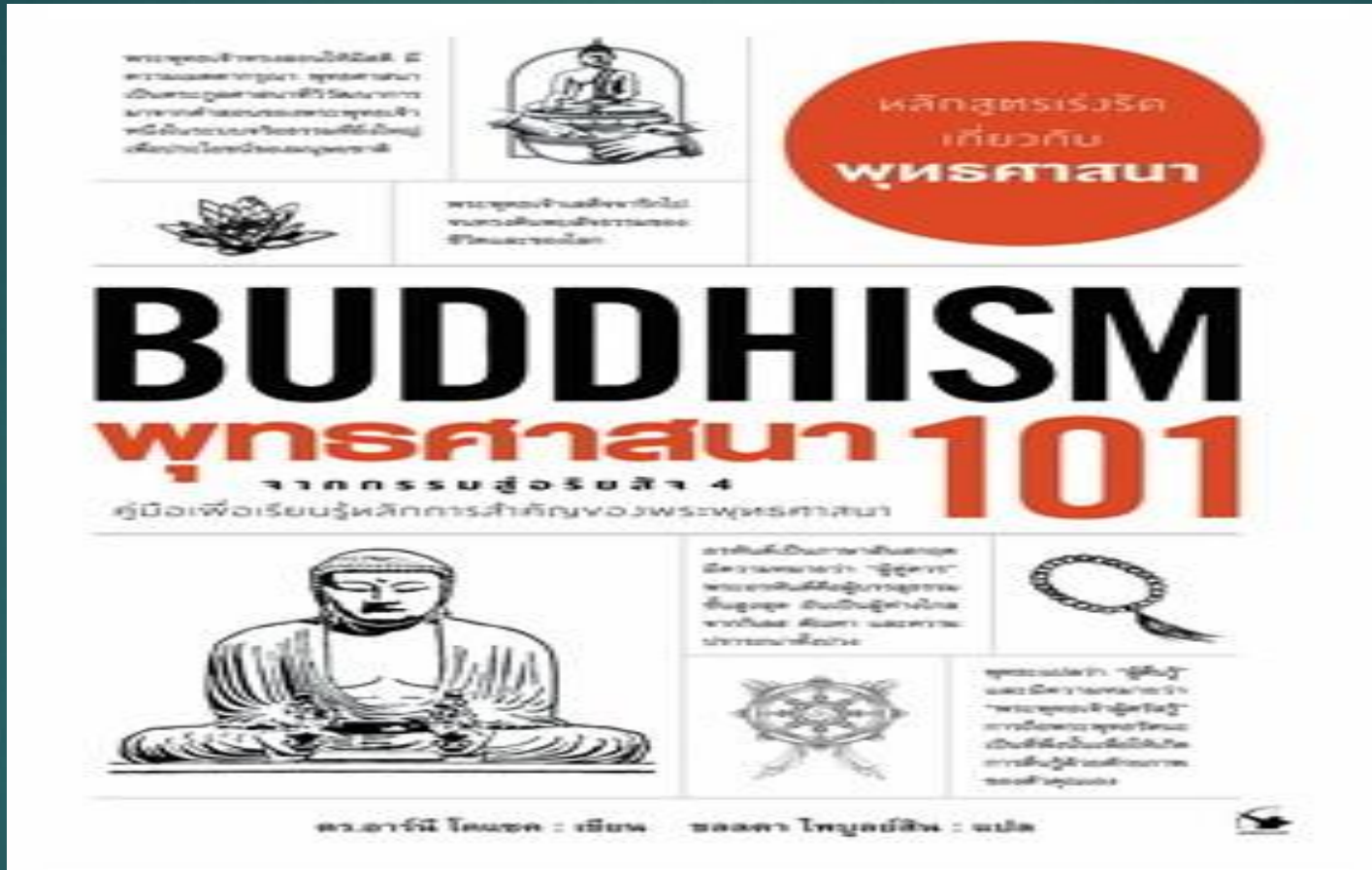




Chapter 4: Buddhism (The Light of Asia)



A RELIGION OF WISDOM AND COMPASSION, FOCUSING ON HUMAN POTENTIAL RATHER THAN DIVINE INTERVENTION.

Significance of Buddhism



- ▶ A religion of self-reliance: No concept of a creator god influencing human life.
- ▶ Foundation of Asian traditions, cultures, and values.
- ▶ Global recognition: United Nations' Day of Vesak (International Day).



Definition of "Buddhism"



- ▶ Etymology: Phra (Venerable) + Buddha (The Awakened One) + Sasana (Teachings).
- ▶ Meaning: "The teachings of the One who knows, the Awakened, and the Joyful."
- ▶ Original terms: "Dharma-Vinaya" (Doctrine and Discipline) or "Brahmacariya" (The Holy/Noble Life).

WORDY GURU

[คำศัพท์ภาษาไทย]

พุทธ, พุทธ-, พุทธะ

หมายถึง : [พุด, พุดทะ-] น. ผู้ตรัสรู้, ผู้ตื่นแล้ว, ผู้เบิกบานแล้ว, ใช้เฉพาะเป็นพระนามของพระบรมศาสดาแห่งพระพุทธศาสนา เรียกเป็นสามัญว่า พระพุทธเจ้า. (ป.).

พจนานุกรมไทย

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<https://www.wordyguru.com/>

Original Terms in the Buddha's Time

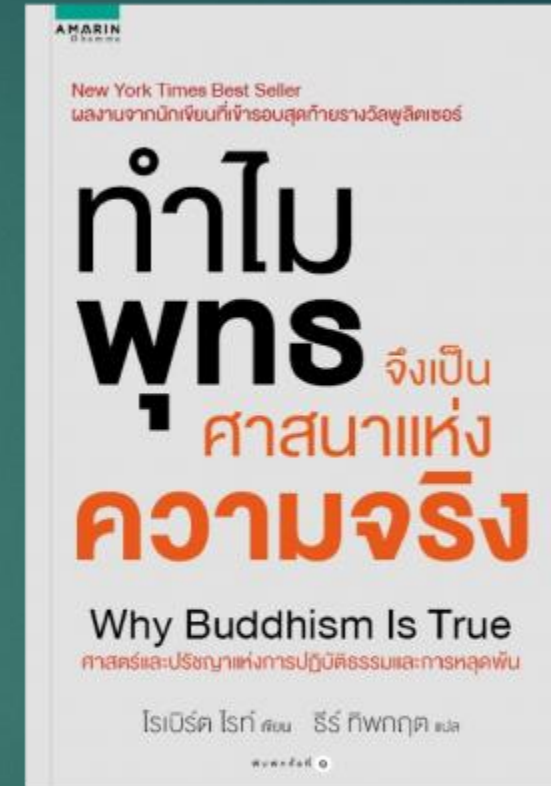
- ▶ The Buddha referred to his teachings as "Dhamma-Vinaya".
- ▶ Dhamma: The truth of nature.
- ▶ Vinaya: The discipline for coexistence and self-training.
- ▶ Sometimes referred to as "Brahmacariya" (The Noble Life).



<https://uttayanandham.org/manual-for-bhikku>

Scholars' Perspectives

- ▶ P. A. Payutto: A system of education for life development.
- ▶ Buddhadasa Bhikkhu: The "Dhamma" itself, used to extinguish suffering in the present moment.
- ▶ Western Scholars: Often viewed as a "philosophy of life" rather than a traditional religion.



<https://amarinbooks.com/product/why-buddhism-is-true/>

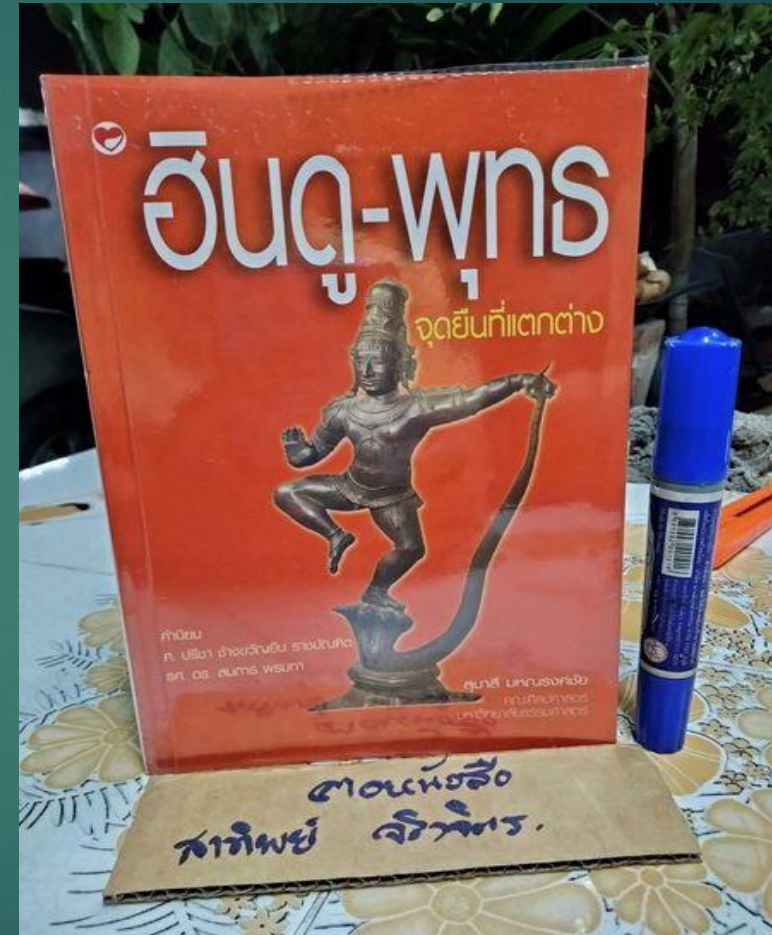
Five Essential Elements of Buddhism

- ▶ Teacher: The Buddha.
- ▶ Teachings: Dhamma-Vinaya (The Tipitaka).
- ▶ Practitioners: The Fourfold Assembly (monks, nuns, laymen, laywomen).
- ▶ Rituals: Practices that support the cultivation of Dhamma.
- ▶ Sanctuaries: Monasteries and sacred sites.



Two Perspectives on Its Origin

- ▶ View 1: Evolution from Brahmanism (Reforming the caste system and rituals).
- ▶ View 2: Independent Origin (Based on the Buddha's own Enlightenment, rejecting Vedic authority).



Society Before the Buddha



- ▶ Caste System: Strict hierarchy (Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya, Shudra, and Outcastes).
- ▶ Beliefs: Predestination (Fatalism) and animal sacrifices.
- ▶ Spirituality: An era of intense searching (The age of 62 different philosophical sects).

ย้อนอดีต...ท่องประวัติศาสตร์พระพุทธศาสนา ตอนที่ ๑๐ ภาพ : พ.ณัฐวัฒน์ ณภูจิต

Facebook หลวงพี่เปรม

ครูทั้ง ๖

๖ สำนักใหญ่...ในสมัยพุทธกาล

กลุ่มของสมณะที่เชื่อว่าสิ่งต่าง ๆ ล้วนมีเหตุจากสิ่งอื่นที่ไม่ใช่อำนาจของพระเจ้า



ปुरुณกัสสปะ
อริยทฤษฎี : แม้ทำก็ไม่ได้ดีกว่า

ร่างกายเป็นผู้กระทำ
วิญญาณไม่ได้ทำ
ดังนั้นจึงไม่มีกรรม
ไม่มีบุญบาป



มกขลิโคศล
อเหตุกทฤษฎี : ทุกสิ่งเกิดขึ้นตามชะตาไม่มีเหตุปัจจัย

ทุกสิ่งเกิดจากความบังเอิญ
สิ่งทั้งหลายเกิดขึ้นได้ด้วย
ชะตาของตนเองทั้งสิ้น



อจิตเทสกะมัลล
อได้กทฤษฎี : ตายแล้วสูญ

ทุกอย่างเป็นเพียง
ธาตุดิน น้ำ ลม ไฟ
ตายแล้วก็สูญหมด
ทำอะไรก็ไม่มีผล



ปุกตกัศยณะ
สัสตททฤษฎี : ทุกสิ่งไม่สูญ

สิ่งทั้งหลาย
เกิดจากธาตุมารวมกัน
รวมกันแล้วก็แยกจากกัน
เปลี่ยนไปไม่มีวันสูญ



นิครนถนาถปุตร
อัสตทิลมณททฤษฎี : ห้ามทุกข์ด้วยความลำบาก

อย่าไปสร้างกรรมใหม่
ทุกสิ่งเป็นผลจากกรรมเก่า
แยกกรรมเก่าด้วยสบะ
ยังลำบากยิ่งดี
แล้วละบริสุทธิ



สัจจชัยเวลัฏฐปุตร
อมราวณเขปิกทฤษฎี : สิ้นโหดไม่ตายตัว

นี่ก็ไม่ใช่
นั่นก็ไม่ใช่
อย่างอื่นก็ไม่ใช่
ไม่ใช่ก็ยังไม่ใช่
ไม่ใช่ก็ยังไม่ใช่
ไม่ใช่ก็ยังไม่ใช่

แล้วพระพุทธศาสนาจะรับมือกับแนวคิดของสมณะและพราหมณ์เหล่านี้ได้อย่างไร? โปรดติดตามต่อตอนหน้า

The Historical Buddha



- ▶ Prince Siddhartha: Early Life
- ▶ Born in Lumbini to King Suddhodana and Queen Maya.
- ▶ Early Spiritual Experience: At age 7, during the Royal Ploughing Ceremony, he observed the "cycle of suffering" (birds eating worms turned up by the plow).



The Turning Point: The Four Heavenly Messengers

- ▶ Witnessing: An Old Man, a Sick Person, a Corpse, and an Ascetic.
- ▶ Realization: All humans face suffering; the ascetic life is the path to liberation.



The Great Departure & Enlightenment



- ▶ Left the palace at age 29 to become a wanderer.
- ▶ Studied under great masters and practiced extreme asceticism (self-mortification).
- ▶ The Middle Way:
Attained Enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree by discovering the Four Noble Truths.



Types of Buddhas

- ▶ Samma-Sambuddha: Enlightened by oneself and teaches others (e.g., Gautama Buddha).
- ▶ Paccekabuddha: Enlightened by oneself but does not establish a broad teaching mission.
- ▶ Anubuddha: A disciple enlightened through the Buddha's teachings

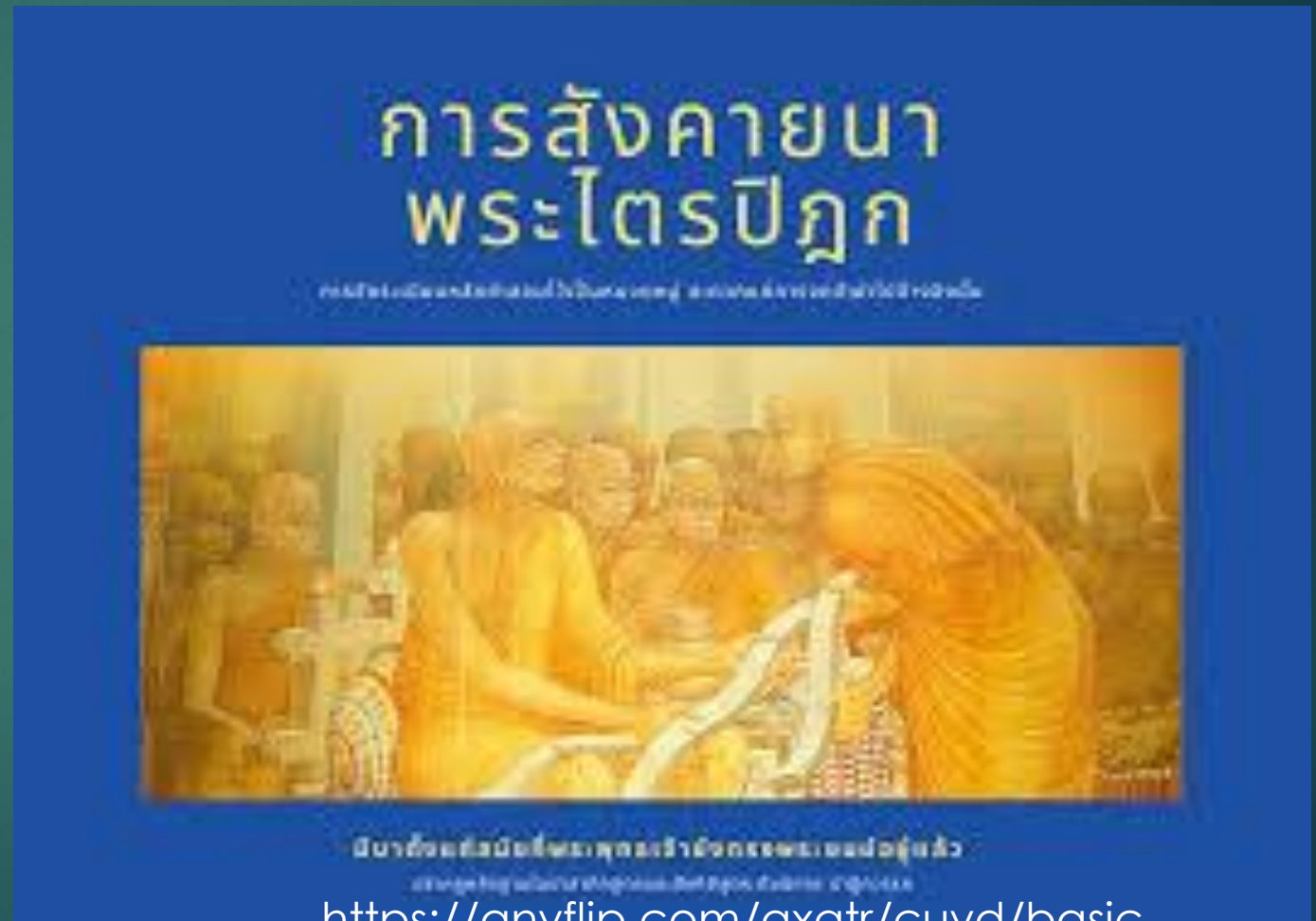


<https://www.facebook.com/MytimeKnapos/videos/B8%A0%E0%B8%97/3822077344576915/>



The Tipitaka (Scriptures)

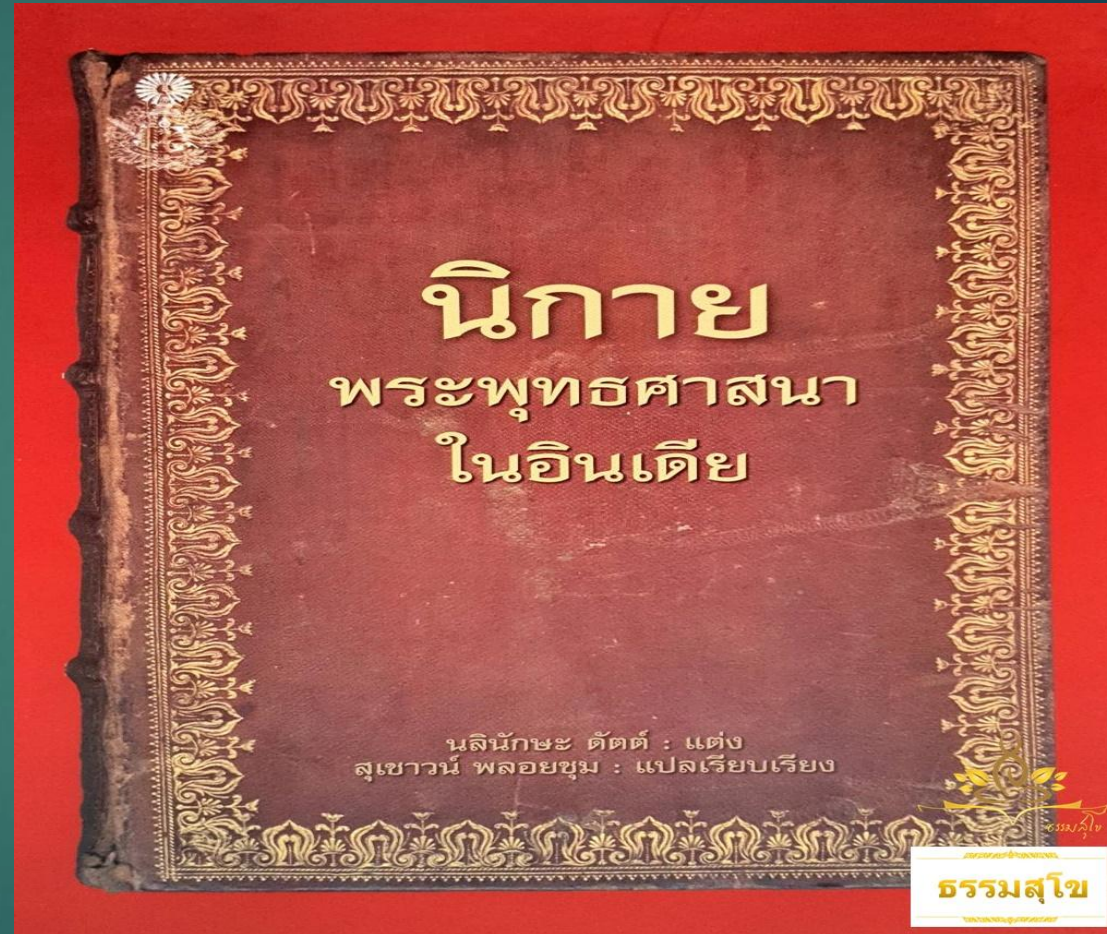
- ▶ Compiled through the "Buddhist Councils" to ensure accuracy.
- ▶ Divided into 3 baskets: Vinaya (Discipline), Sutta (Discourses), Abhidhamma (Higher Philosophy).
- ▶ Preserved for over 2,500 years.



<https://anyflip.com/qxgtr/cuyd/basic>

Major Sects: Theravada vs. Mahayana

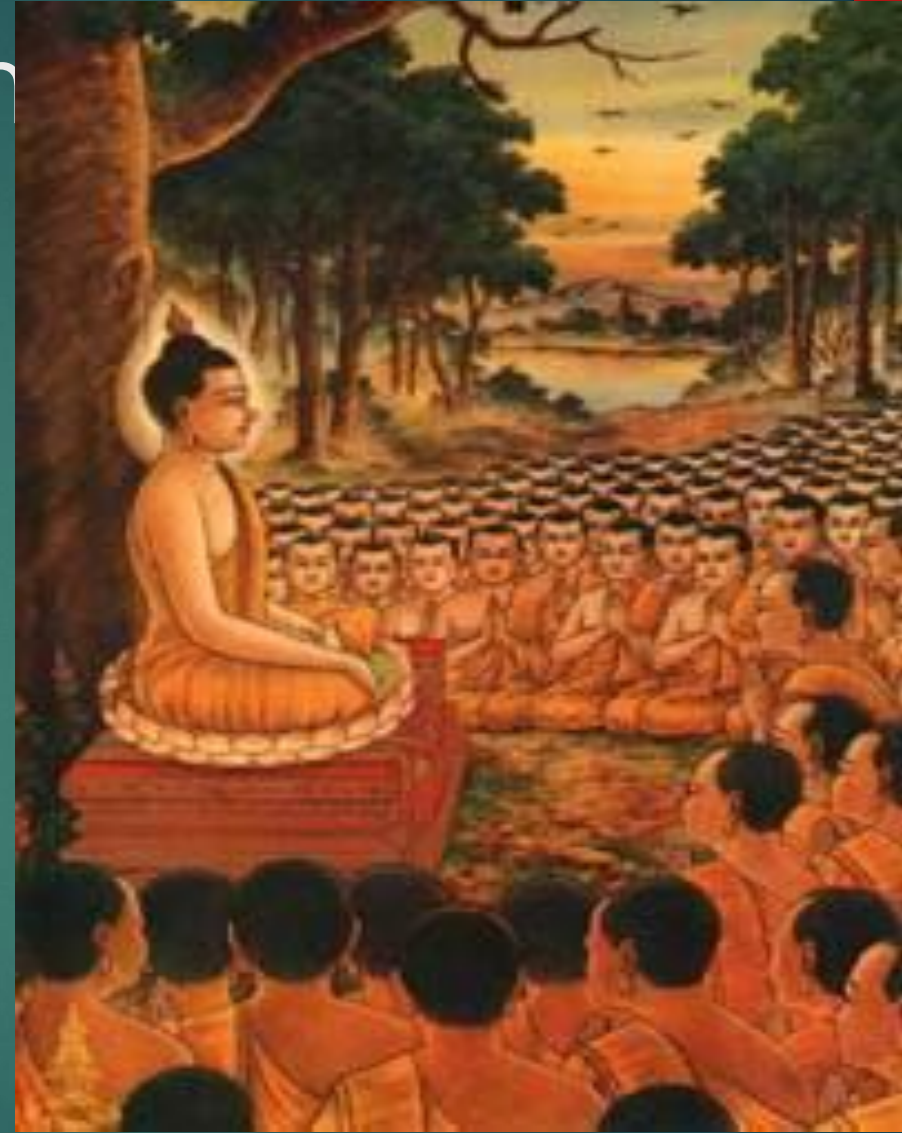
- ▶ Theravada (The School of the Elders): Traditionalist, conservative, strictly follows the Pali Canon.
- ▶ Prominent in Thailand, Sri Lanka, Myanmar.
- ▶ Mahayana (The Great Vehicle): Focuses on the Bodhisattva ideal (helping all beings reach Nirvana first).
- ▶ Adaptable to different cultures; prominent in China, Japan, Tibet.



<https://www.thammasukho.com/product/1723>

The Heart of Buddhism

- ▶ To avoid all evil.
- ▶ To perfect the good.
- ▶ To purify one's mind.

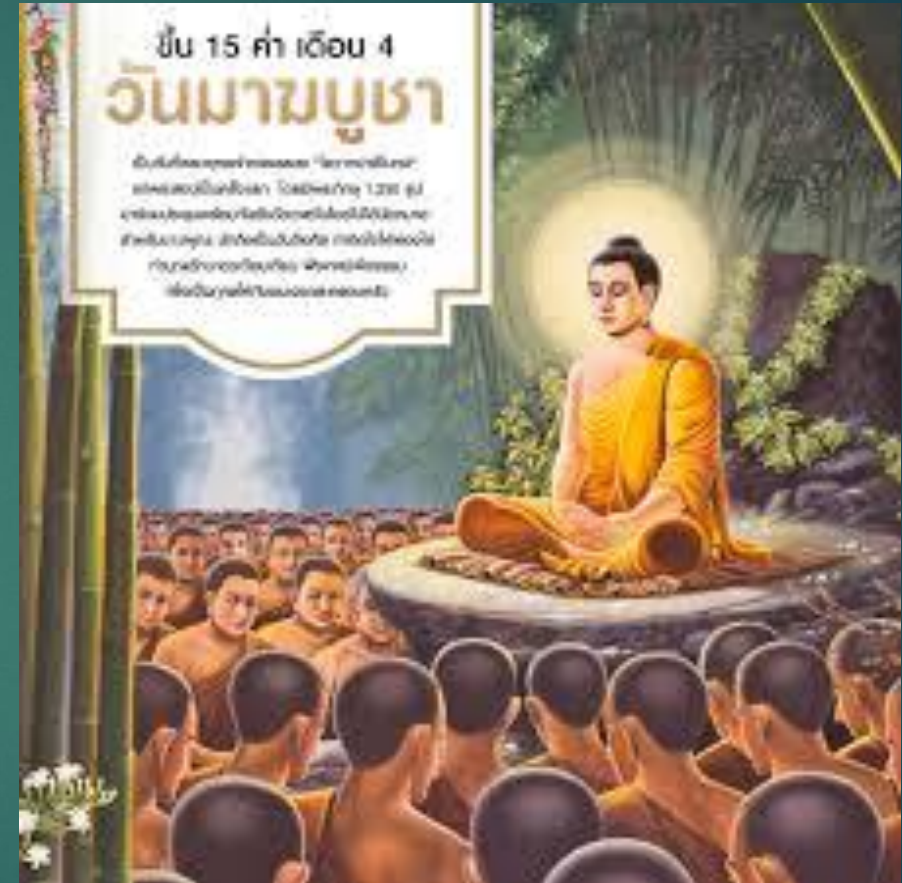


<https://www.watkoh.com/data/hisbuddha/his22.htm>

The Ultimate Goal of Buddhism

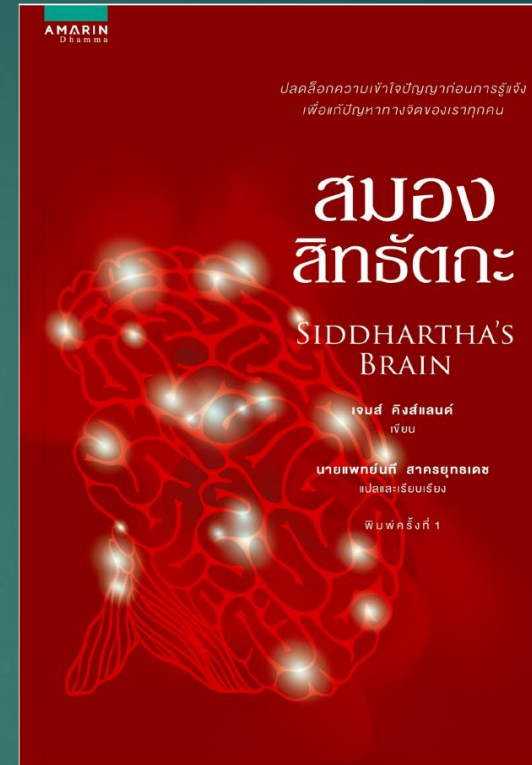


- ▶ The Core Purpose: To seek a way out of suffering (Dukkha).
- ▶ Quotation: "The original teachings of Prince Siddhartha have only one goal: the cessation of suffering." (Giulio, 2012).
- ▶ Levels of Liberation: Training oneself and helping others until reaching the state of Nirvana (Complete extinction of suffering).
- ▶ For the Benefit of Many: Buddhism is not just for self-interest, but for the welfare and happiness of the world.



Proof through Reason

- ▶ Buddhist teachings align with scientific principles (cause and effect).
- ▶ "Ehipassiko": It invites all to come and see/verify for themselves.
- ▶ Based on direct experience through practice.



<https://amarinbooks.com/productB0-siddharthas-brain/>



Buddhist Practices: The Threefold Training

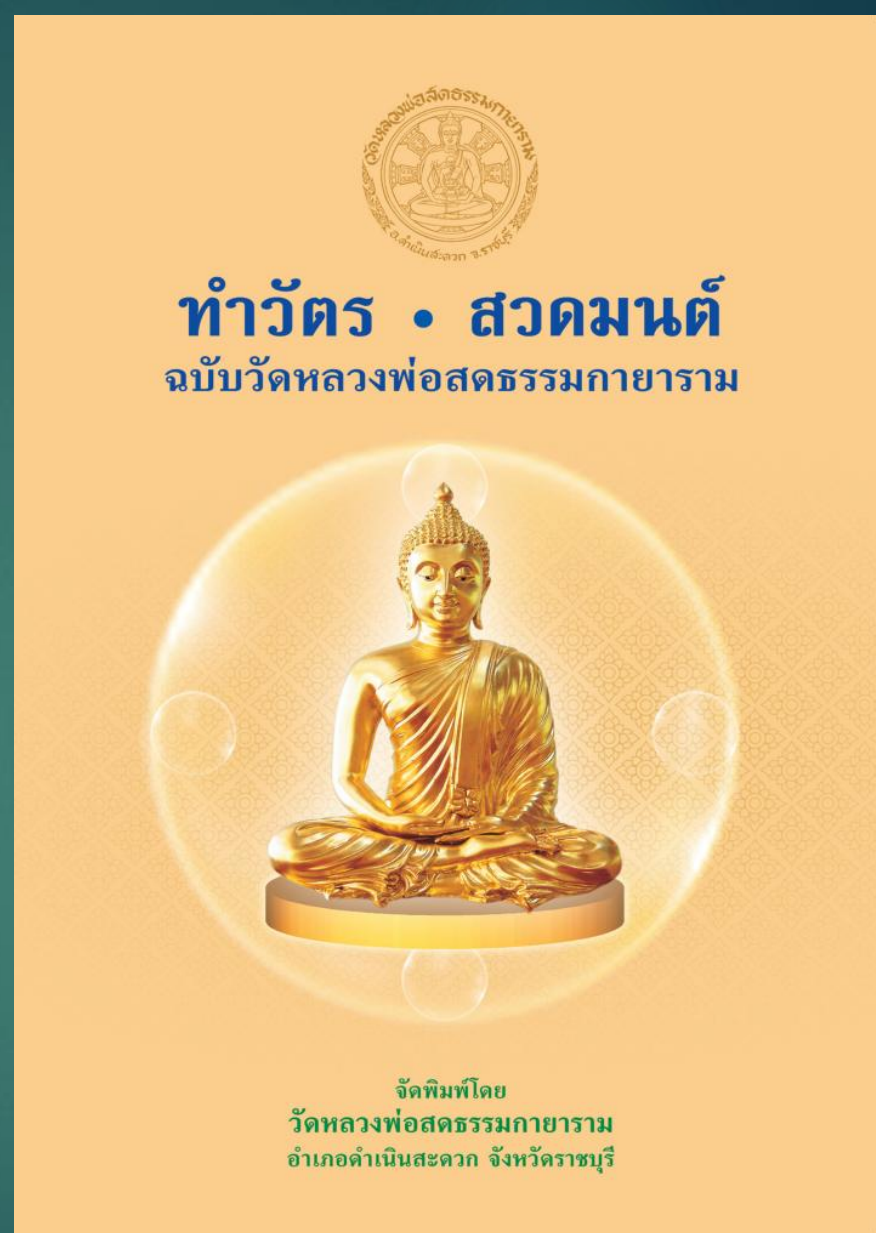
- ▶ Heart of the Teachings (Ovadapatimokkha):
- ▶ To avoid all evil.
- ▶ To do good.
- ▶ To purify the mind.
- ▶ The Path (Tri-Sikkha): Morality (Sila), Concentration (Samadhi), and Wisdom (Panna).
- ▶ The Acts of Merit (Punna-kiriya-vatthu): Giving (Dana), Morality (Sila), and Mental Development (Bhavana).



<https://www.facebook.com/MissiontoNirvana/posts/>

Daily Chanting

- ▶ Daily Chanting: Morning and Evening
- ▶ Definition: Chanting the Buddha's teachings and praising the Triple Gem.
- ▶ Key Benefits:
 - ▶ Peace of mind and mindfulness (Buddhanussati).
 - ▶ Training the mind for concentration and emotional control.
 - ▶ Dedicating merit to others.
 - ▶ Preserving Buddhist traditions for future generations.



Alms Giving and Generosity



- ▶ Alms Giving and Generosity
- ▶ Two Main Purposes of Giving (Dana):
 - ▶ 1 Merit Making: To eliminate greed (Lobha) and selfishness.
 - ▶ 2 Charity: To support those in need and foster social unity.
- ▶ Daily Alms Offering (Tak Bat): A way to support monks and sustain the religion while practicing self-sacrifice.



<https://tourismluangprabang.org/th>

Morality and Mindfulness



- ▶ The Five Precepts: The "Normal" state of being human (No killing, stealing, sexual misconduct, lying, or intoxicants).
- ▶ Meditation (Bhavana): * Samatha: For a calm and focused mind.
- ▶ Vipassana: For developing insight and wisdom.
- ▶ Recommendation: Practice at least twice a day (morning/evening) for 30 minutes.



www.kalyanamitra.org

Uposatha Day (Buddhist Holy Day)



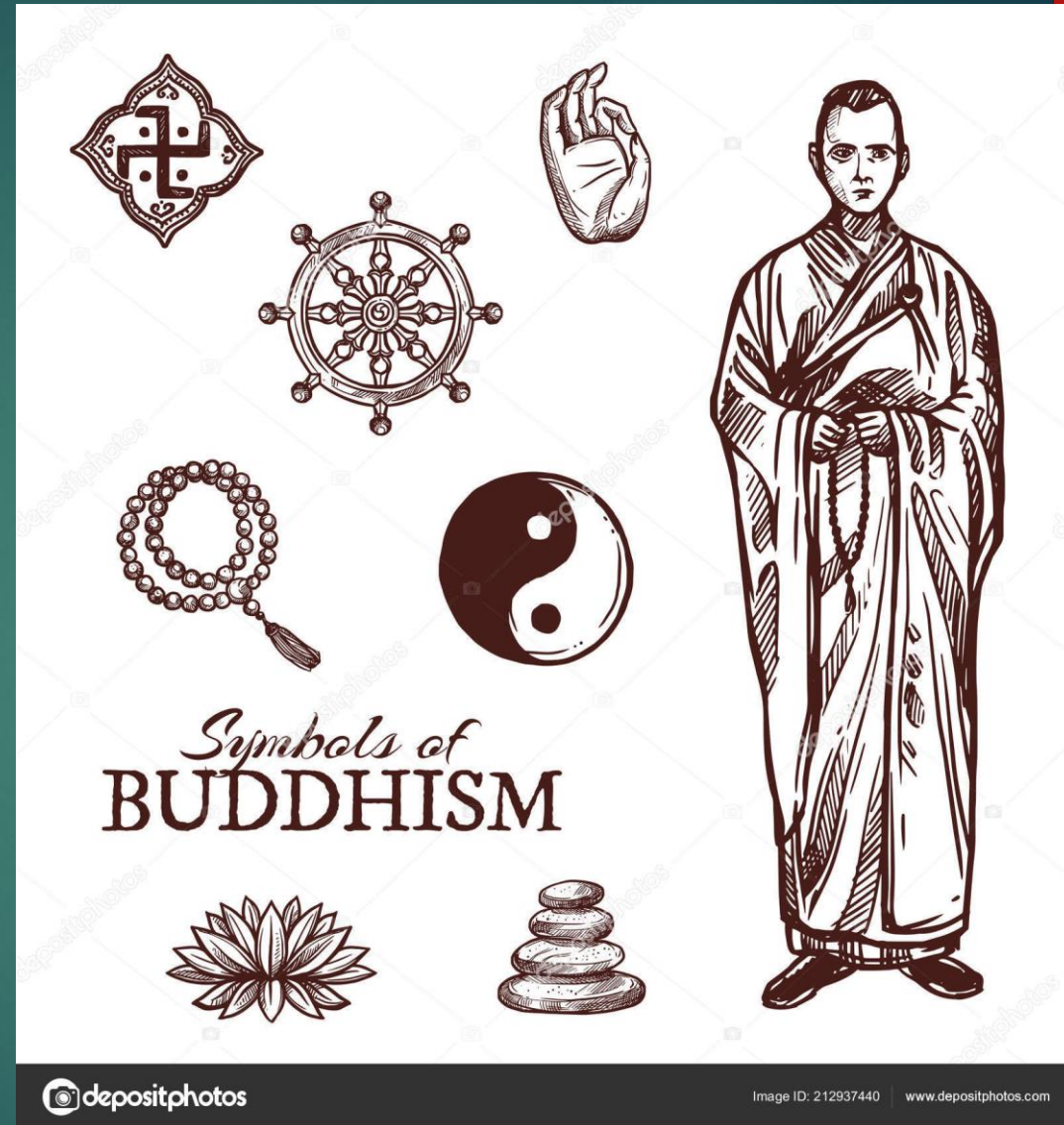
- ▶ "Dhamma Savana": The day for listening to the Dhamma.
- ▶ Activities: Gathering at temples, observing the 8 Precepts, and practicing collective meditation.
- ▶ Frequency: 4 times a month (following the lunar calendar).



<https://express.adobe.com/page/jT18YDdzu8GJE/>

Buddhist Symbols

- ▶ The Buddha: Buddha Images, Buddha's Footprint (symbolizing his path), and the Bodhi Tree (symbol of Enlightenment).
- ▶ The Dhamma: The Dhamma Wheel (Dharmachakra) with 8 spokes representing the Noble Eightfold Path.
- ▶ Six-Colored Flag: Representing the aura of wisdom emanating from the Buddha.



<https://depositphotos.com/th/vector/buddhism-religion-symbols-and-vector-sketch-signs-212937440.html>

Influences on Society

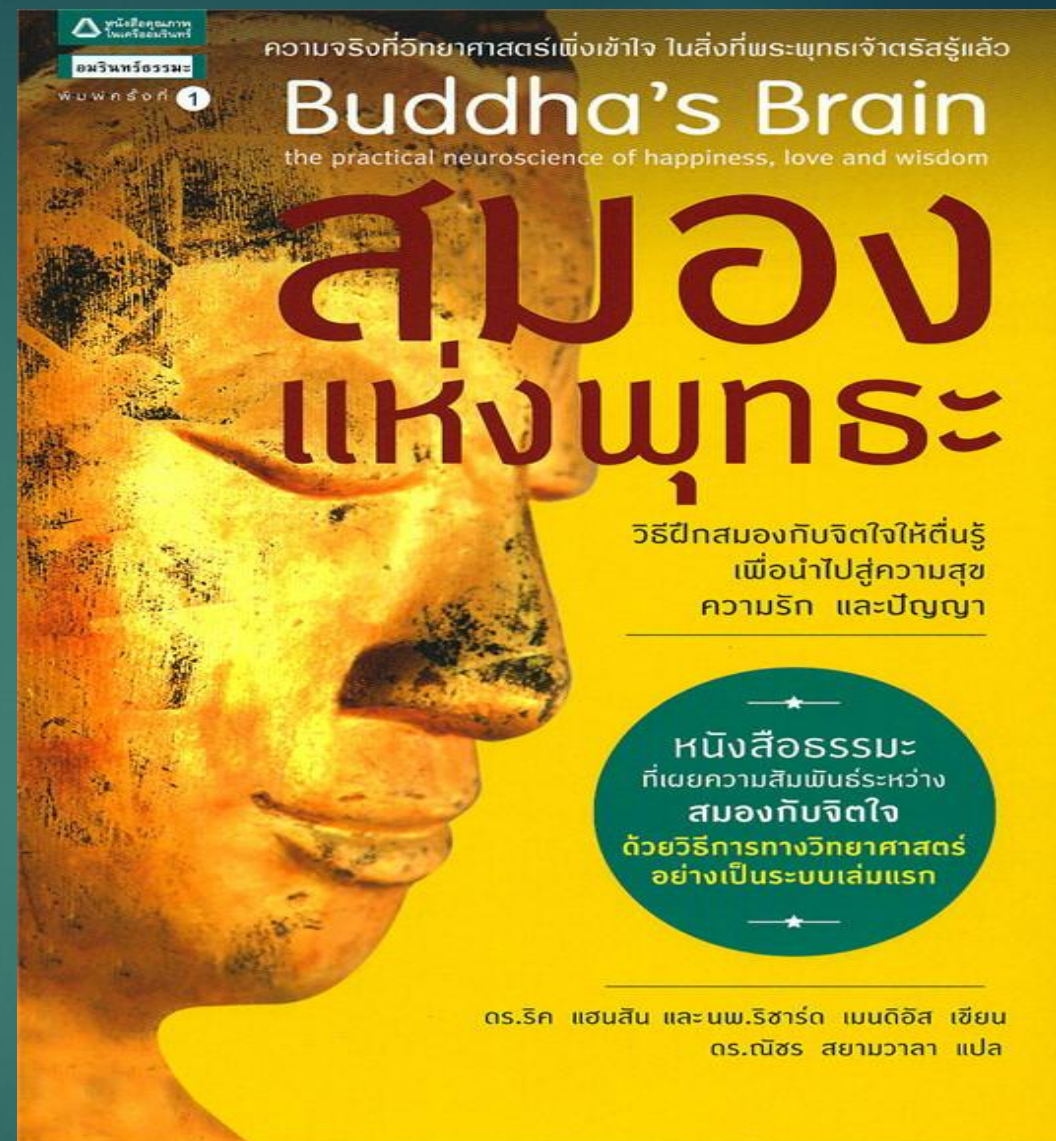


- ▶ In India: Advocating for equality and the rejection of the caste system (led by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar).
- ▶ In the West: Buddhism offers solutions to stress through meditation and scientific reasoning (Einstein's interest in Buddhism).
- ▶ In Thailand: The foundation of culture, traditions, and the "Land of Smiles" (from the concept of Tilakkhana or the Three Marks of Existence).
- ▶ The Temple (Wat): The community center for education, social welfare, and spiritual guidance.



Conclusion

- ▶ Buddhism is a religion of reason and self-reliance.
- ▶ The ultimate goal is peace (Nirvana), achieved through consistent practice and compassion for all living beings.
- ▶ Buddhism as a heritage of human wisdom.
- ▶ Self-reliance and compassion as solutions to global crises.



<https://amarinbooks.com/product/>

