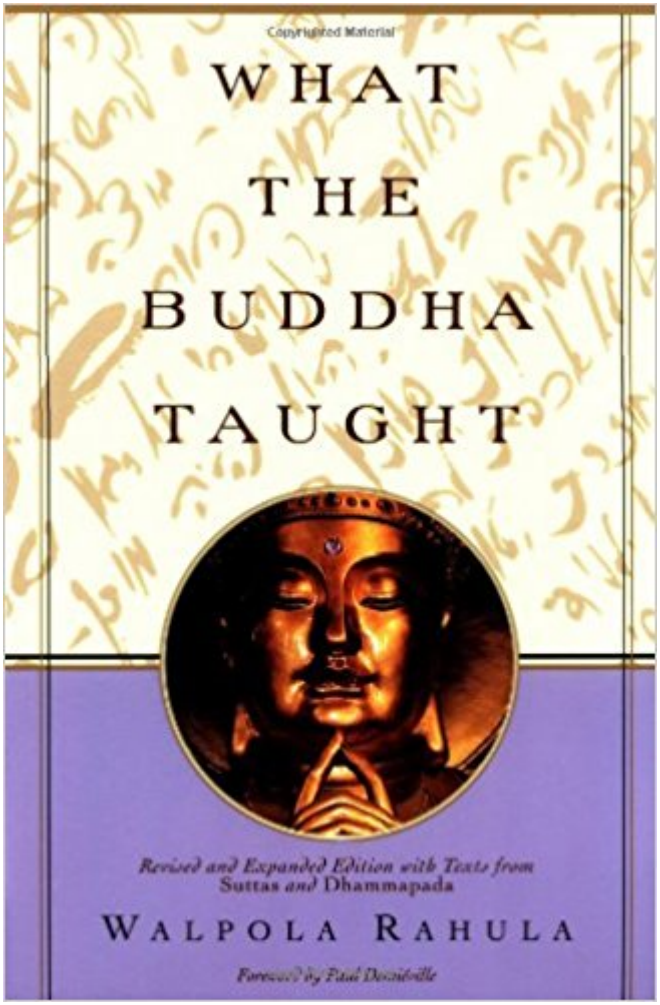
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What The Buddha Taught: Revised And Expanded Edition With Texts From Suttas And Dhammapada



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Synopsis

This comprehensive, compact, lucid, and faithful account of the BuddhaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s teachings persistently enjoys great popularity in colleges, universities, and theological schools both here and abroad. “An exposition of Buddhism conceived in a resolutely modern spirit.Ã¢â ¬Â•—from the Foreword.“For years,Ã¢â ¬Â• says the Journal of the Buddhist Society, “the newcomer to Buddhism has lacked a simple and reliable introduction to the complexities of the subject. Dr. RahulaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s What the Buddha Taught fills the need as only could be done by one having a firm grasp of the vast material to be sifted. It is a model of what a book should be that is addressed first of all to ‘the educated and intelligent reader.Ã¢â ¬â„¢ Authoritative and clear, logical and sober, this study is as comprehensive as it is masterly.Ã¢â ¬Â•A classic introductory book to Buddhism, What the Buddha Taught, contains a selection of illustrative texts from the original Pali texts, including the Suttas and the Dhammapada (specially translated by the author), sixteen illustrations, and a bibliography, glossary, and index.

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Customer Reviews

Beneath the enormous umbrella of Buddhism, there is a diverse galaxy of customs and beliefs, but there is also a kernel of truth that every sect holds dear. Rahula Walpola, scholar and monk, discovers this foundation of Buddhism for us first through straightforward explication, never skipping over a point that has yet to be substantiated, then through translations from key scriptures. Logical and focused, these are the essentials of Buddhism; know them first, then move comfortably on to other Buddhist works.

Rahula is a scholar monk who trained in the Theravadan tradition in Ceylon. His succinct, clear overview of Buddhist concepts has never been surpassed. It is the standard. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

If you want a straightforward explanation of Buddhism and Buddhist principles without an author’s opinion of the application of these principles or meandering "interpretations", then this book is for you. The author does a wonderful job describing the fundamental principles of Buddhism based on well referenced facts along with the most accepted interpretations of the various teachings. I enjoy learning about the positive facets of various religions, especially those teachings that are universally applicable, and this book fits that bill. Unlike some books on religions, where a lot of time is spent pointing out flaws with various beliefs, this book seems to take an almost scientific approach that leaves the question as to the validity of the "religion" as the one true "path" up to the reader. One take away from this book for me was the idea that Buddhism could very well be labeled a way/view of life vs. a "religion". Maybe one day in the future we will have Christian Buddhists, Muslim Buddhists and even Jewish Buddhists. Though the great modern religions of the middle east have all derived from the early monotheistic viewpoints going back to Abraham and Moses, the divide between these may take millennia to overcome whereas Buddhism does not necessarily or directly conflict with these religions fundamental principles.

A really well written and easy to understand guide to those that are new to Buddhism. I consider myself one of them, but this book proved I really knew nothing about Buddhism. This book was very informative and educational and helped me understand what Buddhism really is and not what I hear people say it is.I absolutely recommend it. Even if you are not a Buddhist and are only curious about it, it is a worth reading and the author makes an awesome job explaining it.

There is much to be told about the history of Buddha, this book goes into the history only briefly then gives you the straight unabated truth of what the enlightened one taught. There are several books about the beginning and I have read a lot of them but nothing has come close to the straightforwardness this book provides. I have bought this book several times and have handed out a more than a dozen copies to friends I have met throughout the world. I highly recommend for anyone that wants to know the truth and not the ritual on the philosophy of Buddhism.

This book came reccommended to me by someone who, in addition to being a Buddhist and Kung

Fu practicioner for many years, also graduated from an East Asian Studies program, with a focus in this field. To say that I would trust his word on the subject is an understatement.Anyway, he was 100% right. Going into it, I knew next to nothing of Buddhism, other than the bastardized teachings in my High School's week long session on "World Religions" (which basically outlined Christianity, Judaism, and Islam, then spent a few seconds on Hindu and Buddhism (as if they're the same?) They also presented to me great misinformation on the topic, and almost seemed to be presenting the philosophy in Christianized terms (using words such as "salvation" and "afterlife.")So, I sought out this book to learn the real ways of The Buddha. And what I found was great. The writing is superb, the author gives constant reference and notes to different Buddhist texts (in 2 original languages, to then construct an appropriate English translation), and analyzes them in accordance with the traditions and teachings of The Buddha. The layout is neat and efficient, and presents material in a very simple and cumulative manner. The book is also short enough that it creates an excellent digestable "first bite" of Buddhism. This is not to say, however, that it is in any way sparse, as it is quite thorough and I intend to read it several times over to truly let all of the fascinating information sink in.If you have skimmed the surface as I had, this is the best way to get yoruself started and knowledgable on the topic. If you *think* you know something about Buddhism, this is going to be the best way to clarify everything for you. Heck, I bet even someone who outright calls themselves a Buddhist would find some very valuable lessons and analyses in this book. Five stars all the way.

This is hands down the best introduction to Buddhism that I have ever read. And I have read a lot of them. I only wish that I had read this earlier on and avoided all of the confusion I caused myself by trying to piece together an understanding of his teachings from a variety of sources. It was difficult to separate the wheat from the chaff when I was trying to be both student and teacher. Thankfully, Walpola Rahula has done this task wonderfully. The things I struggled to understand like the doctrine of No Soul and the concept of Suffering were made clear. I hope that you will get a lot out of this as well!

This is the best book ever written on the teachings of Gautama Buddha--bar none. The book focuses on teaching the substance of what the Buddha taught, rather than all the modern trappings, like turning meditation into a fetish. Once you understand what the Buddha taught, you will be able to recognize what he didn't teach: 90%+ of what passes today as "Buddhism."

Translations by a native speaker make all the difference in the world. This is great for a beginner--doesn't talk down to you at all (college reading level required) but does boil down the central tenets and organizes them for you. Highly recommend! I keep going back and back to it. #1, it makes a great reference (for example, as my sangha works its way through weekly discussions of the Eightfold Noble Path) but perhaps more importantly, #2 every time a re-read a section I get a better and deeper understanding of the material. Tiny book with a big punch.

Simply what he taught, this and Buddhism Plain and Simple is all you need. Beware of people who tell you, you can't understand this. Hogwash.

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