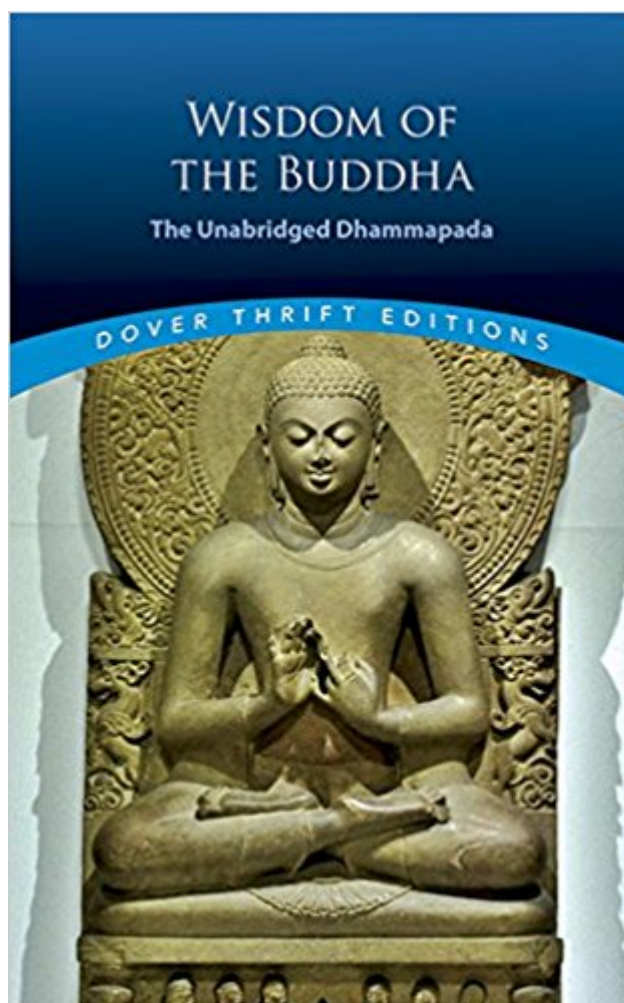


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Wisdom Of The Buddha: The Unabridged Dhammapada (Dover Thrift Editions)



Synopsis

Few of the sacred texts of the world's great religions present their wisdom with the clear simplicity of the verses of the Buddhist Dhammapada, or Path to Virtue. Its direct style, clarity, and beauty place it at the forefront of Buddhist sacred literature, and its noble intent raises it to the highest level of humanity's spiritual guides. Easily accessible to any reader, the Dhammapada offers a wealth of wisdom for the novice, as well as the most ardent and experienced of spiritual seekers. Gathered by Buddhist masters into related groups — "On Earnestness," "Flowers," "The Fool," "The Wise Man," "Happiness," "Pleasure" — these ancient texts transcend the limitations of time, tradition, and culture to express the ethical principle underlying all wise and compassionate philosophy and conduct. Here are the Four Truths that reveal the nature of the world and our lot in it; here also is the Eightfold Path, the way to enlightenment, incorporating the means to overcome the essential suffering revealed by the Four Truths as the essence of life. The Dhammapada serves as a coherent summation of the necessities for following the Eightfold Path as well as an encouraging and thought-provoking resource to consult along the way. Expressed with great beauty and translated with painstaking scholarship, this classic guide is certain to stimulate, challenge, and inspire students of religion and philosophy as well as all who thirst for enlightenment.

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Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation)

Friedrich Max Müller (6 December 1823 – 28 October 1900), generally known as Max Müller, was a German-born philologist and Orientalist, who lived and studied in Britain for most of his life. He was one of the founders of the western academic field of Indian studies and the discipline of comparative religion. In 1844, prior to commencing his academic career at Oxford, Müller studied in Berlin with Friedrich Schelling. He began to translate the Upanishads for Schelling, and continued to research Sanskrit under Franz Bopp, the first systematic scholar of the Indo-European languages. Swami Vivekananda, who was the foremost disciple of Ramakrishna Paramahansa, met Max Muller over a lunch on 28 May 1896. Regarding Max Müller and his wife, the Swami later wrote: The visit was really a revelation to me. That little white house, its setting in a beautiful garden, the silver-haired sage, with a face calm and benign, and forehead smooth as a child's in spite of seventy winters, and every line in that face speaking of a deep-seated mine of spirituality somewhere behind; that noble wife, the helpmate of his life through his long and arduous task of exciting interest, overriding opposition and contempt, and at last creating a respect for the thoughts of the sages of ancient India – the trees, the flowers, the calmness, and the clear sky – all these sent me back in imagination to the glorious days of ancient India, the days of our brahmarshis and rajarshis, the days of the great vanaprasthas, the days of Arundhatis and Vasishthas. It was neither the philologist nor the scholar that I saw, but a soul that is every day realizing its oneness with the universe. Max Müller's translation of Dhammapada from the Pali is one of most important translations in the domain of Buddhism. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

A super book on Buddha. The price is great for such a good collection of the Buddha's wisdom. Would definitely recommend.

Excellent

It is an easy read and easy to understand.

The book arrived in perfect condition and is exactly what I thought I was buying. Just ensure you want this particular version of this famous piece and you can't go wrong.

This is a weird book I had to get it for my Critical thinking class but I must say it was a great read. If religion does not offend you then I would say buy it and go over it because It is enlightening if you

read with an open mind.

This book has a lot of great philosophy in it and it isn't too hard to understand.

Everything was perfect.

Actually I give almost all dhamma books 5 stars because it's a good thing to promote with ignorance, greed, and hate being so popular these days. I have also read many nice things about Max Muller in other reading, about what a nearly enlightened being he was, etc.. so I'm grateful for people like him and am cognizant that this was written when NO good translations of anything Buddhist in English existed so I'm sure it was a really great blessing at the time. However I don't think it holds up that well compared to more modern translations. The language is awkward and as someone who has spent a lot of time reading the Nikayas etc I think the vocabulary used by Max was of the time (pre 1900s) did not convey the complex meanings of the Pali -> English as well as things translated more recently. I think since then, there has been a great deal of effort to find more descriptive words to convey Buddhist terms that were not available to him, terms that even if they were available at the time have since been nuanced by Buddhists that weren't nuanced then.. Holding this truth, it was a great effort and only praise for Max for doing the real pioneering translations as NOTHING (including good Pali -> English dictionaries) were not available at the time AND English was not his native language. More modern translations have this advantage are a much easier read and convey the meaning that the Buddha was meaning to convey. I kept asking myself - is this Buddhism I'm reading about? It seemed very foreign even though Buddhism is really the center of my life. A great read for a historical perspective of Buddhism's entry into the west, but if it's really the meaning of the Dhammapada you want, you should look to a more recent translation. Still I feel I owe a debt of gratitude to Max.. thanks Max! Without you the next steps may have been delayed by decades or longer.

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