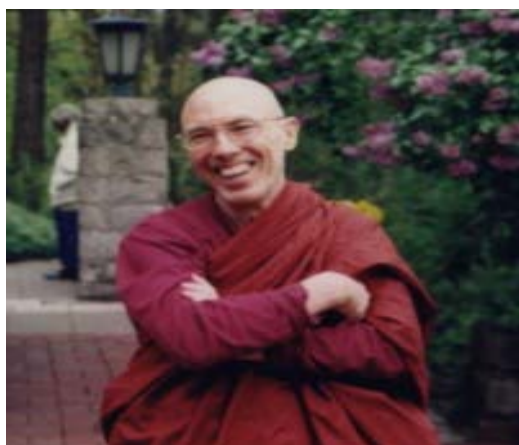


The Middle Length Discourses of the Buddha: The First Fifty Suttas

A Study Course in the Majjhima Nikaya
with Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi



The *Majjhima Nikaya*, the *Middle Length Discourses*, is one of the oldest collections of the Buddha's original teachings. The *Majjhima Nikaya* has been described as the Buddhist scripture that combines the richest variety of scenarios with the deepest and most wide-ranging selection of teachings. The suttas—full of drama, reasoned arguments, and brilliant parables—bring the Buddha to life in the full glory of his resplendent wisdom and compassionate humanity. This course will offer the opportunity to study the *Majjhima Nikaya* with one of the co-translators of the popular and influential English translation, *The Middle Length Discourses of the Buddha*. In this first part of the course, we will examine a selection from the first fifty suttas, which cover topics ranging from the Buddha's life, to instructions in basic ethics, to guidelines on meditation and early Buddhist philosophy. Each class will begin with a half-hour of guided meditation, followed by lecture and discussion of the sutta and ending with a “sharing of merits” recitation.

The schedule for late 2009 is posted below. The course will resume after the Christmas holidays. The schedule for 2010 will be posted later.

Basic text: Bhikkhu Ñānamoli and Bhikkhu Bodhi, translators, *The Middle Length Discourses of the Buddha* (Wisdom Publications).

Schedule for late 2009:

Saturday mornings Time: 9:30 am ~ 11:20 am		
October 17, 24, 31	November 14, 21	December 5, 19
I. Oct 17: MN 2. All the Taints (Sabbāsava Sutta) II. Oct 24: MN 6. If a Monk Should Wish (Ākankheyya Sutta) III. Oct 31: MN 7. Simile of the Cloth (Vatthupama Sutta)	IV. Nov 14: MN 8. Discourse on Effacement (Sallekha Sutta) & MN 15: Inference (Anumāna Sutta) V. Nov. 21: MN 18. The Honeyball Discourse (Madhupindika Sutta)	VI. Dec 5: MN 19. Two Kinds of Thought (Dvedha-vitakka Sutta) & MN 20. Removal of Distracting Thoughts (Vitakka-santhana Sutta) VII. MN 22. The Simile of the Snake (Alagaddupama Sutta)

Venerable Bhikkhu Bodhi, originally from New York City, has been a Buddhist monk since 1972. He was the editor for the Buddhist Publication Society in Sri Lanka, from 1984 until 2002. He has edited Ven. Nanamoli's translation of the *Majjhima Nikaya* (*Middle Length Discourses of the Buddha*), translated the *Samyutta Nikaya* (*Connected Discourses of the Buddha*), and compiled an anthology from the Pali Canon (*In the Buddha's Words*). He now resides at Chuang Yen Monastery and teaches there and at Bodhi Monastery in Lafayette, New Jersey.

Location: Chuang Yen Monastery, 2020 Route 301, Carmel, NY 10512 Place : Kuan Yin Hall

There is no charge for the courses. Donations for the monastery are welcome.

Because of a persisting health problem of uncertain occurrence, Bhikkhu Bodhi may on occasion have to cancel a scheduled Saturday morning class. Because of this uncertainty, it is essential that you verify whether each class will be given **before** you travel to Chuang Yen monastery.

This verification can be done by either: (1) checking your e-mail, or (2) phoning the monastery.

(1) **E-mail.** Chuang Yen Monastery will send everyone registered in the class an e-mail by 7:00 AM on the Saturday morning of each class, indicating whether the class will be given or is cancelled.

(2) **Phone.** Those who do not have e-mail should check the recorded message at 845- 228-4645 at 7:00 AM on the morning of each class. The message will say whether the class will be given or is cancelled.