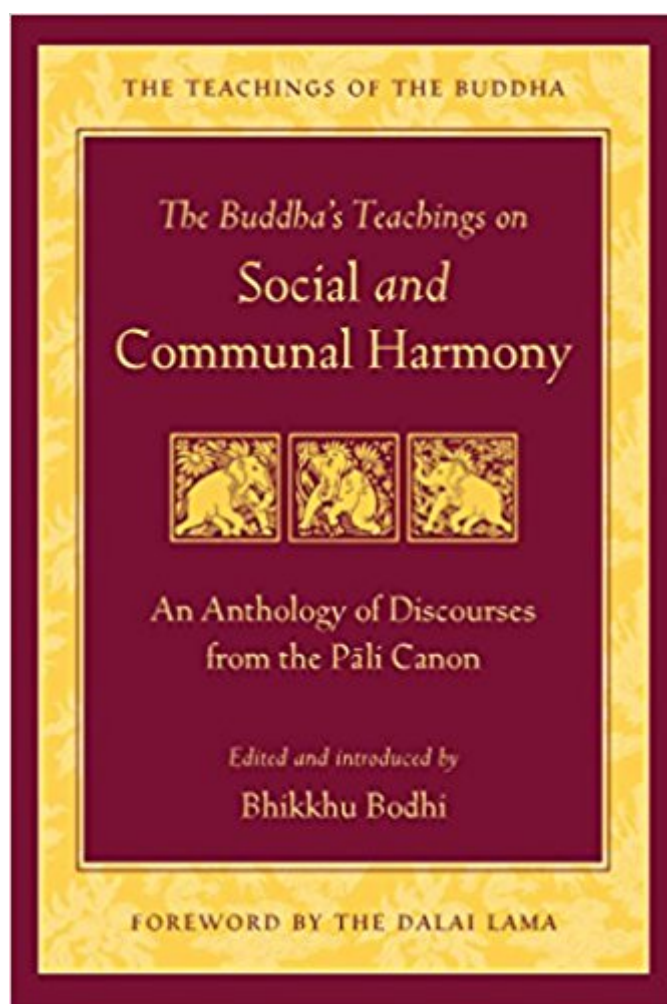


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# The Buddha's Teachings On Social And Communal Harmony: An Anthology Of Discourses From The Pali Canon (The Teachings Of The Buddha)





## Synopsis

In a world of conflict and strife, how can we be advocates of peace and justice? In this volume acclaimed scholar-monk Bhikkhu Bodhi has collected and translated the Buddha's teachings on conflict resolution, interpersonal and social problem-solving, and the forging of harmonious relationships. The selections, all drawn from the Pali Canon, the earliest record of the Buddha's discourses, are organized into ten thematic chapters. The chapters deal with such topics as the quelling of anger, good friendship, intentional communities, the settlement of disputes, and the establishing of an equitable society. Each chapter begins with a concise and informative introduction by the translator that guides us toward a deeper understanding of the texts that follow. In times of social conflict, intolerance, and war, the Buddha's approach to creating and sustaining peace takes on a new and urgent significance. Even readers unacquainted with Buddhism will appreciate these ancient teachings, always clear, practical, undogmatic, and so contemporary in flavor. The Buddha's Teachings on Social and Communal Harmony will prove to be essential reading for anyone seeking to bring peace into their communities and into the wider world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

• This book is essential reading for the socially engaged individual, Buddhist or otherwise. •  
(Buddhadharma) • Through scholarship and wise discernment Bhikkhu Bodhi has chosen a set

of discourses that uncover and make clear the Buddha's approach to social affairs. A timely and powerful resource for all varieties of peace work, *The Buddha's Teachings on Social and Communal Harmony* provides a direct way to refer to the Buddha's teachings around developing civil society. This is a fantastic support and inspiration for all of us who value and wish to foster a more harmonious world. • (Sharon Salzberg, author of *Lovingkindness and Real Happiness*)

• Bhikkhu Bodhi, the master scholar/translator of the Buddha's teachings, has assembled perhaps his most important book. He draws upon the depth of exploration of the Buddha teachings on the importance of community life. This book offers a precise and contemporary translation on the application of social and communal harmony, religious and secular. Everyone from presidents, to politicians, to business leaders, religious authorities, educators and those working to develop society can dip into this book for invaluable insights and their application. You will find this book has much to offer whether dealing with family issues, skillful alternatives to blame, anger and violence, social conflict and national and international issues requiring non-violent resolution. It needs to be on the desk of every institution. Remember to read slowly a passage to glean out the wisdom for today. Then apply. • (Christopher Titmuss, author of *An Awakened Life*)

Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi is the premier English language translator of the Pali Canon. An American Buddhist monk from New York City, he was born in 1944. He obtained a BA in philosophy from Brooklyn College and a PhD in philosophy from Claremont Graduate School. After completing his university studies he traveled to Sri Lanka, where he received novice ordination in 1972 and full ordination in 1973, both under the leading Sri Lankan scholar-monk, Ven. Balangoda Ananda Maitreya (1896-1998). From 1984 to 2002 he was the editor for the Buddhist Publication Society in Kandy, where he lived for ten years with the senior German monk, Ven. Nyanaponika Thera (1901-1994), at the Forest Hermitage. He returned to the U.S. in 2002. He currently lives and teaches at Chuang Yen Monastery in Carmel, New York. Ven. Bodhi has many important publications to his credit, either as author, translator, or editor. These include *The Middle Length Discourses of the Buddha* (Majjhima Nikaya, 1995), *The Connected Discourses of the Buddha* (Samyutta Nikaya, 2000), and *The Numerical Discourses of the Buddha* (Anguttara Nikaya, 2012). In 2008, together with several of his students, Ven. Bodhi founded Buddhist Global Relief, a nonprofit supporting hunger relief, sustainable agriculture, and education in countries suffering from chronic poverty and malnutrition. He lives in Carmel, NY.

Anything compiled or translated by Bhikkhu Bodhi is worth the money. Bhikkhu Bodhi is a wonderful

bridge between Eastern and Western Buddhism. Just a note. I have all the Theravada Suttas already as well as the Guide to the Abhidhamma. These suttas are a grouping that I can carry with me if I want to focus on one particular area of my practice. As always Bhikkhu Bodhi's commentary is stellar. I can not say thank you enough to Bhikkhu Bodhi.

If you are familiar with Bhikkhu Bodhi's book *In the Buddha's Words: An Anthology of Discourses from the Pali Canon (The Teachings of the Buddha)* (which I also highly recommend) then this is very similar in structure. Each section has an introduction which explains what is covered in that section and then each section is made up of passages from various discourses with the source given so you can explore further should you chose to do so. There are some notes in the back to explain translation choices or to give a little more explanation of a concept or reference. The book isn't very long (around 200 pages of text not including the index and notes) and it is based on a selection of texts Bodhi originally compiled for use of Buddhist monks in Sri Lanka. He has expanded that with a great introduction and more texts. If you like Bodhi's work, you will like this. If you are interested in Buddhist teachings on harmony then this is an amazing volume to own. I couldn't recommend it more.

Everything explained. This is like a manual for peaceful coexistence. Grateful thanks to Bhikkhu Bodhi.

An excellent anthology by the always wonderful Bhikkhu Bodhi. All who value the social aspect that makes us humans a social creature should have this book for inspiration, scholarly work, and a reference material in our daily lives.

Excellent. The text secretions are well focused and the commentary is very helpful.

Bhikkhu Bodhi is a giant in modern Buddhist studies.

Appropriate excerpts from the Theravada Tipitaka in regards to approaching societies international problems, specifically that of xenophobic and supremacist ideologies. The suttas reference metaphor to caste systems of India i.e. The Brahmin, Khattiyas etc. and the internal quarreling of those systems. The suttas chosen are good not only for outward evaluation of current events but also introspective reflection and how we are reactive to those stimuli. I have read a majority of the

compendium of the Pali Tipitaka and would say that the Suttas chosen are befitting for the subject and would be easily comprehended by even the most novice of readers.

I love all Venerable Master Bhikkhu Bodhi books. This is a gem.

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