

Top Theravada Buddhist Books

A Recommended Reading List was prepared for LittleBang website by Ajarn David Holmes - who recently gave a Dhamma talk for the LittleBang Bangkok Community at Baan Aree Library. We have added this list, which is pasted in below.

(on 8 January, 2008 at 1:37 pm, Ajarn David wrote:

“I see that LittleBang has tagged me to recommend some Dhamma books.

While what may seem my favorite always depends on arising conditions

at the moment, here are some books that I am always happy to go back to:

Two cornerstone books are

The Word of the Buddha
The Path to Deliverance
by Venerable Nyanatiloka

A basic building-block book is

The Buddha's Teaching in His Own Words
by Venerable Nanamoli

Two basic super-structure books are

The Noble Eightfold Path
Transcendental Dependent Arising
by Venerable Bhikkhu Bodhi

The most famous book on meditation is

The Heart of Buddhist Meditation
by Venerable Nyanaponika

The best history of the life of the Buddha is

The Buddha and His Teaching
by Venerable Narada Thera

Some other books which are also reliable and beneficial and which might just-as-well be in such a list are:

- i. *Dependent Arising*
by Venerable Piyadassi Thera
- ii. *The Self- Made Private Prison*
by Prof. Lily de Silva
- iii. *The Message of the Buddha*
by Prof. K. N. Jayatilleke
- iv. *The Noble Eightfold Path*
by Ledi Sayadaw
- v. *To the Last Breath*
by Ajaan Maha Boowa
- vi. *Directions for insight*
by Ajaan Kor Kau-Suan-Luang

The Buddhist Publication Society website www.bps.lk also has downloadable reliable readings on its On-Line Library from which one might choose, depending on what one is interested in knowing next.

In particular, I would like to recommend the books in the BPS Wheel Series, originally edited by Venerable Nyanaponika and Bhikkhu Bodhi which are now slowly, (book by book), being digitalized and processed to be put on the BPS website: There are also some Buddhist Articles and summaries of basic BPS Theravada teachings on Ajarn David's website <http://www.noblepath.info/> Most of the above-mentioned books in this list may also be found on the Internet by searching under title or author.”