

Reading Sanskrit

List of Source Texts

Note: The main textual sources (defined by the number of readings drawn from them or the prominence of those readings) are highlighted in blue.

Buddhist Discourses (*sūtra*)

- *Aṣṭasāhasrikā Prajñāpāramitā* (“Perfection of Wisdom in Eight Thousand Lines”)
- *Saddharmapuṇḍarīka* (“White Lotus of the Good Dharma,” aka “Lotus Sūtra”)
- *Vimalakīrtinirdeśa* (“The Teaching of Vimalakīrti”)
- *Sukhāvativyūha* (“Splendor of the Blissful Land”)
- *Lalitavistara* (“Play [of the Buddha] in Full”)
- *Vajracchedikā Prajñāpāramitā* (“Diamond-Cutting Perfection of Wisdom,” aka “Diamond Sūtra”)
- *Laṅkāvatāra* (“Descent into Laṅkā”)
- *Śālistamba* (“Rice Stalk”)
- *Samyuktāgama* (“Connected Discourses”)
- *Śikṣāsamuccaya* (“Collection of Trainings”)
- *Bhaiṣajyaguru* (“Medicine Buddha”)
- *Gaṇḍavyūha* (“Stem Array”)
- *Upāliparipṛcchā* (“Questions of Upāli”)

Buddhist Prose Narratives

- *Saṅghabhedavastu* (“Chapter on Schism,” a life of the Buddha)
- *Divyāvadāna* (“Heavenly Tales”)
- *Avadānaśataka* (“A Hundred Tales”)

Belles Lettres (*kāvya*)

- *Buddhacarita* (“Acts of the Buddha”)
- *Bodhisattvāvadānakalpalatā* (“Wish-Fulfilling Vine of Bodhisattva Tales”)
- *Jātakamālā* (“Garland of Birth-Stories”) (by Āryaśūra)

- *Saundarananda* (“Handsome Nanda”)
- *Śiṣyalekha* (“Letter to a Student”)

Miscellaneous Verse

- *Udānavarga* (“Groups of Utterances”)
- *Ratnamālāvadāna* (“Jewel Necklace of Edifying Tales”)
- *Nirāupamyastava* (“Hymn to the Incomparable One”)
- *Śatapañcāśatka* (“Hymn in One Hundred and Fifty Verses”)
- *Amarakośa* (“Immortal Treasure”)

Philosophical Treatises (*śāstra*):

- *Bodhicaryāvatāra* (“Entry into the Practice [Leading] to Awakening”)
- *Bhāvanākrama* (“The Stages of Cultivation”)
- *Mūlamadhyamakakārikā* (“Root Verses on the Middle [Way]”)
- *Ratnāvalī* (“Garland of Jewels”)
- *Ratnagotravibhāga* (“Analysis of the Jeweled Lineage”)
- *Catuḥśataka* (“The Four Hundreds”)
- *Madhyamakāvatāra* (“Entry into the Middle Way”)

Commentaries

- *Bodhicaryāvatāra Pañjikā* (“Commentary on the Entry into the Practice [Leading] to Awakening”)
- *Prasannapadā* (“Clear Worded”)
- *Abhidharmakośa Bhāṣya* (“Commentary on the Treasury of Abhidharma”)
- *Abhidharmakośa Vyākhyā* (“Sub-Commentary on the Treasury of Abhidharma”)
- *Pramāṇavārttika* (“Commentary on Valid Cognition”)
- *Tattvasaṃgraha Pañjikā* (“Commentary on the Compendium of Metaphysics”)

Non-Buddhist Works

- *Hitōpadeśa* (“Instruction in What Is Salutory”)
- *Pañcatantra* (“Five Books”)
- *Abhijñānaśākuntala* (“The Recognition of Śakuntalā”)

- *Prabodhacandrôdaya* (“The Rise of Wisdom Moon”)
- *Mahābhārata* (“Great [Epic] of the Bharata Dynasty”)
- *Manusmṛti* (“Laws of Manu”)
- *Śiśupālavadha* (“The Killing of Śiśupāla”)
- *Kumārasambhava* (“The Birth of Kumāra”)
- *Uttararāmacarita* (“The Later Deeds of Rāma”)
- *Bṛhadāranyaka Upaniṣad* (“Great Forest Upaniṣad”)
- *Vairāgyaśataka* (“A Hundred Verses on Dispassion”)
- *Nītiśataka* (“A Hundred [Verses] on Wise Conduct”)
- *Cāṇakyanīti* (“Cāṇakya’s [Maxims] on Wise Conduct”)

Anthologies of *Subhāṣita*-s

- *Subhāṣitāvalī* (“Garland of Well-Said Verses”)
- *Saduktikarṇāmṛta* (“Nectar of Good Words for the Ears”)
- *Subhāṣitaratnakośa* (“Treasury of Well-Turned Verses”)
- *Sūktiratnahāra* (“Garland of Jewels of Good Words”)
- *Sūktimuktāvalī* (“Pearl-Necklace of Good Words”)
- *Śārṅgadharapaddhati* (“Śārṅgadharma’s Guidebook”)