



The American Dhammapada: A Twenty-First Century Translation of the Buddha's Dhammapada

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The Buddha's Dhammapada is of vital importance to our contemporary Western world because of this eternal truth: Life is difficult. Life forces us to choose between virtue and vice, between distraction and focus, indeed, between good and evil. And, the Dhammapada contains spiritual technology that helps us make high-quality choices about how we will conduct our lives. Despite the supreme usefulness of the Dhammapada, a collection of 423 sayings of the Buddha, it is not widely read in the contemporary West. One reason for this is that many translations remain steeped in ancient analogies, allusions, idioms and religious terminology, which does more than just confuse, it renders the Buddha's wisdom inaccessible to Western readers. The American Dhammapada is a 21st Century translation both fiercely loyal to the spirit and intent of the original Pali verses and entirely pragmatic in its English and style choices. This adaptive translation, like none before, opens up the richness of the Buddha's message, making that message readily accessible to Western readers. This accessibility empowers Western readers in three essential ways. First, to understand and adapt the Buddha's wisdom to everyday Western life. Second, to adapt everyday Western life to the Buddha's wisdom. And, finally, to use the spiritual technology of the Buddha to live lives that shine from afar, like the snowy Himalayas.

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