An Introductory Bibliography on Buddhism: Some Suggested Readings from the Earth Sangha

Popular literature on Buddhism is a vast and rapidly growing genre that includes works of widely varying quality. The following list is intended to help readers unfamiliar with the field to get their bearings quickly. Our list is brief; it is limited to works that we ourselves have found useful—and to only a sample of those. But the selections are also varied, to offer a rough sense of the field as a whole. Readers will find here perspectives from all three of the major schools of contemporary Buddhism: Theravada, the most influential school in South Asia; Vajrayana, the school of Tibet; and Zen (Ch’an), which predominates in East Asia. The list includes both ancient texts and modern commentaries. It includes points of view that could be considered doctrinally conservative, as well as very liberal perspectives. And it includes both popular and scholarly works. For the convenience of readers browsing by heading, some titles are listed under several headings.

General Introductions


Introductions to Particular Schools


Some Important Buddhist Texts


Charles Luk, *Ch’an and Zen Teaching*, vol. 1 (York Beach, ME: Samuel Weiser, 1993). Includes commentaries on the Heart Sutra, an important text to Mahayana schools, and the Diamond Sutra, important to Zen.


Great Teachers, Great Teachings

Robert E. Buswell, Jr., trans., *The Collected Works of Chinul* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1983). [Chinul was the most important figure in the establishment of Korean Zen.]


**Ethics**


**Perspectives on Buddhism as Daily Life**


**Meditation**


**Engaged Buddhism and Beyond**


Mary Evelyn Tucker and Duncan Ryuken Williams, eds., *Buddhism and Ecology: The Interconnection of Dharma and Deeds* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Center for the Study of World Religions, 1997).