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The Pali Canon & Related Works

[Scripture editions, translations and how to cite scripture]

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


Tr IB Horner: The Book of the Discipline (V:H), London: PTS, 1938-66, 6 vols:
1. the Sutta Vibhaṅga, monastic code (Pātimokkha) 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 Mahā, vāgga (Mv or V:vāga) and Cula, vāgga (Cv or V:vāga). The Mahāvāgga 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 usually given by volume:page, eg Vin III 59 or V 3:59.

Note that:
— Vin I and II (Mahā, vāgga and Cula, vāgga) 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 PĪTAKA, “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 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 (Mahāparinibbāṇa 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 Aṭṭha.kathā (Sumanaga, vilāsinī) (DA)


(b) Burmese script, Chaṭṭha, saṅgāyana (Sixth Council) ed, Rangoon, 1956.

Subcommentary: Dīgha.nikāya Ṭīkā (Liṅ’attha, pakāsinī) (DAT) [Dhammadūla].


(b) Burmese script (DAT:Be). Chaṭṭha, saṅgāyana (Sixth Council) ed, Rangoon, 1956.

http://dharmafarer.org
(c) Be. DAT:CSCD digital ed. 
New Subcommentary: Dīgha.nikāya Abhinava,ṭīkā (Sādhū,[jana,]vilāsīnī) (DAANT) [Ñānabhivamsa Mahāthera, c mid-19th cent, Burma].
(b) Be: DAANT:CSCD, CDROM ed. Igatpuri (India), 1999.

(2) Majjhima Nikāya (M or MN)
“Middle Length Collection” of 150 Suttas; PTS edition in 3 volumes. For other eds, see I(b) §1a (Pali Tipiṭaka editions).

Translations

References are usually given as vol: page of the PTS Pali text, eg M 1:350 or MN 1 350, 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 Nikāya, Sutta 35 (Cūḷa 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.]

(3) Samyutta Nikāya (S or SN)
“Connected Collection” of 7,762 Suttas, grouped in 56 sections (samyutta) according to subject matter; PTS edition in 5 volumes. For other eds, see I(b) §1a (Pali Tipiṭaka editions).

Translations
(a) The Book of Kindred Sayings (S:RD), tr CAF Rhys Davids & F.L. Woodward, London: PTS, 1917-30, 5 vols. References are usually to volume:page of the Pali text (eg S 3:79 or SN III 79). These are given in the translation at the top of the left hand page, but exact Pali page-breaks are not indicated within the text of the translation.

References are also given to chapter (samyutta), 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 samyutta.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 = Sanyutta Nikāya, Samyutta (chapter) 45, Sutta no. 3 (Sāriputta).

In the Sagāthā Vagga (samyuttas 1-11), the verses are given running numbers (following S:B), for example, S 903/11.10/1:227 = Sanyutta Nikāya verse 903, samyutta (or chapter) 11 (Sakka Sanyuttas), sutta 10, vol 1, page 227 (Isayo Samuddaka Sutta).

Study sample: The Sāriputta Sutta, S V.XLV.I.1.3 = S:RW 5:3 = S:B 2:1525 = S 45.3. For this, look at Kindred Sayings vol. II, then look at contents page for “chapter” (samyutta) XV, section I, 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.]
(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. [Available 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, pāṭha (Kh or Khp): “Minor Readings”: a short collection of texts for recitation; PTS edition in one volume, with its commentary.


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.]


PTS tr available 1997.


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

The Patna Dhammapada. The Patna Dhammapada. Eds:

(1) [DhP(S)] NS Shukla, The Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit Dhammapada, Patna, 1979.

(2) [DhP(R)] G Roth in H Bechert (ed), The Language of the Earliest Buddhist Tradition, Gottingen, 1980:97-135.

(3) [DhP(C)] Margaret Cone (doc thesis) in Journal of the Pali Text Society 13, 1989:101 ff.


Gandhari Dhammapada. [DhG(B)] The Gāndhārī Dhammapada, see F below.


Cited as page of Pali text (eg U 34), or chapter.sutta no, or fully by chapter.sutta no/page (U 4.1/34-38, ie the Meghiya Sutta). Note: The U:W “Chapter” is here actually a Sutta.


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


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 Dāna Sutta). As such, it is not recommended to cite as sutta/book.sutta/stanza no / page, as the first number could refer either to paging or to stanza.

(5) Sutta.nipāta (Sn): “Group of Discourses”: a collection of 71 verse Suttas, including what some see as very early material, such as the Aṭṭhaka,vagga; PTS edition in one volume. [For other titles and details, see SD 14 Biblio.] 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) *Vimāna,vatthu* (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, H.S Gehman, 1938, rev I.B. Horner, 1974;

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


Most recent PTS tr: (Pv:G) *Stories of the Departed*, tr with Comy excerpts, H.S Gehman, 1938, rev I.B. Horner, 1974;

Cited as chapter.sutta<,stanza no> (eg Pv 1.4.1, ie Tīrukuḍḍa 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) Thera,gāthā (Tha, Th or Thag): “Elders’ Verses I”: 107 poems in 1279 stanzas, telling about 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.]


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


(10) *Jātaka* (J): 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 ie the Vessantara Jātaka), or to story no. (eg J 547).

(11) *Niddesa*: Mahā Niddesa (Nm, NiddI, N1, Nd1) and Culla-Niddesa (Nc, NiddII, N2, Nd2): “Exposition”, in the
form of a (canonical) commentary on part of the Sutta, nipāta; PTS ed in 3 vols; no PTS tr available. Cited as page of Pali text.


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


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

Only trs of individual Apādānas:


(14) Buddha, vaṃsa (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 Buddha, vaṃsa), 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) Cariyā, piṭaka (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.conductor.stanza> (eg C 1.9.1, ie Vessantara Cariya), or to page (C p78). [Note: Stanza here refers to metrical lines or poems; while verse refers to a short numbered division.]

C. ABHIDHAMMA PIṬAKA: “Basket of Topic Relating to Dhamma”

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

(1) Dhamma, saṅgāni (Dhs): “Enumeration of Dhammas”: outline of the Theravada 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) Vibhaṅga (Vbh or Vībh): “Analysis”, dealing with various dhammas and groups of dhammas; PTS edition in one volume.


(3) Dhātukaṭhā (Dhk, Dhatuk, 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, paññāti (Pug or Pp): “Concept of Persons”, on various ways of classifying types of people; PTS

http://dharmafarer.org
edition in one volume, with its commentary; PTS tr: (Pug:L) A Designation of Human Types, 1922. Cited as page number of Pali text, or chapter and section number.

(5) Kathāvatthu (Kv 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: (Kv: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 (Yam): “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) Paṭṭhāna (Pa, Paṭṭh or Pt): “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): Duka Paṭṭhāna (Dukap or Dkp) 1906 (reprint 1988); Tika,paṭṭhāna (Tikap or Tkp), 1921, 1922, 1923, in three volumes, with its commentary and Duka,paṭṭhāna (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 WORKS (Included in the Myanmar Canon)


Commentary. Cf Peṭk:Ŋ p xxxiv.


Commentaries: Netti Ṵathakathā; Līn’āṭha,vaṭṭana; Netti Vibhāvanī; Peṭakālkāra (NettMT); Nettipakaraṇa Gaṇthī (NettG).


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.
E. MISCELLANEOUS PALI WORKS

Selected titles, arranged alphabetically


Sub-commentaries:
(1) Abhidhammaṭṭha Saṅgaha Mahāṭīkā = Abhidhammaṭṭha Vībhāvinī Ṭīkā (AbhsMṬ:S or AbhsVT) [Sumanāgala, late 12th cent]. Ed e H Saddhātissa, Oxford: PTS, 1989 (with Abhs). Be, see CSCD; Ce ed Vālūkātīthgamīka (Welitarā) Paññānanda, Colombo, 1898; Se ed Tissadatta (with Abhs), Bangkok: Mahāmukārārājīvyālāya, 1922, repr 1994. Cited as chapter, section or to pages.

(2) Param’attha,dīpanī Ṭīkā (AbhsMT:L or PadMT), or more fully Param’attha,dīpanī Saṅgaha Mahā Ṭīkā [Ledi Sayadaw, 1897]. Rangoon, 1897, 1907. This is a sustained critique of AbhsMṬ:S, against which it often takes an opposite stand in the handling of technical questions.

Translations:


Abhidhammaṭṭha Vībhāvinī = Abhidhammaṭṭha Vībhāvinī (Mahā),Ṭīkā (AbhsMṬ or AbhsVT): see under Abhidhammaṭṭha Saṅgaha, under Comy (1).


Abhidharmārtha,sāngraha Sannaya (AbhsSn) [Sāriputta “Sāgara,mati” of Polonnaruva (Pulattithi,pura), 12th cent] A Sinhalese comy (sannē) of Abhs.

Ed (with Abhidhammaṭṭha,sāngha) Paññāmoli, Ambalangoda, 1926.

Abhidhammāvatāra (Abhāv) [Buddhadatta, 5th cent? See Norman 1983:130-132], “Descent into the Abhidhamma.”


Jīna,kāḷa,māli or –mālīni (Jinak) [1516-1517,enl 1527 by Ratana,paññā, 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 Buddhadatta, London, 1962.


**Khema-p.pakaraṇa = Nāma,rūpa,saṃśāsa (qv)**

*Moha, vicchedanī* (Mohv) [Kassapa of Nāgānana Vihāra, Coḷa country.] “The destroyer of doubt.” “A very lucid comy on the māṭikas of all the 7 canonical Abhidhamma texts,” (Hinüber 1996 §354), as such called Abhidhamma,māṭik’attha,vaṇṇanā (“Commentary on meaning of the Abhidhamma Māṭikas).


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


**Param’attha, dipani Ţikā** (AbhsMT:L or PadMT): see Abhidhamm’attha Saṅgaha, under Comy (2).

*Rūpārūpa, vibhāga* (Rūpv) [Buddhadatta, 5th cent?], PTS ed (with Abhv), ed AP Buddhadatta, 1915.


**Sacca, saṅkhepa** (Sacs) [?Ānanda of Kalasa,pura or his pupil Dhammapāla, 10th cent?] “A summary of the truth.”


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

Ed H Saddhātissa, PTS, 1965

Cited as page, or to chapter:section.