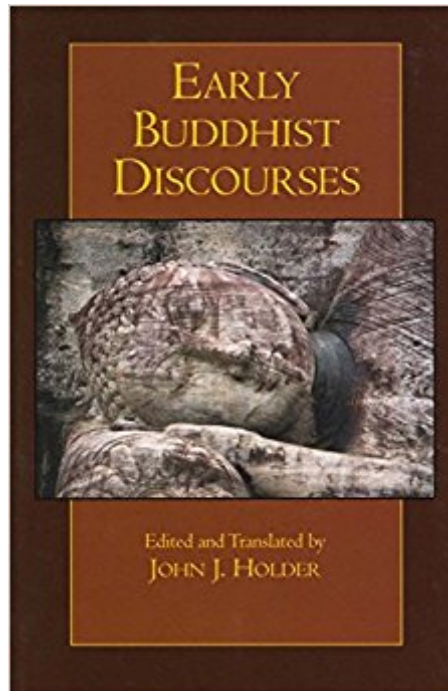




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Synopsis

Twenty discourses from the Pali Canon--including those most essential to the study and teaching of early Buddhism--are provided in fresh translations, accompanied by introductions that highlight the main themes and set the ideas presented in the context of wider philosophical and religious issues. Taken together, these fascinating works give an account of Buddhist teachings directly from the earliest primary sources. In his General Introduction, John J. Holder discusses the structure and language of the Pali Canon--its importance within the Buddhist tradition and the historical context in which it developed--and gives an overview of the basic doctrines of early Buddhism.

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Customer Reviews

John J. Holder is Associate Professor of Philosophy, St. Norbert College.

One can't say enough good things about this first-class introduction to early Buddhist writings. The editor and translator John J. Holder has done an absolutely splendid job of selecting the most important writings of the early Buddhist canon and translating them into very clear, modern English. The book has the single best brief overview of Buddhism that I've ever encountered and each selection from the early discourses also carries a terrific introduction that explains the meaning of the discourse and its overall importance in Buddhist philosophy. This far and away bests the many other good introductions to Buddhist scriptures currently available (e.g. from Penguin, Oxford Classics, etc) and is a great bargain for the price. For many years now Hackett Publishing has lead

the way in translations of Western philosophical classics and literature and they are now doing the same splendid job for the philosophies and literature of Asia. If you have any interest in Buddhism and its primary texts this is the best place to start!

This is an extremely well-edited text. The introductions are lucid and penetrating. And the editor eliminated the painfully repetitive parts of the primary source texts, which is very much appreciated. One comes away with a better understanding of Buddhism than one could ever get from a secondary source like, say, Hagen's "Buddhism Is not What You Think" or even Penguin Classics's "Buddhist Scriptures." This is one source I'm sure to consult many times.

This book is very well written and highly recommended as an introduction to Buddhism for college students and fans of philosophy. You can also download questions that help you understand the basic ideas of each chapter from the publisher's website. The focus of this book is for a scholarly setup rather than that of a Buddhist practitioner but still it is a great book regardless. You can also purchase "In the Buddha's words" from Bikkhu Bodhi, "Sayings of the Buddha" from Rupert Gethin, "Dhammapada" from Gil Fronsdal or "Dhammapada" from the Oxford Classics as complements to this book.

I like this book a lot. John Holder has chosen 16 suttas to translate, with short commentary at the beginning of each. This is a great book if you're new to Buddhism, just starting to read suttas, or if like me, you want a translator other than Bhikku Bodi. John does a great job of introducing each sutta, and then translating the sutta's themselves. The book is concise, and shares Buddha's most important teachings. I recommend this book for everyone, no matter what your experience is with Buddhism.

A required textbook for PHIL 1301 and price was the best.

Needed it for a class.

helped me with my Asian Philosophy class :D

The book was in good shape with all its pages. Thanks

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