

Printing the Buddha Word

That the World May Hear and Live the True Dharma
Sutta Discovery Publication Project

1 Why a new translation?

The available English translations of the Suttas are either very faulty and out of date (done about a hundred years ago) or restricted by space (one-volume works, often with few notes and wrong citations). The Sutta Discovery (SD) has the following advantages:

- (1) Available in convenient bound A4 volumes of selected Suttas and essays according to themes to sustain an interesting and connected reading. Book versions are published periodically.
- (2) Detailed notes on difficult words, names, doctrines, and bibliographies.
- (3) The Sutta's *peyyāla* (repetitive cycles) (especially those on Dharma training) are translated in full, for reflection by monastics and lay practitioners.
- (4) The translations and essays are paragraphed, subtitled and numbered in a reader-friendly way for easy reading in a scribal tradition (opposite of oral tradition).
- (5) A high standard of referencing and cross-references to other Suttas, essays, journal articles, etc, that are helpful to specialists and students, for discussion or self-study.
- (6) A broad-based translation that uses alternative translations, amplified translations, and comparative studies with Sanskrit, Chinese and other texts where necessary.
- (7) It includes a digest of the related and latest scholarly researches and writings, summarized, explained and discussed.
- (8) They serve as comprehensive sources and resources for study and teaching notes for Dharma teachers, researchers and students.
- (9) Easy-to-use handbook for monastics (especially forest monks) for Sutta readings (for recording on MP3 etc) and for meditation.
- (10) Socially-engaged studies for the information and inspiration of Buddhist social workers (addressing some social and historical issues affecting Buddhism and religion).
- (11) The SD texts are freely available online at our website, <http://dharmafarer.org> and separately on CDs. They can be freely used as is.
- (12) The SD texts will form the basis of a Buddhist correspondence course.
- (13) The SD notes and studies are the materials for other reference projects such as *A Sutta Dictionary, A Dharma Dictionary, Numerical Dictionary of Dharma and Sutta Index*.
- (14) The translated Suttas will be published separately according to Nikaya, that is, *The Long Texts, The Middle-length Texts, The Connected Texts and the Numerical Texts*.
- (15) The series is inspired by the mere Buddhist vision, simple Dharma-moved living that brings awakening in this life itself.
- (16) An excellent and enduring gift of the Dharma to others.

2 A brief history of the Sutta Discovery

The SD series started with the NUS Buddhist Society weekly Sutta Study Group (SSG) classes in February 2002 and the Buddhist Fellowship in February 2003 (using the first ring-bound edition). These classes are still going on. A new SD volume is published every three months. In Oct 2010, Piya has completed 36 SD volumes. By **2030**, over 100 SD volumes have been projected. Beginning early **2010**, the SD Publication Project started publishing the SD series **in book form**, releasing 1-3 volumes each year, funds permitting. Protect the true teachings: *Help us print the Suttas*.



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