

Recommended reading  
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The reason for the following extended recommended reading list

With the decline of both chain and independent bookstores, most of us are left buying books almost exclusively online. Websites can produce computer generated suggestions but these cannot take the place of finding a book we didn't know we were looking for (and didn't know existed) in a bookstore. Nor can it take the place of an informed person, either a friend, or a kind and knowledgeable stranger recommending a book they have read and benefitted from.

The online market will only care about things that have sold before, and so have the potential to sell again. It is a soul-less process, more or less. There is very little knowledge behind it, and little human feeling or responsiveness, but like it or not, this is the way it is going, and will continue to go for some time.

Online markets (such as Amazon) will only deal in, or refer to books they know about. For this reason, and in order to do something to counter the loss of available information that the contraction of the book market represents, I think it's very important for people with knowledge in any area to make recommended reading lists, for those who would otherwise not encounter many of the best titles in any given subject. By offering a book list, there will at least be a greater chance that excellent titles will be sought out, and will remain available for generations to come.

That said, here is my extended recommended reading list in Buddhist studies:

Sutras

A Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way of Life, translated by Stephen Batchelor for chapters 1 through 8, and, translated by the Padmakara Translation Committee for chapter 9

The Dhammapada, P. Lal translation

The Prajna Paramita Sutra, in Eight Thousand Lines, translated by Edward Conze

Mother of the Buddhas - Meditations on the Prajnaparamita Sutra, by Lex Hixon

The Platform Sutra (also called 'The Sutra of the Sixth Zen Patriarch', or 'The Sutra of Hui-Neng) translated by Wong Mou-Lam and A.F. Price

The Uttara Tantra – A Treatise on Buddha Nature; Attributed to Maitreya; translated by Ken and Katia Holmes

The Vimalakirti Nirdesa Sutra – translated by Charles Luk

An Anthology of Buddhist Prayer, edited by Jason Espada

Theravada Buddhism

Living Buddhist Masters (also published as Living Dharma), edited by Jack Kornfeld

Ajaan Chah: A Taste of Freedom; Food for the Heart; A Still Forest Pool;

Ajaan Lee: Keeping the Breath in Mind; Inner Strength

Bhikkhu Visuddhacara: Curbing Anger, Spreading Love

Buddhadasa Bhikkhu: The Heartwood of the Bodhi Tree

Shaila Catherine: Focused and Fearless; Wisdom Wide and Deep

Henepola Gunaratana: Mindfulness in Plain English; Beyond Mindfulness in Plain English

Joseph Goldstein: One Dharma; Seeking the Heart of Wisdom (with Jack Kornfeld); The Experience of Insight

Khantipalo Bhikkhu: Calm and Clear

Sayadaw U Pandita: In This Very Life; The State of Mind Called Beautiful

Sharon Salzberg: Loving kindness

Venerable Sujiva: Loving Kindness

Venerable Weragoda Serada Maha Thero - Treasury of Truth -  
A Commentary on the Dhammapada

Thich Nhat Hanh: Breathe!, You Are Alive! (also published at 'The Sutra on the Full Awareness of Breathing'); The Miracle of Mindfulness; The Heart of Understanding; The Diamond that Cuts Through Illusion; Interbeing; Being Peace; Transformation and Healing; A Guide to Walking Meditation; The Energy of Prayer; For A Future to Be Possible; The Heart of the Buddha's Teaching

Zen Buddhism

Shikantaza - An Introduction to Zen, Shohaku Okamura, editor

Shodo Harada Roshi: The Path to Bodhidharma; Morning Dewdrops of the Mind

Seikan Hasegawa: Cave of Poison Grass

The Tiger's Cave - edited by Trevor Leggett

D.T. Suzuki: Essays in Zen Buddhism

Suzuki Roshi: Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind

Uchiyama Roshi: Opening the Hand of Thought; How to Cook Your Life – From the Zen Kitchen to Enlightenment

Thich Thien-An: Zen Philosophy, Zen Practice

## Tibetan Buddhism

Teachings from Tibet: Guidance from Great Lamas, edited by Nicholas Ribush

Teachings of Tibetan Yoga, translated by Garma C.C. Chang

The Sublime Path of the Victorious Ones; A Book of Mahayana Prayers

Ani Tenzin Palmo: Reflections On A Mountain Lake; Into the Heart of Life

Bokar Rinpoche: Meditation: Advice to Beginners

Chagdud Tulku: Gates to Buddhist Practice; Lord of the Dance

Death and Dying in the Tibetan Tradition: introduced and translated by Glenn Mullin

Deshung Rinpoche: The Three Levels of Spiritual Perception

Dilgo Khyentse: The Heart Treasure of the Enlightened Ones;  
The Heart of Compassion

Gen Lamrimpa: Calming the mind (also published as 'Samatha Meditation)

Geshe Wangyal: The Door of Liberation

His Holiness The Fourteenth Dalai Lama: The Way to Freedom; Becoming Enlightened; The Mind in Comfort and Ease; For the Benefit of All Beings - A Commentary on the Way of the Bodhisattva; The Meaning of Life from A Buddhist Perspective; Advice on Dying and Living a Better Life

Kathleen Macdonald: How to Meditate

Kenpo Kathar: Dharma Paths

Khenpo Palden Sherab Rinpoche: Opening the Door to Inconceivable Wisdom and Compassion; and, Opening to Our Primordial Nature; Ceaseless Echoes of the Great Silence; Discovering Infinite Freedom; Lion's Gaze; Prajana Paramita - The Six Perfections

Lama Lodro Rinpoche: The Quintessence of the Animate and Inanimate; Bardo Teachings

Lama Yeshe: Wisdom Energy I and II; The Essence of Tibetan Buddhism; Make Your Mind an Ocean; Becoming Your Own Therapist; The Peaceful Stillness of the Silent Mind; Life, Death, and After Death; Freedom Through Understanding;; Ego, Attachment, and Liberation; Silent Mind, Holy Mind

Lama Zopa Rinpoche: The Door to Satisfaction; Transforming Problems into Happiness; Virtue and Reality; The Joy of Compassion; Making Life Meaningful; How Things Exist - Teachings on Emptiness; Kadampa Teachings; The Heart of the Path; Heart Sutra Practices and Instructions for Retreat; Heart Advice - The Bodhisattva Attitude

Matthieu Ricard: The Monk and the Philosopher; Why Meditate? – Working with Thoughts and Emotions; Happiness - A Guide to Developing Life's Most Important Skill

Mingyur Rinpoche: The Joy of Living; Joyful Wisdom

Nyoshul Khen Rinpoche: Natural Great Perfection; Rest in Natural Great Peace

Pabonkha Rinpoche: Liberation in the Palm of Your Hand; with Lama Zopa Rinpoche: Heart Advice for Retreat

Robert Thurman: Infinite Life; The Jewel Tree of Tibet

Sogyal Rinpoche: The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying

Tenzin Wangal Rinpoche: The Five Elements in Tibetan Shamanism, Tantra, and Dzongchen

The Seventh Dalai Lama: Songs of Spiritual Change, translated by Glenn Mullin

The Thirteenth Dalai Lama: The Path of the Bodhisattva Warrior

Tulku Urgyen: Rainbow Painting; Repeating the Words of the Buddha; As It Is, volumes I and II

On The Seven Point Mind Training teachings:

Geshe Rabten: Advice From A Spiritual Friend

Dilgo Khyentse: Enlightened Compassion

Jamgon Kongtrul: The Great Path of Awakening – A Commentary on the Seven-Point Mind Training

On the transition between the Middle Way View, and Buddha Nature teachings

Nagarjuna: In Praise of the Dharmadatu, with a commentary by Khenpo Tsultrim Gyatso

Khenpo Palden Sherab Rinpoche: Opening the Wisdom Door of the Rangtong and Shentong Views: A Brief Explanation of the One Taste of the Second and Third Turnings of the Wheel of Dharma

On Vajrayana:

Lama Yeshe: An Introduction to Tantra;

Dilgo Khyentse: Pure Appearance

Gyatrul Rinpoche: Generating the Deity

His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama: Tantra in Tibet; Deity Yoga; Yoga Tantra

Jamgon Kongtrul: Creation and Completion (with a commentary by Thrangu Rinpoche)

Khenpo Palden Sherab Rinpoche: Opening the Wisdom Door of the Outer Tantras

On particular practices:

Bokar Rinpoche: Chenrezig, Lord of Love

Tulku Thondup: The Healing Power of Loving Kindness

Khenpo Palden Sherab Rinpoche: Tara's Enlightened Activity

Lama Yeshe: Becoming the Compassion Buddha; Becoming Vajrasattva; Universal Love - The Yoga Method of Buddha Maitreya

On healing practices:

Jason Espada: A Collection of Buddhist Healing Prayers and Practices

Khenpo Kathar Rinpoche: White Tara - the Wish Fulfilling Wheel

Lama Zopa Rinpoche: Ultimate Healing; Teachings from the Medicine Buddha Retreat

Thrangu Rinpoche: Medicine Buddha Teachings

Tulku Thondup: The Healing Power of the Mind; Boundless Healing

Venerable Hsuan Hua: The Medicine Master Sutra, with commentary