The Long Discourses of the Buddha: A Translation of the Digha Nikaya (Teachings of the Buddha) by Maurice Walshe

You Should Get This If You Want To Know What The Buddha Really Taught

The Long Discourses of the Buddha is an invaluable collection of the teachings of the Buddha, revealing his gentleness, compassion, and penetrating wisdom. These thirty-four discourses are among the oldest records of the Buddha's original teachings. This book is a companion to The Middle-Length Discourses of the Buddha, and The Connected Discourses of the Buddha.

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My Personal Review:
This is one of the books that anybody seriously interested in studying the Teachings of Siddhattha Gotama, the Buddha, should acquire. It contains the English translation of the so called long discourses--34 in total--of the Pali Canon Division of Discourses. Of particular importance are the Mahasatipatthana Sutta (22) and the Mahaparinibbana Sutta (16), two of the most important discourses of Siddhattha Gotama. The latter describes the events that took place over the last three months of the Buddha's life. The former explains in detail the meditation techniques used by most Buddhist schools and emphasizes the importance of permanent mindfulness in everyday living. As a rule, the Buddha's discourses are tedious and repetitious due to the way they were written. Almost every sentence is reiterated several times, most likely for mnemonic purposes. As it is well known, the Pali Canon was orally transmitted over more than four hundred years before being committed to writing during the first century B.C. in what is today Sri Lanka. The "formulaic" format is not the translator's fault. What he did wonderfully, on the other hand, was adding excellent material of his own to the book. The Introduction is a very good
presentation of the Buddha and his Teachings followed by abstracts of the 34 discourses which, together with the alphabetic index toward the end of the book, prove to be a really nice map to guide the reader toward the topics of his/her interest. The excellence of Maurice Walshe's work is complemented with more than 1,100 endnotes which offer expansions and clarifications to translations and references to other sacred Buddhist texts as well as hundreds of illustrative commentaries. Hacia el Buda desde el occidente: Sus Ensenanzas sin mitos ni misterios

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