



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

A Study Course in the Majjhima Nikaya, Part 2: with Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi

The *Majjhima Nikaya*, the *Middle Length Discourses*, is one of the oldest collections of the Buddha's original teachings, 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 offers a chance 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 second part of the course, open to all, we will continue with a selection from the first fifty suttas, which cover topics ranging from the Buddha's life, to basic ethics, discourses on meditation, and early Buddhist philosophy. Each class starts with a half-hour silent meditation, followed by a lecture on the sutta, with opportunity for questions. A discussion period led by the teacher will be held after lunch, from noon to 12:30 pm.

The schedule for the first part of 2010 is posted below.

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

Schedule for January-May 2010:

Saturday mornings Time: 9:30 am ~ 11:20 am		
January-February	March-May	Suttas
1. January 2 2. January 16 3. January 23 4. January 30 5. February 6 6. February 13 7. February 27	8. March 6 9. March 13 10. March 27 11. April 10 th 12. April 24 th 13. May 15 14. May 22 or 29 (TBA)	MN 15, MN 18, MN 19, MN 21, MN 22 (2x), MN 24, MN 26, MN 28, MN 30, MN 31, MN 32, MN 35, MN36 (2x). The goal is to cover one sutta per class, except MN 22 and MN 36, which need two classes each.

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.