

A BASIC BUDDHIST READING LIST FROM BODHI MONASTERY

Including the Theravada and Mahayana Traditions at the Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced Levels

(For selected modern applications and interpretations, see the Modern Personal Perspectives on the Dharma List.)

The teachers, students, and friends of Bodhi Monastery have suggested these readings; therefore, this is not a complete or impartial selection. This list

- tries to capture the most general and important teachings of various traditions, teachers, etc., that we are familiar with;
- restricts itself to the titles that deal with basic Buddhist teachings rather than with aspects of Buddhism from highly personal points of view;
- includes a broad range from beginner to advanced, casual to scholarly, specific to comprehensive; and
- lists specific teachings of certain genres only if the suggestions were expert.

Our review and editing of the list were based on the presence in the reading materials of fundamental Buddhist principles; that is to say, the main criterion was that the reading material be based on proper *Buddhadhamma / Buddhadharma*

- in accord with Dependent Origination (*paticca-samuppada*);
- in accord with the Four Noble Truths (*cattari ariya saccani*); and
- in accord with the Three Characteristics (*ti-lakkhana*).

In terms of practice, the readings were selected

- in accord with the practice of morality, meditation, and insight-wisdom (*sila, samadhi, and panna*).

	Title, Edition	Author, Editor, Translator	URL	Year	Tradition	Level	Content Type
1	Abhidhamma Studies	Nyanaponika Thera (Bhikkhu Bodhi, ed.)	—	1998	Theravada	Advanced	"explorations of consciousness and time"
2	Anger	Thich Nhat Hanh	—	2001	Vietnamese Zen	Beginning	Mindfulness of negative thoughts and emotions
3	Basic Method of Meditation, The	Brahmavamso	—	1998	Theravada	Beginning/Intermediate	Basic meditation instruction
4	Being Dhamma	Ajahn Chah (Paul Breiter, trans.)	—	2001	Theravada	Beginning	General
5	Being Nobody, Going Nowhere - Meditations on the Buddhist Path	Ayya Khema	—	1987	Theravada	Beginning	Introductions to the fundamentals of

							Theravada Buddhism
6	Bhikkhus Rules: A Guide for Laypeople, The	Ariyesako	www.accesstoinsight.org/lib/authors/ariyesako/layguide.html	1998	Theravada	Beginning	Practical reading
7	Buddha's Path to Deliverance, The	Nyanatiloka, trans.	—	1952	Theravada	Intermediate	Selected scriptures
8	Buddhist Dictionary	Nyanatiloka	—	1980	Theravada	All levels	Manual of Buddhist terms and doctrines
9	Buddhist Ethics: A Very Short Introduction	Damien Keown	—	2005	General	Intermediate/Advanced	Basic ethics and specific issues
10	Buddhist Path of Awakening, The, 2 nd ed.	Rupert Gethin	—	2001	Theravada	Advanced	Scholarly study
11	Buddhist Religions: A Historical Introduction, 5 th ed.	Richard H. Robinson, Willard L. Johnson, Thanissaro Bhikkhu	—	2004	General	All levels	History of Buddhism
12	Comprehensive Manual of Abhidhamma, A (<i>Abhidhammattha Sangaha</i>)	Anuruddha (Bhikkhu Bodhi, trans.)	—	1999	Theravada	Advanced	Text & commentary
13	Connected Discourses of the Buddha, The (<i>Samyutta Nikaya</i>)	Bhikkhu Bodhi, trans.	—	2002	General	All levels	Scripture
14	Dhammapada, The	Narada Thera, trans.	—	1993	General	All Levels	Scripture
15	Diamond Sutra: The Perfection of Wisdom, The	Red Pine, trans.	—	2002	Mahayana	Beginning	Scripture & study
16	Eight Mindful Steps to Happiness	Henepola Gunaratana	—	2001	Theravada	All levels	Noble eightfold path
17	Essence of the Heart Sutra, The	Dalai Lama	—	2005	Mahayana	Intermediate	Trans. & Commentary
18	Everyman's Ethics	Narada Thera	www.accesstoinsight.org/lib/authors/narada/wheel014.html	1985	Theravada	Intermediate	Practical reading
19	Faces of Compassion: Classic Bodhisattva Archetypes and Their Modern Expression	Taigen Daniel Leighton	—	2003	Mahayana	Intermediate	Detailed descriptions of several bodhisattvic archetypes
20	First Buddhist Women: Poems and Stories of Awakening, The	Susan Murcott	—	2006	General	Beginning	Study of women in scripture
21	Foundations of Buddhism, The	Rupert Gethin	—	1998	General	Beginner/Intermediate	Buddhism in general
22	Four Foundations of Mindfulness, The	Silananda, trans. & author	—	1990	Theravada	All levels	Mahasi Sayadaw approach to insight meditation
23	Four Noble Truths, The	Ajahn Sumedho	www.buddhanet.net/4noble.htm	—	Theravada	Beginning	

24	Great Awakening, The	David Loy	—	2003	Intermediate/ Advanced	All levels	Buddhist social theory
25	Great Disciples of the Buddha	Nyanaponika & Hecker (Bodhi ed.)	—	2003	General	Intermediate	Biographies of the Buddha's personal disciples
26	Great Treatise on the Stages of the Path to Enlightenment, The (The <i>Lamrim Chenmo</i>), 3 volumes	Tsong-kha-pa (Joshua Cutler, ed. in chief)	—	2001-2004	Tibetan Mahayana	Advanced	Compendium of Buddhist doctrines
27	Guide to the Bodhisattva Way of Life, A (<i>Bodhicaryavatara</i>)	Shantideva (Vesna A. Wallace & B. Alan Wallace, trans.)	—	1997	Mahayana	Intermediate	Text of poetry and practice instructions
28	Heart of Buddhist Meditation, The	Nyanaponika	—	1965	Theravada	Intermediate/Advanced	Insight meditation theory, practice, and texts
29	Heart Sutra, The	Red Pine, trans.	—	2004	Mahayana	Beginning	Scripture and study
30	Illuminating Silence: The Practice of Chinese Zen	Sheng-Yen	—	2002	Chan (Chinese Zen)	Beginning/Intermediate	Meditation
31	In the Buddha's Words	Bhikkhu Bodhi, trans. & ed.	—	2005	General	All levels	Scriptural excerpts
32	Indian Buddhism	A.K. Warder	—	1970	General Indian	Intermediate/Advanced	Scholarly study
33	Introduction to Buddhism, An	Peter Harvey	—	1990	General	All levels	Scholarly intro. at undergraduate university level
34	Introduction to Buddhist Ethics, An	Peter Harvey	—	2000	General	Intermediate/Advanced	General audience and scholarly
35	Large Sutra on Perfect Wisdom, The	Edward Conze, trans. & ed.	—	1972	Mahayana	Advanced	Scripture
36	Life of the Buddha, The	Nanamoli, trans. & ed.	—	1993	General	Intermediate	Biography from scriptures
37	Long Discourses of the Buddha, The (<i>Digha Nikaya</i>)	Maurice Walshe, trans.	—	1987	Theravada	All levels	Scripture
38	Lotus Sutra, The	Burton Watson, trans.	—	1993	Mahayana	Intermediate	Scripture
39	Loving-Kindness - The Revolutionary Art of Happiness	Sharon Salzberg	—	1995	Theravada	Beginning	Developing loving-kindness
40	Mahayana Buddhism: The Doctrinal Foundations	Paul Williams	—	1989	Mahayana	Intermediate/Advanced	History of Mahayana
41	Meditation on Emptiness	Jeffrey Hopkins	—	1983	Tibetan Mahayana	Advanced	Philosophical examination of emptiness from Tibetan perspective
42	Middle Length Discourses of the	Bhikkhu Nanamoli and	—	1995	General	All levels	Scripture

	Buddha, The (Majjhima Nikaya)	Bhikkhu Bodhi, trans.					
43	Mind and the Way, The	Ajahn Sumedho	—	1995	Theravada	Beginning/Intermediate	Essays
44	Mindfulness In Plain English	Henepola Gunaratana	—	1991	Theravada	Beginning	Basic meditation instruction
45	Mindfulness with Breathing	Buddhadasa	—	1996	Theravada	Beginning/Intermediate	Insight meditation
46	Nature of Buddhist Ethics, The	Damien Keown	—	2001	General	Advanced	Scholarly study
47	New Social Face of Buddhism, The	Ken Jones	—	2003	General	Intermediate	Engaged Buddhism
48	Noble Eightfold Path: Way to the End of Suffering	Bhikkhu Bodhi	www.accesstoinsight.org/lib/authors/bodhi/waytoend.html	2000	Theravada	All levels	The Eightfold Path
49	Numerical Sayings of the Buddha, The (<i>Anguttara Nikaya</i>)	Nyanaponika and Bodhi, trans.	—	1999	Theravada	All levels	Scriptural selections
50	Path of Purification, The (<i>Visuddhimagga</i>), 5 th ed.	Buddhaghosa (Nyanamoli trans.)	—	1996	Theravada	Advanced	scripture commentary
51	Perfection of Wisdom in Eight Thousand Lines & Its Verse Summary, The	Edward Conze, trans.	—	1985	Mahayana	Advanced	Scripture & scholarly study
52	Platform Sutra: The Zen Teaching of Hui-neng, The	Red Pine, trans.	—	2006	Mahayana	All levels	Scripture & study
53	Practicing the Path: A Commentary on the <i>Lamrim Chenmo</i>	Yangsi Rinpoche	—	2003	Tibetan Mahayana	Advanced	Commentary on The Great Treatise
54	<i>Satipatthana</i> : The Direct Path to Realization	Analayo	—	2003	Theravada	Intermediate/Advanced	Analysis of a classic meditation scripture
55	Seeking the Heart of Wisdom	Joseph Goldstein & Jack Kornfield	—	1987	Theravada	All levels	Classic insight meditation instruction
56	Selected Translations of Miao Yun parts 1-7	Yin-Shun	(available from Bodhi Monastery)	On-going	Chinese Mahayana	All levels	General
57	Selfless Mind, The	Peter Harvey	—	1995	Theravada	Advanced	Scholarly study
58	Selfless Persons	Peter Collins	—	1990	Theravada	Advanced	Scholarly study
59	<i>Sutta Nipata</i> , The	H. Saddhatissa, trans.	—	1994	General	All levels	Scripture
60	Tranquility and Insight	Amadeo Sole-Leris	—	1986	Theravada	All levels	Insight meditation
61	Treasury of Mahayana Sutras, A (<i>Maharatnakuta Sutra</i>)	Garma C.C. Chang, ed.	—	1983	Mahayana	All levels	Selected scriptures
62	Tree of Enlightenment, The	Peter Della Santina	www.buddhanet.net/pdf_file/tree-enlightenment.pdf	1997	General	Beginning/Intermediate	General
63	Verses from the Center	Stephen Batchelor	—	2000	Mahayana	All levels	Text and commentary
64	<i>Viimalakirti Sutra</i> , The	Burton Watson, trans.	—	1997	Mahayana	All levels	Scripture
65	Vision of Dhamma, The	Nyanaponika Thera	—	1986	Theravada	Intermediate	Essays

		(Bhikkhu Bodhi, ed.)					
66	Voices of Insight	Sharon Salzberg, ed.	—	1999	Theravada	Intermediate	Collection of talks
67	Way to Buddhahood. The	Yin-Shun	—	1998	Chinese Mahayana	Advanced	Systemized overview of Buddhism
68	What the Buddha Taught	Walpola Rahula	—	1967	Theravada and all	Beginning/Intermediate	Overview of basic Buddhist teachings
69	Who Is My Self? - A Guide to Buddhist Meditation	Ayya Khema	—	1997	Theravada	Intermediate	The <i>Potthapaada Sutta</i> interpreted and explained
70	Wings to Awakening, The	Thanissaro, trans. & ed.	www.buddhanet.net/wings.htm	1996	Theravada	Intermediate	The 37 factors of awakening (<i>bodhi-pakkhiya-dhamma</i>)
71	Word of the Buddha, The	Nyanatiloka, trans.	—	1967	Theravada	Beginning	Selected scriptures

MODERN AND PERSONAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE DHARMA LIST

Including the Theravada and Mahayana Traditions at the Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced Levels

(For selected basic readings, see the Basic Buddhist Reading List from Bodhi Monastery.)

Students and friends of Bodhi Monastery have suggested the books listed below, which represent a selection of presentations of the Dharma / Dhamma from a variety of interests and perspectives. Some of these books prompted their readers to study and practice of Buddhism.

	Title, Edition	Author, Editor, Translator	URL	Year	Tradition	Level	Content Type
1	After the Ecstasy, the Laundry	Jack Kornfield	—	2000	Theravada	Intermediate	Insight meditation
2	Available Truth	Bhikkhu Nyanasobhano	—	2007	Theravada	Intermediate	Buddhism in the natural world
3	Awakening Meditation	Madawela Punnaji	—		Theravada	Beginning	An interpretation of meditation
4	Buddhism for Dummies	Jonathan Landaw and Stephan Bodian	—	2002	General	Beginner	General introduction
5	Chanting from the Heart: Buddhist Ceremonies and Daily Practices	Thich Nhat Hanh	—	2006	Vietnamese Zen	Beginner	Scripture and liturgy study
6	Cultivating the Empty Field: The Silent Illumination of Zen Master Hongzhi	Taigen Daniel Leighton, trans. & ed.	—	2000	Chan (Chinese Zen)	Intermediate	Poetry/practice instruction
7	Dhammapada	Eknath Easwaran	—	1985	General	Beginner	Scripture

8	Eight Gates of Zen: A Program of Zen Training, The	John Daido Looi	—	1992	Zen	Beginner	Meditation and practice
9	Faith	Sharon Salzberg	—	2002	Theravada	Beginner	Understanding the role of faith in Buddhism
10	Happy Married Life, A	K. Sri Dhammananda	www.accesstoinsight.org/lib/authors/dhammananda/marriage.html	1987	Theravada	Intermediate	Practical reading
11	Heart of the Buddha's Teaching, The	Thich Nhat Hanh	—	1999	Vietnamese Zen	All levels	Introduction to Core Buddhist teachings
12	Heart of Understanding, The	Thich Nhat Hanh	—	1988	Vietnamese Zen	Beginning	The Heart Sutra explained
13	Hua-Yen Buddhism: The Jewel Net of Indra	Francis Cook	—	1977	Chinese Mahayana	Intermediate	Scholarly overview of the Hua Yen school
14	Landscapes of Wonder	Bhikkhu Nyanasobhano	—	1998	Theravada	Intermediate	Buddhism in the natural world
15	Lessons of the Lotus, The	Wimala	—	1997	Theravada	Beginning	Easy reading
16	Living Meditation, Living Insight	Thynn Thynn	—	1995	Burmese Theravada	Beginner/Intermediate	Meditation / mindfulness in daily life
17	Longing for Certainty	Bhikkhu Nyanasobhano	—	2003	Theravada	Intermediate	Buddhism in the natural world
18	Old Path, White Clouds: Walking in the Footsteps of the Buddha	Thich Nhat Hanh	—	1991	Vietnamese Zen	Beginner	Biography of the Buddha and introduction to Buddhism
19	Pay Attention, For Goodness' Sake	Sylvia Boorstein	—	2002	Theravada	Intermediate	The 10 <i>paramis</i> (perfections)
20	Saffron Days in L.A.	Piyananda	—	2001	Theravada	Beginner	Funny and inspiring stories
21	Start Where You Are	Pema Chodron	—	1994	Tibetan	All levels	Introduction to <i>lojong</i> ("giving and taking") practice
22	Still Forest Pool: The Insight Meditation of Achaan Chah, A	Jack Kornfeld, trans. and ed.	—	1985	Theravada	Beginning	Teachings of a forest meditation master
23	Still Point Dhammapada, The	Geri Larkin	—	2003	Zen	Beginning	Scriptural paraphrase
24	Teachings of the Buddha	Jack Kornfield	—	2004	General	Beginner	Selected scripture
25	The Meaning of Conversion in Buddhism	Sangharakhita	—	2000	Friends of the Western Buddhist Order	Beginning/Intermediate	Taking refuge and basic teachings
26	The Miracle of Mindfulness	Thich Nhat Hanh	—	1987	Vietnamese Zen	All levels	Basic mindfulness meditation

27	Vision and Transformation: An Introduction to the Buddha's Noble Eightfold Path	Sangharakhita	—	2000	Friends of the Western Buddhist Order	Beginning/Intermediate	Basic Buddhist teachings
28	Wherever You Go, There You Are	Jon Kabat-Zinn	—	1994	Mindfulness, Zen	Beginning	Mindfulness meditation
29	Who Ordered This Truckload of Dung?	Ajahn Brahm	—	2005	Theravada	Beginning	Funny and inspiring stories
30	Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind	Shunryu Suzuki	—	1973	Zen	Beginning	Talks on meditation