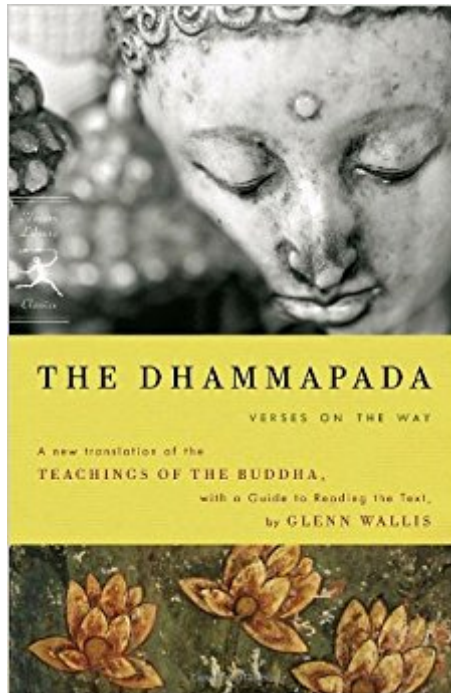




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The Dhammapada: Verses On The Way (Modern Library Classics)



Synopsis

Trembling and quivering is the mind, Difficult to guard and hard to restrain. The person of wisdom sets it straight, As a fletcher does an arrow. The Dhammapada introduced the actual utterances of the Buddha nearly twenty-five hundred years ago, when the master teacher emerged from his long silence to illuminate for his followers the substance of humankind's deepest and most abiding concerns. The nature of the self, the value of relationships, the importance of moment-to-moment awareness, the destructiveness of anger, the suffering that attends attachment, the ambiguity of the earth's beauty, the inevitability of aging, the certainty of death—these dilemmas preoccupy us today as they did centuries ago. No other spiritual texts speak about them more clearly and profoundly than does the Dhammapada. In this elegant new translation, Sanskrit scholar Glenn Wallis has exclusively referred to and quoted from the canonical suttas—the presumed earliest discourses of the Buddha—to bring us the heartwood of Buddhism, words as compelling today as when the Buddha first spoke them. On violence: All tremble before violence./ All fear death./ Having done the same yourself,/ you should neither harm nor kill. On ignorance: An uninstructed person/ ages like an ox,/ his bulk increases,/ his insight does not. On skillfulness: A person is not skilled/ just because he talks a lot./ Peaceful, friendly, secure—that one is called "skilled." In 423 verses gathered by subject into chapters, the editor offers us a distillation of core Buddhist teachings that constitutes a prescription for enlightened living, even in the twenty-first century. He also includes a brilliantly informative guide to the verses—a chapter-by-chapter explication that greatly enhances our understanding of them. The text, at every turn, points to practical applications that lead to freedom from fear and suffering, toward the human state of spiritual virtuosity known as awakening. Glenn Wallis's translation is an inspired successor to earlier versions of the suttas. Even those readers who are well acquainted with the Dhammapada will be enriched by this fresh encounter with a classic text. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

"Organized in a way that is meant to encourage a fresh encounter with the Dhammapada," according to its introduction, this guide jumps right in with Wallis's careful translation of the 2,400-year-old Buddhist text. Wallis, an assistant professor of religion at the University of Georgia, wants readers to pore over the classic itself before using the notes in the back of the book on the second, third or even fourth reading. ("Learning is slow; careful reading is tedious; understanding is elusive," he cautions.) After this initial getting-to-know-you phase, readers can progress to the book's second half, which has an extended guide to the text as a whole and a detailed commentary on selected verses (which are marked by an asterisk in the translation). Wallis discusses the oral nature of the original work, which would have been memorized and recited by monks, nuns and laypersons. He argues that rather than being seen as a random collection of verses, the Dhammapada has an overriding structure and a coherent theme, emphasizing the need for spiritual diligence and effort. According to the text, readers should seek the meaning of these verses as a skilled gardener would gather flowers. Wallis's dexterous translation and commentary should help them in their task, though at times his writing is a bit technical. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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This is an essential reading for anybody looking for their place in the universe. In my opinion, even as a complete atheist, the lessons and sentiments in this book are always helpful, always relevant to a mindful life. I recommend it to everybody I know.

One of the best books about Buddha's Dhammapada, I bought this book for several of my friends and family. The hard book version is the best, since we need to use the references a lot. Whether you're religious or not it's a must book to read to learn more about life.

I love reading this version, particularly because the notes are all in the back. So I can just focus on the text or I can go further or explore a question in the back of the book.

How are you going to criticize the words of the Enlightened One? Translation is easily approachable and understood. Commentary afterward is needlessly disparaging of other editions.

Incredibly interesting text while studying eastern religions and/or conceptions.

This is beautiful. What can I say? There are few sources of spiritual teachings as eloquent and full of truth as that taught by the Buddha. The sayings are laid out in verse form. You could read one 4 line verse and meditate on it's meaning all day. They are profound thoughts, guaranteed to raise your spirit to a level much higher than the mundane. Regardless of what your opinion might be on who or what the Buddha was, the lessons he's given us are priceless. If the world really did behave the way we are taught to we would have heaven on Earth. Perhaps that was the lesson another fine religious leader was trying to give us...It is no coincidence that his teachings were also called "The Way." peace to you all..

Beautiful translation, excellent and clear annotation.

Study the original verses, live by the original verses, become the original verses. the dhammapada speaks a knowledgable truth so basic, yet so very functional. This version translated by Glenn wallis is a must have for anyone interested in living and being the dharma. There's many books discussing Buddhism, being zen, written by many authors. But these are all others interpretations of how to live, think, and interact in this world. Other translations of the dhammapada have the author's explanation in the first part of the book, and the original verses on the second part. Not Glenn's version, he has set aside his views and explanations of the texts in the latter Part of the book. Allowing the reader to first read an unbiased view on the words passed down from the Buddha's teachings. Glenn's explanations on each chapter are very helpful and insightful to understanding the texts. I recommend slowing studying, not just reading this book. Go over a chapter multiple times before going on to the next one, remember and recite verses, diligently achieve and strive for the better. To study and become the verses written in the dhammapada is to rejoice in the knowledge, love, and ease that will fill your life and the ones around you.

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