



## Quaker Universalist Voice Suggested Readings from Buddhist Scriptures\*

### *for Friendly Universal Scripture Study*

One good Buddhism text would be the *Dhammapada*. Google that word and you will find several full translations online; here is a reliable one: <http://www.accesstoinsight.org/tipitaka/kn/dhp/dhp.intro.budd.html>. If you enter that word in Amazon, you'll also find several translations. It is an accessible text for the most part, well loved, not too difficult, but with lots to contemplate.

You may not want this kind of format, but there is a good, recent collection of passages by the greatest living translator of the Pali Canon: *In the Buddha's Words*, trans. Bhikkhu Bodhi. A lot of these scripture passages are gathered and organized by topic.

Particular suttas to recommend follow. These are all from the "Pali Canon," presented to be the word of the Buddha. (There are other canons in other languages. (Pali is an ancient language of India for some other Buddhist sects, but the Pali Canon is a good starting place.).

Perhaps begin with the Buddha's first sermon: Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta (Samyutta Nikaya 56.11). A well recommended translation is at: <http://www.accesstoinsight.org/tipitaka/sn/sn56/sn56.011.than.html>

Also this is in many print scripture collections. A recommended print collection is *The Connected Discourses of the Buddha: A New Translation of the Samyutta Nikaya*, trans. by Bhikkhu Bodhi.

"The Discourse on the Snake Simile" *Alagaddupama Sutta (Majjhima Nikaya 22)*. This contains the famous and important "Parable of the Raft" (It would be fine to take just that part out and study it alone). It is available online at: <http://www.accesstoinsight.org/lib/authors/nyanaponika/wheel048.html> and in print (the newest and recommended translation is *The Middle Length Discourses of the Buddha: A New Translation of the Majjhima Nikaya* trans. by Bhikkhu Nanamoli and Bhikkhu Bodhi.)

"The Metta Sutta" (Sutta-Nipata 1.8). You can find multiple translations online at: <http://www.accesstoinsight.org/tipitaka/kn/snp/snp.1.08.amar.html>. (Access to Insight is a reliable online source for translations from the Pali canon.) This is an important sutta and accessible to non-Buddhists. In print translations, H.

Saddhatissa is good.

Another recommended sutta is the "Kalama Sutta" also known as "Kesaputtiya" (Anguttara Nikaya 65). It is available online at <http://www.accesstoinsight.org/lib/authors/soma/wheel008.html> and in print translated by Bhikkhu Bodhi: *The Numerical Discourses of the Buddha: A Translation of the Anguttara Nikaya*, trans. by Bhikkhu Bodhi.

\*These suggestions are derived from conversation with Professor Sallie King of James Madison University