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The Pali Canon & Related Works
[Scripture editions, translations and how to cite scripture]

A. VINAYA PIṬAKA (V or Vin), “The Basket of Discipline”


Accessible freely at [website link].


Tr IB Horner: The Book of the Discipline (V:H), London: PTS, 1938-66, 6 vols:
1. the Sutta Vibhaṅga, monastic code (Paṭimokkha) for monks and for nuns, contained in the Sutta,vibhaṅga, together with a commentary on that;
2. the Khandhaka, dealing with the regulation of communal life, which is contained in the Mahāvagga (Mv or V:mv) and Cula, vagga (Cv or V:cv). The Mahāvagga also contains some material on the life of the Buddha, etc;
3. the Parivāra, which is an abstract of the whole of the Vinaya Piṭaka, in dialogue form.

References are to volume and page number, eg Vin III 59 or V 3:59.

Note that:
— Vin I and II (Mahāvagga and Cula,vagga) are translated as The Book of the Discipline vols IV and V.
-- Vin III, IV (Sutta,vibhaṅga) are translated as The Book of the Discipline vols I, II and III.

Also note that the translation, when it gives the Pali page number in the midst of the translation, gives it at the end of that page. eg [1] means p.1 ends here. In all other translations, however, it indicates where a page of the original starts.
[Study sample: V 1:20 = V:H 4:28 f.]

B. SUTTA PIṬAKA, “The Basket of Discourses”

(1) Dīgha Nikāya (D or DN)

“Long Collection” of 34 Suttas; PTS edition in 3 volumes. For other eds, see I(b) §1a (Pali Tipiṭaka editions).

Translations
(b) Long Discourses of the Buddha (D:B), suttas 1-16 only, tr Mrs AAG Bennett, Bombay, 1964.

References are usually given by volume:page of the PTS Pali text, eg D 3:33 or DN III 33. To find this in translation, look at Dialogues of the Buddha vol. III, then find the section corresponding to p. 33 of the Pali, by looking for [33] in the body of the text, which indicates where the translation of p33 starts.

References are sometimes given as sutta number. section. verse, eg D 16.6.1, that is, Dīgha Nikāya, Sutta 16 (Mahāparinibbāna Sutta), section 6, division 1. [Note: Verse here refers to a short numbered division while stanza refers to metrical lines or poems.]

Some authors may simply refer to the Sutta number, eg Dīgha 12; but as the Suttas are quite long in this collection, this is not a convenient reference as you have to search the whole sutta for it.


The most useful reference is: sutta no. <section> <para> vol:page eg D 16.6.1:2:154 [Note the different usages of the dot and the colon.] The <pointed brackets> means an optional reference.

Commentary: Dīgha,nikāya Ṛkha,kathā (Sutta,vibhaṅga; s.v. Nikāya) (DA)
(b) Burmese script, Chaṭṭha,sagīyana (Sixth Council) ed, Rangoon, 1956.
Subcommentary: Dīgha,nikāya Tikā (Lin’attha,pakāsinī) (DAT) [Dhammapāla]
(b) Burmese script (DAT:Be). Chaṭṭha,sagīyana (Sixth Council) ed, Rangoon, 1956.

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References are usually given as volume:page of the Pali text, eg M:1350 or MN I:350, which can be found in vol.2 of the translation: vol. no. and page no. of the Pali are given at top of the page, and the Pali page number is also included in the text of the translation: [350].

References are sometimes given as sutta no.verse, eg M 35.5, that is, Majjhima Nikaya, Sutta 35 (Cola saccaka Sutta), paragraph 5. [Note: Verse here refers to a short numbered division while stanza refers to metrical lines or poems.]


The most useful reference is: sutta no.<section> verse / vol:page, eg M 35.5/1:229. [Note the different usages of the dot and the colon.] The <pointed brackets> means an optional reference.

[Note: Verse here refers to a short numbered division while stanza refers to metrical lines or poems.]

References are also given as chapter (sawyutta) sutta no--as the Suttas in this collection are fairly short, this is a reasonably exact way of giving a reference (though Sutta numbers differ in different editions). For these types of reference, see top of right hand page of translation (though this does not give the vol. number). The sawyutta sutta no reference can only be used where the text or translation is numbered in running sequence (as in S:B), ie Bhikkhu Bodhi’s translation. For example, S 45.3 = Sanathaka Sutta, Sawyutta (chapter) 45, Sutta no. 3 (Sakka). In the Sutta Vagh (sawyatutas 11), the verses are given running numbers (following S:B), for example, S 903/11/10:1227 = Sawyutta Nikaya verse 903, sawyutta (or chapter) 11 (Sakka Sawyutta), sutta 10, vol 1, page 227 (Isayam Samuddaka Sutta).

Study sample: The Sutta Nikaya, S V.XLV.I.1.3 = S:RD 5:3 = S:B 2:1525 = S 45.3. For this, look at Kindred Sayings vol. 11, then look at contents page for “chapter” (sawyutta) XV, section 1, then go to this part of the translation till 2 is found.

The most useful reference is: sutta no.<section> verse / vol:page, eg S 45.3/5:3. [Note the different usages of the dot and the colon.] The <pointed brackets> means an optional reference. [Note: Verse here refers to a short numbered division while stanza refers to metrical lines or poems.]

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(4) Sutta Discovery vol 1

(4) Aṅguttara Nikāya (A or AN)

“Single-item Upwards Collection” of 9,550 Suttas, grouped according to the number of items dealt with in the Suttas, from one to eleven; PTS edition 5 volumes. For other eds, see I(b) §1a (Pali Tipiṭaka editions).

Translations
(a) The Book of Gradual Sayings (A:WH), tr F.L. Woodward & EM Hare, Oxford: OUP, 1932-36. [This tr is useful only in its critical structure; its English tr is very unreliable; hence not recommended for the beginner.]
(c) Living Word of the Buddha, current tr project by Piya Tan, Pali Centre, Singapore, Feb 2002 onwards. [Accessible through the National University of Singapore Buddhist Society Sutta Study Group, the Buddhist Fellowship “Sutta Discovery”, or http://dharmafarer.googlepages.com/]

References are usually to vol: page no of the Pali text (eg A 4:93 or AN IV 93). These are given in the tr at the top of the left hand page, but exact Pali page-breaks are not indicated within the text of the tr (except in volume V). References are also given as book:sutta no<.verse>. [Note: Verse here refers to a short numbered division while stanza refers to metrical lines or poems.]

Study sample: A IV.XX.192 = A:WH 2:196 f. = A:NB 119 f. This can be found in the Book of Fours.
(a) In Gradual Sayings vol. II—look at contents to find chapter IV of the Fours, then locate IV.XX.192 by looking at the top left corner of the right hand (odd) page, and then look for where 192 starts, in this case, on the previous page.
(b) In Numerical Discourses of the Buddha—look at the end of each section and locate the reference “IV,192”. The most useful reference is: book.sutta no<.verse> / vol:page eg A 4:192:2:187 = 190. [Note the different usages of the dot and the colon.] The <pointed brackets> means an optional reference. [Note: Verse here refers to a short numbered division while stanza refers to metrical lines or poems.]

(5) Khuddaka Nikāya

“Collection of Little Texts”: 15 separate miscellaneous texts, many in verse form, which contain both some of the earliest and latest material in the Canon. For eds other than PTS, see I(b) §1a (Pali Tipiṭaka editions).

1) Khuddaka, paṭha (Kh or Khp): “Minor Readings”: a short collection of texts for recitation; PTS edition in one volume, with its commentary.
PTs tr: (Kh:Ñ) The Minor Readings and The Illustrator of Ultimate Meaning, tr Nāṇamoli, 1960. Reference usually by sutta no.stanza (Kh 9.7). If quoted by page, the number of preceded by “p” or “pp” (Kh p8). It is useful to use the full reference: sutta no.stanza / page (Kh 9.7/8) [the “p” for page may be omitted here.]


The Patna Dhammapada. The Patna Dharmapada. Eds:
(1) [Dh:P(S)] NS Shukla, The Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit Dhammapada, Patna, 1979.
(2) [Dh:P(R)] G Roth in H Bechert (ed), The Language of the Earliest Buddhist Tradition, Gottingen, 1980:97-135.
Gandhari Dhammapada. [Dh:G(B)] The Gandhari Dhammapada, see F below.


(4) Itivuttaka (It or Itv): “As It Was Said” : 112 short Suttas; PTS edition in one volume (ed E Windisch, 1889).


(It:Th) This Was Said, tr Thanissaro Bhikkhu. Selected suttas. 2005-

http://www.accesstoinsight.org/tipitaka/it/vol1/index.html

Reference is by page of Pali text (eg It 98), or book/chapter.sutta no (eg It 3.5.8), or fully by book/chapter.sutta no/page (eg It 3.5.8/98, ie the Dīna Sutta). As such, it is not recommended to cite as sutta/book.chapter.sutta/page, as the first number could refer either to paging or to sutta.

(5) Sutta, nipata (Sn): “Group of Discourses”: a collection of 71 verse Suttas, including what some see as very early material, such as the Aṭṭhaka vaṭṭa. PTS edition in one volume. [For other titles and details, see SD 14 Bibliol.]

Accessible freely at: http://www.sacred-texts.com/bud/index.htm


References to stanza no (eg Sn 18), or book.sutta<.stanza no> (Sn 1.2.1) [here stanza refers to the internal stanza within that sutta itself, not running stanza numbers], or page (for prose) (Sn 15), or sutta no/stanza nos. [Note: Stanza here refers to metrical lines or poems; while verse refers to a short numbered division.]

(6) Vimana, vaththu (Vv): “Stories of the Mansions”, on heavenly rebirths; PTS edition in one volume, with the following: most recent PTS tr: (Vv:H) Stories of the Mansions, tr with Comy excerpts, I.B. Horner, 1974;

Cited as chapter.sutta<.stanza no> (eg Vv 5.3.1, ie Chatta Mānavaka Vimina Gathā) or to sutta.stanza no (eg Vv 53.1), or to page. [Note: Stanza here refers to metrical lines or poems; while verse refers to a short numbered division.]


(7) Petavaṭṭhū (Pv): “Stories of the Departed”: on ghostly rebirths; PTS edition in one volume, with last item.


Cited as chapter.sutta<.stanza no> (eg Pv 1.4.1, ie Tiroku Sutta) or to sutta.stanza no (eg Pv 4.1), or to page. [Note: Stanza here refers to metrical lines or poems; while verse refers to a short numbered division.]


(8) Theragāthā (Tha, Th or Thag): “Elders’ Verses I”: 107 poems in 1279 stanzas, telling how a number of early monks attained enlightenment; PTS edition in one volume.


Cited as stanza number. [Note: Stanza here refers to metrical lines or poems; while verse refers to a short numbered division.]


or http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/davids/psalms/psalms.html.


German tr: KE Neumann, Die Lieder der Mönche und Nonnen Gotamo Buddhos, Berlin, 1889.

Cited as stanza number. [Note: Stanza here refers to metrical lines or poems; while verse refers to a short numbered division.]


(10) Jātaka (Ja): a collection of 547 “Birth Stories” dealing with previous lives of the Buddha, with the aim of illustrating points in morality. The full stories are told in the commentary (Ja), based on the verses and small sections of prose (J), which are canonical: PTS edition of text and commentary in 6 vols.


Cited as vol:page of Pali text (eg J 6:479 i.e the Vessantara Jātaka), or to story.no. (eg J 547).

(11) Niddesa: Mahā Niddesa (Nm, Nidd, N1, Nd1) and Culla Niddesa (Nc, Nidd2, N2, Nd2): “Exposition”, in the

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form of a (canonical) commentary on part of the Sutta-nipata; PTS ed in 3 vols; no PTS tr available. Cited as page of Pali text.


12) Pajisambhidamagga (Pm, Pa or Ps): “The Path of Discrimination”, an Abhidhamma-style analysis of certain points of doctrine and practice; PTS edition in 2 volumes.


Citation. Thera Apadāna cited as: Ap <canto no:stanza<line>(vol:)page. Therī Apadāna cited as Ap2 or ApThī <canto no:stanza<line>(vol:)page.

Only trs of individual Apadānas:


14) Buddhavaṃsa (B or Bv): “Chronicle of the Buddhas”, on 24 previous Buddhas; PTS edition in one volume, with the next item.


Cited as chronicle (or section).stanza (B 20.1 Vipassī Buddhavaṃsa), or to page (eg B p51). [Note: Stanza here refers to metrical lines or poems; while verse refers to a short numbered division.]


Cited as chapter.stanza, or to vol:page. [Note: Stanza here refers to metrical lines or poems; while verse refers to a short numbered division.]

15) Cariyāpiṭaka (C or Cp): “The Basket of Conduct”, on the conduct of Gotama in previous lives, building up the ‘perfections’ of a Bodhisatta; PTS edition in one volume, with the last item.

PTS tr: The Basket of Conduct. Cited as division.conduct.stanza> (eg C 1.9.1, ie Vessantara Cariyā), or to page (C p78). [Note: Stanza here refers to metrical lines or poems; while verse refers to a short numbered division.]

C. ABHI DHAMMA PIṬĀKA: “Basket of Topic Relating to Dhamma”

Fine-grained analysis of experience, which seeks to various Sutta teachings, expressing them in psychologically and philosophically exact language. For eds other than PTS, see I(b) §1a (Pali Tipiṭaka editions).

1) Dhamma-saṅgāti (Dhs): “Enumeration of Dhammas”: outline of the Theravāda dhamma list, with definitions of each, etc.; PTS edition in one volume; PTS tr: (Dhs:RD) Buddhist Psychological Ethics, tr C.A.F Rhys Davids, 1900. Cited as page of Pali text, or discussion-item number.


2) Vibhanga (Vbh or Viṭh): “Analysis”, dealing with various dhammas and groups of dhammas; PTS edition in one volume.


3) Dhatukathā (Dhk, Dhatulk, or Dhtk), discussing various types of “Elements”: PTS edition in one volume, with commentary; PTS tr: (Dhk:N) Discourse on Elements, tr U Narada, 1962. Cited as page of Pali text.

4) Puggala-paññātī (Pug or Pp): “Concept of Persons”, on various ways of classifying types of people; PTS
A Designation of Human Types, Visuddhi, magga

Conditional Relations, Milinda, pañha

ed (Dukap or Dkp) 1906 (repr 1988); refers to metrical lines or poems.

Cited as Katha, na-pātana (Kvu or Kv): “Book of Discourses”, detailing debates on various points of doctrine, with non-acceptable positions later being attributed, by the commentary, to non-Theravadin schools; PTS edition in one volume.

PTS tr: (Kvu:SR) Points of Controversy, 1915. Cited as page of Pali text, or chapter.verse. \[Note: Stanza here refers to metrical lines or poems; while verse refers to a short numbered division.\]

(6) Yamaka (Yan): “Pairs”: a book designed to test a student’s grasp of Abhidhamma thinking; PTS edition in 2 volumes; no PTS tr available. Cited as page of Pali text.

(7) Pañhīna (Pa, Pañh or Pr): “Conditional Relations”: which goes into great detail on the various kinds of relationships existing between dhammas, detailed discussion of interdependent origination; PTS edition, ed Mrs C.A.F. Rhys Davids (incomplete): Dukā Pañhīna (Dukap or Dkp) 1906 (repr 1988); Tikā pāthīna (Tikap or Tkp), 1921, 1922, 1923, in three volumes, with its commentary and Du kā,pāthīna (Dukap or Dkp), in one volume (1988).

PTS tr corresponding to the first (it is actually of the Burmese edition) is (Pa: N) Conditional Relations, vols 1 & 2 (tr of part of Tikap only) (1969). Cited as page of Pali text.

D. PARACANONICAL \(^1\) WORKS (Included in the Myanmar Canon)


Commentaries: Nett Aṭṭhakathā; Līn’āṭṭha vaṃsana; Nett Vibhavani; Pe ṭakāla-kīrā (Nett:MT); Nettippakara Gaṇthi (Nett:G).


Reference is given by chapter.verse (Vism 9.1), or page (Vism 295), or by chapter.verse/page (Vism 9.1/295). \[Note: Verse here refers to a short numbered division while stanza refers to metrical lines or poems.\]


\(^1\) Paracanonical, fr “para” (parallel, resembling, relating to) + “canon” (sacred text), that is, those texts that follow the canonical style but were written or compiled relatively long after the Buddha and not included in the Canon by the early Buddhist Councils. Sometimes, “quasi-canonical,” ie near-canonical.

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Cited as vol:page or verse. [Note: Verse here refers to a short numbered division while stanza refers tometrical lines or poems.]

E. MISCELLANEOUS PALI WORKS

Selected titles, arranged alphabetically


Sub-commentaries:

(1) Abhidhamm’attha Sangaha Mahāti (AbhsMt:S or AbhsVt) [Sama galā, late 12th cent]. Ed ed H Saddhathissa, Oxford: PTS, 1989 (with Abhs). Be, see CSCD; Ce ed Valukittithagomika (Welibara) Paññānanda, Colombo, 1988; Se ed Tissadatā (with Abhs), Bangkok: Mahāmañjuśravaji dālaya, 1922. repr 1994. Cited as chapter:section or to pages.

(2) Param’attha,di pāṇi Tiṅka (AbhsMt:L or PadMt), or more fully Param’attha, di pāṇi Sangaha Mahā Tiṅka [Ledi Sayadaw, 1897]. Rangoon, 1897, 1907. This is a sustained critique of AbhsMt:S, against which it often takes an opposite stand in the handling of technical questions.

Translations:


Abhidhamm’attha Vibbhaṅga = Abhidhamm’attha Vibbhaṅga (Mahā,) Tiṅka (AbhsMt or AbhsVt): see under Abhidhamm’attha Sangaha, under Comy (1).


Abhidhammārtha, saṅgaha Sanmaya (AbhsSn) [Śāriputta “Sāgara,mati” of Polonnaruva (Pulatthi,pura), 12th cent] A Sinhalese comy (samā) of Abhs.

Ed (with Abhidhamm’attha sangaha) Paññāmoli, Ambalangoda, 1926.

Abhidhammāvatūra (Abhv) [Buddhadatta, 5th cent? See Norman 1983:130-132], “Descent into the Abhi dhamma.”


Jīna-kīla-mūrti or -mālīnī (Jīnak) [1516-1517,eng 1527 by Ratana,pañña, Chiangmai, Siam.] Early history of Buddhism in India and Sri Lanka, but its main concern is the history of Chiangmai and Chiangrai areas c1260-1527. Ed AP Buddha datta, London, 1962.

Penth, Jinakilamili: Index: an annotated index to the Thailand part of Ratanaapan\\u0101\u0101\\u012b\\u0101\\u0121\\u0123’s Chronicle Jinakilamili, Oxford/Chiangmai, 1994. [See Hinüber 1996 §428.]

Khema-p, pakaraṇa = Nāma, rūpa, samāsa (qv)

Moha, vicchedani (Mohv) [Kassapa of Nāgānana Vihāra, Cola country.] “The destroyer of doubt.” “A very lucid comy on the māṭiyakas of all the 7 canonical Abhidhamma texts,” (Hinüber 1996 §354), as such called Abhidhamma, māṭiyak'attha, vaṃsanā (“Commentary on meaning of the Abhidhamma Māṭiyakas).


Nāma, rūpa, samāsa (Nāmrs) [Attr Khema, thus also called Khema-p, pakaraṇa, 10th cent?] ”Mind and matter abridged.”


Param'attha, dipani Ṭikā (AbhsMT-L or PadiMT): see Abhidhamma, attha Sanga, under Comy (2).

Rūpānūpā, vibhāga (Ruv) [Buddhadatta, 5th cent?], PTS ed (with Abhv), ed AP Buddhadasa, 1915.


Saccasai, khepa (SacS) [Ananda of Kalasa, pura or his pupil Dhammapāla, 10th cent?] “A summary of the truth.”


Upisaka, janālakāra (Ujl) (12th cent?) Text dealing with proper lay conduct, based on the canon and Commentaries.

   Ed H Saddhatissa, PTS, 1965

   Cited as page, or to chapter:section.