

The Living Word of the Buddha

The Buddha's Teachings in the Oldest Texts

Translated by Piya Tan ©2006

With notes from its Commentary and ancillary texts

Commemorating the 4th year of THE SUTTA STUDY GROUP (Sutta Discovery)
at the National University of Singapore Buddhist Society (2002-2006)
& where this translation project started

Volume 25

2006

Brahma,jāla Sutta

(D 1/1:1-46)

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2006d

SUTTA DISCOVERY

Directly seeing the Buddha's Teachings

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to join this on-going class. No registration required.

A complete set of the Sutta translations and notes for the class is available on a donation basis.

The most direct way to learn Buddhism is to read and live the Pali suttas which contains some of the oldest records we have of the Buddha's teachings. As we search these scriptures, we will discover ourselves amidst their stories, teachings and practices. In short, we will get a taste of the timeless truth that has liberated countless beings from suffering.

This new series will also help you learn how **to use the Pali Canon**: to locate suttas, teachings and stories, and have an idea of how Suttas are transmitted and translated. Wherever feasible, comparative studies will be made between the Pali, Sanskrit and Chinese (Āgama) versions of the suttas. Although a very basic knowledge of Buddhism (Five Precepts, etc) is helpful, no knowledge of these languages is required for this course. This class is suitable for beginner and mid-range level.

The Sutta Discovery (SD) series started with **the NUS Buddhist Society** weekly Sutta Study Group (SSG) classes (with its own website) in February 2002, and **the Buddhist Fellowship** SD series started in February 2003. Since then both classes have gone on with only a few breaks. This is a small record for an ongoing activity, especially Sutta study.

Piya Tan, who works on these Suttas and notes, and teaches them, was a former **Theravada monk** of 20 years. Today he is a full time lay Dharma teacher specializing in early Buddhism. He was consultant and regular lecturer to the Buddhist Studies Team (BUDS) that successfully introduced **Buddhist Studies in Singapore Secondary Schools** in the 1980s.

After that, he was invited as a visiting scholar to **the University of California at Berkeley, USA**. He has written many ground-breaking and educational books on Buddhism (such as *Total Buddhist Work*) and social surveys (such as *Buddhist Currents* and *Charisma in Buddhism*).

He is a **full-time Dharma teacher** who runs regular Buddhist, Sutta and Pali classes like the basic Pali course series, the Sutta Study Group (NUSBS), Dharma courses (the Singapore Buddhist Federation), Sutta Discovery classes (Buddhist Fellowship and elsewhere), and Sutta-based (including meditation) courses (Brahm Education Centre), besides running his own full-time **Pali translation and research project**, the Pali Centre, and doing a comparative study of the Pali Nikāyas and the Chinese Āgamas.

As a Theravāda monk, he learned the insight method from **Mahasi Sayadaw** himself in the 1980s. As a lay teacher, he learned the forest method from the **Ajahn Brahmavamso** himself. He has run numerous **meditation courses and retreats** for students and adults (incl non-Buddhists) since 1980s. In 1992, he taught meditation at the University of California at Berkeley, USA. He has taught at BP, JP Morgan, the Defence Science Organization, GMO, HP and SIA. He is doing all this for the love of Dharma and of Ratna and their 2 children.

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KEEPING BUDDHISM CENTRED

Website: dharmafarer.googlepages.com

As people today become more aware of Buddhism, many seek the simple original teachings of the Buddha. For over two decades now, Piya Tan has been inspired by this ideal. In this connection, he has set up the Minding Centre (Bukit Batok) and Pali House (Jurong East).

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To order, please contact Piya Tan (dharmafarer@gmail.com), or the Minding Centre (8211 0879: ask for Ratna Lim).

Piya's website: <http://dharmafarer.googlepages.com>
For Wiki Piya: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piya_Tan

Please support PALI HOUSE (where this translation work is done).

OPENING PUJA

Vandanā (Salutation)

Namo tassa bhagavato arahato sammā,sambuddhassa (x3)

Saraṇa,gamana (Going for Refuge)

Buddhaṃ saraṇaṃ gacchāmi
Dhammaṃ saraṇaṃ gacchāmi
Saṅghaṃ saraṇaṃ gacchāmi

Dutiyam pi Buddhaṃ saraṇaṃ gacchāmi
Dutiyam pi Dhammaṃ saraṇaṃ gacchāmi
Dutiyam pi Saṅghaṃ saraṇaṃ gacchāmi

Tatiyam pi Buddhaṃ saraṇaṃ gacchāmi
Tatiyam pi Dhammaṃ saraṇaṃ gacchāmi
Tatiyam pi Saṅghaṃ saraṇaṃ gacchāmi

Pañca,sīla (The Five Precepts)

1. **Pāṇātipātā** veramaṇī sikkhā,padaṃ samādiyāmi.
2. **Adinn'ādānā** veramaṇī sikkhā,padaṃ samādiyāmi.
3. **Kāmesu micchā,cārā** veramaṇī sikkhā,padaṃ samādiyāmi.
4. **Musā,vādā** veramaṇī sikkhā,padaṃ samādiyāmi.
5. **Surā,meraya,majja,pamāda-ṭ,thāna** veramaṇī sikkhā,padaṃ samādiyāmi.

Salutation

Homage to him the Blessed One, the Arhat [worthy one], the fully self-awakened Buddha.

Going for Refuge

To the Buddha for refuge I go.
To the Dharma [the True Teaching] for refuge I go.
To the Sangha [the Holy Community] for refuge I go.

For the second time, to the Buddha for refuge I go.
For the second time, to the Dharma for refuge I go.
For the second time, to the Sangha for refuge I go.

For the third time, to the Buddha for refuge I go.
For the third time, to the Dharma for refuge I go.
For the third time, to the Sangha for refuge I go.

The Five Precepts

1. I undertake the training-rule to refrain from harming life [and to practise compassion.]
2. I undertake the training-rule to refrain from taking the not-given [and to practise generosity.]
3. I undertake the training-rule to refrain from sexual misconduct [and to practise restraint and contentment].
4. I undertake the training-rule to refrain from falsehood [and to practise truthfulness].
5. I undertake the training-rule to refrain from strong drinks, distilled drinks, fermented drinks and that which causes heedlessness [and to practise mindfulness].

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