price of \$49.95, reduced from the \$65 list for the third edition. There is a small publishing oversight on the title page which identifies it mistakenly as the third edition instead of the fourth edition, however this does not detract from the otherwise excellent quality of the binding and printing.

This book isn't fiction, but it is about fiction. About removing fiction from our lives, the necessary but costly fictions of thought, language, culture. About naming and undoing, seeing through these fictions, learning to step away from ill-will, greed, and delusion into loving-kindness, generosity, patience and equanimity. About taking up our true nature, which defies description but functions very well, thank you. Read this book. Welcome back what you can't lose (there is no self to lose it, and no describable 'it') anyway but you can grow away from, then back toward a life based in it.

Well translated and wonderfully commented translation of the Majjhima Nikaya. Bhikkhu Bodhi is the guiding hand through the introduction and annotations working through the late Bhikkhu Namamoli's notes. Like the other Nikayas offered by Wisdom Publications this translation is rich in commentary that bring out the beauty in each sutta and offers suggestions for further reading.

This book provides a very readable English translation of some of the ancient discourses. In my

opinion, these discourses are not the most accessible things to read for the "dabblers" in Buddhism, partly because of the repetitive nature of some of the discourses and partly because of the focus on enlightenment as the ultimate goal. The translators have done what is possible to reduce the repetitiveness by eliminating some of the word for word duplication in the text. I purchased the hardback version (not the on-line one) and the quality of the book itself, the paper, etc., is very good. I would definitely recommend the book for anyone serious enough to want to know the teachings of the historical Buddha.

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