

# In the Buddha's Words

## An anthology of Discourses from the Pāli Canon

Edited and Introduced by  
Bhikkhu Bodhi

### I. THE HUMAN CONDITION

1. Old Age, Illness, and Death
  - (1) Aging and Death (SN 3:3; I: 71)
  - (2) The Simile of the Mountain (SN 3:25; I: 100-102)
  - (3) The Divine Messengers (from AN 3:35; I: 138-140)
2. The Tribulations of Unreflective Living
  - (1) The Dart of Painful Feeling (SN 36:6; IV: 207-10)
  - (2) The Vicissitudes of Life (AN 8:6; IV: 157-59)
  - (3) Anxiety Due to Change (SN 22:7; III: 15-18)
3. A World in Turmoil
  - (1) The Origin of Conflict (AN 2: iv, 6, abridged; I: 66)
  - (2) Why Do Beings Live in Hate? (from DN 21; II: 276-77)
  - (3) The Dark Chain of Causation (from DN 15; II: 58)
  - (4) The Roots of Violence and Oppression (from AN 3:69; I: 201-2)
4. Without Discoverable Beginning
  - (1) Grass and Sticks (SN 15:1; II: 178)
  - (2) Balls of Clay (SN 15:2; II: 179)
  - (3) The Mountain (SN 15:5; II: 181-82)
  - (4) The River Ganges (SN 15:8; II: 183-84)
- (5) Dog on a Leash (SN 22:99; II: 149-50)

### II. THE BRINGER OF LIGHT

1. One Person (AN 1: xiii, 1, 5,6; I: 22-23)

2. The Buddha's Conception and Birth (MN 123, abridged; III: 118-20; I: 22-24)
3. The Quest for Enlightenment
  - (1) Seeking the Supreme State of Sublime Peace (from MN 26; I: 160-67)
  - (2) The Realization of the Three True Knowledges (from MN 36; I: 240-49)
  - (3) The Ancient City (SN 12:65; II: 104-7)
4. The Decision to Teach (from MN 26; I: 167-73)
5. The First Discourse (SN 56:11; V: 420-24)

### III. APPROACHING THE DHAMMA

1. Not a Secret Doctrine (AN 3:129; I: 282-83)
2. No Dogmas or Blind Belief (AN 3:65; I: 188-93)
3. The Visible Origin and Passing Away of Suffering (SN 42:11; IV 327-30)
4. Investigate the Teacher Himself (MN 47; I: 317-20)
5. Steps toward the Realization of Truth (from MN 95; II: 168-77)

### IV. THE HAPPINESS VISIBLE IN THIS PRESENT LIFE

1. Upholding the Dhamma in Society
  - (1) The King of the Dhamma (AN 3:14; I: 109-10)
  - (2) Worshipping the Six Directions (from DN 31; III: 180-81, 187-91)
2. The Family
  - (1) Parents and Children
    - (a) Respect for Parents (AN 4:63; II: 70)
    - (b) Repaying One's Parents (AN 2: iv, 2; I: 60-2)
  - (2) Husbands and Wives
    - (a) Different Kinds of Marriages (AN 4:53; II: 57-59)
    - (b) How to Be United in Future Lives (AN 4:55; II: 61-)

[3]

62)

(c) Seven Kinds of Wives (AN 7:59; IV: 91=94)

3. Present Welfare, Future Welfare (AN 8:54; IV: 281-85)
4. Right Livelihood
  - (1) Avoiding Wrong Livelihood (AN 5:177; III: 208)
  - (2) The Proper Use of Wealth (AN 4:61; II: 65-68)
  - (3) A Family Man's Happiness (AN 4:62; II: 69-70)
5. The Woman of the Home (AN 8:49; IV 269-71)
6. The Community
  - (1) Six Roots of Dispute (from MN 104; II: 245-7)
  - (2) Six Principles of Cordiality (from MN 104; II: 250-51)
  - (3) Purification Is for All Four Castes (MN 93, abridged; II: 147-54)
  - (4) Seven Principles of Social Stability (from DN 16; II: 72-77)
  - (5) The Wheel-Turning Monarch (from DN 26; III: 59-63)
  - (6) Bringing Tranquillity to the Land (from DN 5; I: 134-36)

## V – THE WAY TO A FORTUNATE REBIRTH

1. The Law of Kamma
  - (1) Four Kinds of Kamma (AN 4:232; II: 230-32)
  - (2) Why Beings Fare as They Do after Death (MN 41; I: 286-90)
  - (3) Kamma and Its Fruits (MN 135; III: 202-02)
2. Merit: The Key to Good Fortune
  - (1) Meritorious Deeds (It 22; 14-15)
  - (2) Three Bases of Merit (AN 8:36; IV: 241-43)
  - (3) The Best Kinds of Confidence (AN 4:34; II: 34-35)
3. Giving
  - (1) If People Knew the Result of Giving (It 26; 18-19)
  - (2) Reasons for Giving (AN 8:33; II: 62-63)
  - (3) The Gift of Food (AN 4:57; II: 62-63)
  - (4) A Superior Person's Gifts (AN 5:148; III: 172-3)
  - (5) Mutual Support (It 107; 111)
  - (6) Rebirth on Account of Giving (AN 8:35; IV 239-41)
4. Moral Discipline
  - (1) The Five Precepts (AN 8:39; IV: 245-47)

[4]

(2) The Uposatha Observance (AN 8:41; II: 248-51)

5. Meditation
  - (1) The Development of Loving-Kindness (It 27; 19-21)
  - (2) The Four Divine Abodes (from MN 99; II: 206-8)
  - (3) Insight Surpasses All (AN 9:20, abridged; IV: 293-96)

## VI - DEEPENING ONES PERSPECTIVE ON THE WORLD

1. Four Wonderful Things (AN 4:128; II: 131-32)
2. Gratification, Danger, and Escape
  - (1) Before My Enlightenment (AN 3:101 §§1-2; I: 258-59)
  - (2) I Set Out Seeking (AN 3:101 §3; I: 259)
  - (3) If There Were No Gratification (AN 3:102; I: 260)
3. Properly Appraising Objects of Attachment (MN 13; I: 84-90)
4. The Pitfalls in Sensual Pleasures
  - (1) Cutting Off All Affairs (from MN 54; I: 364-66)
  - (2) The Fever of Sensual Pleasures (from MN 75; I: 504-8)
5. Life Is Short and Fleeting (AN 7:70; IV: 136-9)
6. Four Summaries of the Dhamma (from MN 82; II: 65-82)
7. The Danger in Views
  - (1) A Miscellany on Wrong View (AN 1: xvii, 1, 3, 7, 9; I: 30-2)
  - (2) The Blind Men and the Elephant (Ud 6:4; 67-9)
  - (3) Held by Two Kinds of Views (It 49; 33-34)
8. From the Divine Realms to the Infernal (AN 4:125; II: 128-29)
9. The Perils of Samsara
  - (1) The Stream of Tears (SN 15:3; II: 179-80)
  - (2) The Stream of Blood (SN 15:13; II: 187-9)

## VII - THE PATH TO LIBERATION

1. Why Does One Enter the Path?
  - (1) The Arrow of Birth, Aging, and Death (MN 63; I: 426-32 )

[5]

- (2) The Heartwood of the Spiritual Life (MN 29; I: 192-97)
- (3) The Fading Away of Lust (SN 45:41-48, combined; V: 27-29)
2. Analysis of the Eightfold Path (SN 45:8; V: 8-10)
3. Good Friendship (SN 45:2; V: 2-3)
4. The Graduated Training (MN 27; I: 175-84)
5. The Higher Stages of Training with Similes (from MN 39; I: 274-80)

## VIII - MASTERING THE MIND

1. The Mind Is the Key (AN 1: iii, 1, 2, 3, 4, 9,10; I: 5-6)
2. Developing a Pair of Skills
  - (1) Serenity and Insight (AN 2: iii, 10; I: 61)
  - (2) Four Ways to Arahantship (AN 4:170; II: 156-57)
  - (3) Four Kinds of Persons (AN 4:94; II: 93-95)
3. The Hindrances to Mental Development (SN 46:55, abridged; V: 121-26)
4. The Refinement of the Mind (AN 3:100 §§1-10; I: 253-256)
5. The Removal of Distracting Thoughts (MN 20; I: 118-22)
6. The Mind of Loving-Kindness (from MN 21; I: 126-27, 129)
7. The Six Recollections (AN 6:10; III: 284-88)
8. The Four Establishments of Mindfulness (MN 10; I: 55-63)
9. Mindfulness of Breathing (SN 54:13; V: 328-33 ≠ MN 118.15-43; III: 82-88)
10. The Achievement of Mastery (SN 28:1-9, combined; III: 235-38)

## IX - SHINING THE LIGHT OF WISDOM

1. Images of Wisdom
  - (1) Wisdom as a Light (AN 4:143; II: 139)
  - (2) Wisdom as a Knife (from MN 146; III: 274-75)
2. The Conditions for Wisdom (AN 8:2, abridged; IV: 151-55)
3. A Discourse on Right View (MN 9; I: 46-55)
4. The Domain of Wisdom
  - (1) By Way of the Five Aggregates

[6]

- (a) Phases of the Aggregates (SN 22:56; III: 58-61)
- (b) A Catechism on the Aggregates (SN 22:82, abr; 100-3 = MN 109, abridged; III: 15-19 )
- (c) The Characteristic of Nonsself (SN 22:59; III: 66-68)
- (d) Impermanent, Suffering, Nonsself (SN 22:45; III: 44-45)
- (e) A Lump of Foam (SN 22:95; III: 140-42)
- (2) By Way of the Six Sense Bases
  - (a) Full Understanding (SN 35:26; IV: 17-18)
  - (b) Burning (SN 35:28; IV: 19-20)
  - (c) Suitable for Attaining Nibbana (SN 35:147-49, combined; IV: 133-35)
  - (d) Empty Is the World (SN 35:85; IV 54)
  - (e) Consciousness Too Is Nonsself (SN 35:234; IV: 166-68)
- (3) By Way of the Elements
  - (a) The Eighteen Elements (SN 14:1; II-140)
  - (b) The Four Elements (SN 14:37-39, combined; II: 175-77)
  - (c) The Six Elements (from MN 140; III: 240-43)
- (4) By Way of Dependent Origination
  - (a) What Is Dependent Origination? (SN 12:1; II: 1-2)
  - (b) The Stableness of the Dhamma (SN 12:20; II: 25-27)
  - (c) Forty-Four Cases of Knowledge (SN 12:33; II: 56-59)
  - (d) A Teaching by the Middle (SN 12:15; II: 16-17)
  - (e) The Continuance of Consciousness (SN 12:38; II: 65-66)
  - (f) The Origin and Passing of the World (SN 12:44; II: 73-74)
- (5) By Way of the Four Noble Truths
  - (a) The Truths of All Buddhas (SN 56:24; V: 433-34)
  - (b) These Four Truths Are Actual (SN 56:20; V: 430-31)
  - (c) A Handful of Leaves (SN 56:31; V: 437-38)
  - (d) Because of Not Understanding (SN 56:21; V: 431-32);
  - (e) The Precipice (SN 56:42; V: 448-50)
  - (f) Making the Breakthrough (SN 56:32; V: 442-43)
  - (g) The Destruction of the Taints (SN 56:25; V: 434)
5. The Goal of Wisdom
  - (1) What is Nibbana? (SN 38:1; IV: 251-52)
  - (2) Thirty-Three Synonyms for Nibbana (SN 43:1-44, combined; IV: 359-73)
  - (3) There Is That Base (Ud 8:1; 80)
  - (4) The Unborn (Ud 8:3; 80-81)

- (5) The Two Nibbana Elements (It 44; 38)
- (6) The Fire and the Ocean (from MN 72; I: 486-88)

## X. THE PLANES OF REALIZATION

### 1. The Field of Merit for the World

- (1) Eight Persons Worthy of Gifts (AN 8:59; IV: 292)
- (2) Differentiation by Faculties (SN 48:18; V: 202)
- (3) In the Dhamma Well Expounded (from MN 22; I: 140-42)
- (4) The Completeness of the Teaching (from MN 73; I: 490-93)
- (5) Seven Kinds of Noble Persons (from MN 70; I: 477-79)

### 2. Stream-Entry

- (1) The Four Factors Leading to Stream-Entry (SN 55:5; V: 410-11)
- (2) Entering the Fixed Course of Rightness (SN 25:1; III: 225)
- (3) The Breakthrough to the Dhamma (SN 13:1; II: 133-34)
- (4) The Four Factors of a Stream-Enterer (SN 55:2; V: 343-44)
- (5) Better than Sovereignty over the Earth (SN 55:1; V: 342)

### 3. Nonreturning

- (1) Abandoning the Five Lower Fetters (from MN 64; I: 434-37)
- (2) Four Kinds of Persons (AN 4:169; II: 155-56)
- (3) Six Things that Partake of True Knowledge (SN 55:3; V: 344-46)
- (4) Five Kinds of Nonreturners (SN 46:3; V: 69-70)

### 4. The Arahant

- (1) Removing the Residual Conceit "I Am" (SN 22:89; Iii: 126-32)
- (2) The Trainee and the Arahant (SN 48:53; V: 229-30)
- (3) A Monk Whose Crossbar Has Been Lifted (from MN 22; I: 139-40)
- (4) Nine Things an Arahant Cannot Do (from AN 9:7; IV: 370-71)
- (5) A Mind Unshaken (from AN 9:26; IV: 404-5)
- (6) The Ten Powers of an Arahant Monk (AN 10:90; V: 174-

5)

- (7) The Sage at Peace (from MN 140; III: 344-47)
- (8) Happy Indeed Are the Arahants (from SN 22:76; III: 83-84)

### 5. The Tathagata

- (1) The Buddha and the Arahant (SN 22:58; III: 65-66)
- (2) For the Welfare of Many (It 84; 78-79)
- (3) Sariputta's Lofty Utterance (SN 47:12; V: 159-61)
- (4) The Powers and Grounds of Self-Confidence (from MN 12; I: 170-72)
- (5) The Manifestation of Great Light (SN 56:38; V: 442-43)
- (6) The Man Desiring Our Good (from MN 19; I: 117-18)
- (7) The Lion (SN 22:78; III: 84-85)
- (8) Why Is He Called the Tathagata? (AN 4:23; II: 23-24 = It 112; 121-23)