

TIPITIKA: The Pali Canon (Source: Spirit Rock Meditation Center)

The Tipitaka (Pali *ti*, "three," + *pitaka*, "baskets"), or Pali Canon, is the collection of primary Pali language texts which form the doctrinal foundation of Theravada Buddhism. Theravada (Pali: *thera* "elders" + *vada* "word, doctrine"), the "Doctrine of the Elders".

The 3 divisions of the Tipitaka are:

1. **Vinaya Pitaka:** Rules and origin of rules for monks (*bhikkhus*) and nuns (*bhikkhunis*). There are 227 rules for the *bhikkhus*, 311 for the *bhikkhunis*.
2. **Sutta Pitaka:** The collection of discourses, attributed to the Buddha and a few of his closest disciples, containing all the central teachings of Theravada Buddhism
3. **Abhidhamma Pitaka:** The Buddhist analysis of mind and mental processes; a wide-ranging systemization of the Buddha's teaching that combines philosophy, psychology, and ethics into a unique and remarkable synthesis. Consists of 7 books.

SUTTA PITAKA: *The Sutta Pitaka*, the second division of the Tipitaka, consists of over 10,000 suttas, or discourses, delivered by the Buddha and his close disciples during the Buddha's forty-five year teaching career, as well as verses by other members of the Sangha. Grouped into **5 NIKAYAS** or collections:

1. **Digha Nikaya** - The "Long" Discourses: Consists of 34 suttas, including the *Mahāsatipatthana Sutta* (The Greater Discourse on the Foundations of Mindfulness-DN22), the *Samannaphala Sutta* (The Fruits of the Contemplative Life-DN2), the *Mahā-parinibbana Sutta* (The Buddha's Last Days-DNI6)
2. **Majjhima Nikaya** - The "Middle-length" Discourses: Consists of 152 suttas, including the *Sabbasava Sutta* (All the Taints/Fermentations-MN 2), *Cūla-kammavibhanga Sutta* (Shorter Exposition of Kamma-MN 135), the *Anapanasati Sutta* (Mindfulness of Breathing-MN118), *Kāyagatasati Sutta* (Mindfulness of the Body-MN119), *Satipatthana Sutta* (Foundations of Mindfulness-MN10), the *Angulimāla Sutta* (MN86)
3. **Samyutta Nikaya** - The "Connected or Grouped" Discourses: Consists of 2,889 shorter suttas grouped together by theme into 56 *samyuttas*.
4. **Anguttara Nikaya** - The Numerical or "Further-factored" Discourses: Consists of 8,777 short suttas, grouped together into eleven *nipatas* according to the number of items of Dhamma covered in each *sutta*. (Book of ones to Book of eights)
5. **Khuddaka Nikaya** - The "Division of Short Books": Consists of 15 "books" (17 in the Thai edition; 18 in the Burmese), including the *Dhammapada* (Path of Dhamma,) *Therīgāthā* (Verses of the Elder Nuns), *Theragāthā* (Verses the Elder Monks), *Sutta Nipata*, *Udana*, *Itivuttaka*, *Jataka* stories, etc.