

## **“Tipitaka” – The Three Baskets of the Pali Cannon**

- I. Vinaya Pitaka – rules of monastic conduct, ordination rules, some suttas, reports from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> councils
- II. Sutta Pitaka
  - a. Digha Nikaya (Long Discourses) – “DN”
  - b. Majjhima Nikaya (Middle-length Discourses) – “MN”
  - c. Samyutta Nikaya (Connected Discourses) – “SN”
  - d. Anguttara Nikaya (Numerical Discourses) “AN”
  - e. Khuddaka Nikaya (Miscellaneous texts)
    - i. Khuddakapatha – short passages that may have been designed as a primer for novice monks and nuns
    - ii. Dhammapada – the Path of the Dhamma – short verses
    - iii. Udana – Exclamations of the Buddha, including the parable of the blind men and the elephant, simile about the ocean having just one taste, the Bahiya (Ud. 1.10) and Nibbana (Ud. 1.1-1.3, and 8.1-8.4) suttas
    - iv. Itivuttaka – prose and verses said by the Buddha
    - v. Sutta Nipata – collection of short suttas, including the suttas on Metta (Sn. 1.8), Quarrels and Disputes (Sn. 4.11), On Being Violent (Sn. 4.15), and the Questions in Chapter 5, including Mogharaja’s on emptiness (Sn. 5.15)
    - vi. Vimanavatthu – stories explaining how wholesome deeds led to a deity’s rebirth in heavenly realm
    - vii. Petavatthu – stories of the hungry ghosts, explaining how unwholesome deeds led to rebirth into the miserable realm
    - viii. Theragatha – verses of elder monks
    - ix. Therigatha – verses of elder nuns
    - x. Jataka Tales – recount Buddha’s former lives
    - xi. Niddesa – commentaries on sections of Sutta Nipata, traditionally ascribed to Sariputta
    - xii. Patisambhidamagga – path of discrimination (analysis of Abhidhamma concepts)
    - xiii. Apadana – stories celebrating the Buddha (added at the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> councils)
    - xiv. Buddhavamsa – history of the Buddhas
    - xv. Cariyapitaka – Bodhisatta’s practice of seven of the ten paramis
    - xvi. Nettippakarana – explains doctrinal points of Buddhism
    - xvii. Petakopadesa – short book, methodical in nature
    - xviii. Milindapanha – questions of Milinda, such as: are pleasant feelings skillful, can an arahant ever break a Vinaya rule, is it better to perform an unwholesome act knowingly or unknowingly?
- III. Abhidhamma Pitaka – reorganization of suttas into psychological framework