

Suggested Buddhist Books for Beginners

Lotus in the Stream (Out of Print) By Master Hsing Yun Translated by Tom Graham - This is an excellent primer, unfortunately out of print but often still available online. Also the book **Being Good** by the same author and translator is good but also out of print.

The Buddha and His Teachings by Samuel Bercholz and Sherab Chodzin Kohn - This book has a distinct Tibetan slant, however it is a good survey of Buddhist literature from all traditions.

Anything By **Thich Nat Hahn** – One of the great living masters today. His teachings have a distinct style that do not appeal to everyone, but they are always good.

Anything by **Ajahn Chah** – Recently passed away but was one of the top teachers of the Thai Forest Tradition. Most of his books are clear and accessible.

Most books of the Dalai Lama - I mention most books because the Dalai Lama does address many more advanced topics in several books that require a bit more understanding of the various Buddhist philosophical schools and he will often go from a very basic topic to an advanced and subtle topic several times in a single chapter.

The Dhammapada (or Dharmapada) – various translations available, one of the better translations is the one by Balangoda Ananda Maitreya and Thich Nhat Hanh. The translation by John Ross Carter should be avoided as it misses much of the meaning.

In the Buddha's Words: An Anthology of Discourses from the Pali Canon (Teachings of the Buddha) by Bhikkhu Bodhi and The Dalai Lama – this is a good selection of accessible sutras from the Pali Canon (the canon of the southern Theravada school of Buddhism).

Also most of the Sutra Texts of the Pali Canon can be found online at:

www.accesstoinsight.org

Books to avoid:

The Buddhist Bible by Dwight Goddard: To start, Buddhism does not have a single book “Bible” similar to other main religions. Furthermore, this book was translated nearly a century ago and has some of the worst translations in print. There are better, more modern translations of everything in it.