

Stories from

The Buddha's Life

With Dharma Discussions for Kids

*From The Life of the Buddha by Bhikkhu Ñānamoli
and original sources*

*Adapted for kids and illustrated by
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Photos of young monks at Sri Sudhammananda Bhikkhu Training Center, Haloluwa, Kandy, Sri Lanka, courtesy of Venerable Huruluwewe Chandrawansa Thero, Chief Incumbent, Pennsylvania Meditation Center.

Photo of lotus by Eric Wang on Unsplash.



May you be well, happy and peaceful!
May all beings be well, happy and peaceful!



INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book is a revision of the book entitled *Morals in the Life Story of the Buddha*, published by Buddhist Publication Society in 2010. This revision expands the stories to follow more completely the original sources of the stories and updates the dharma discussions to address concerns and challenges that students have been facing in recent years. Also, Pali words have been replaced with English for better comprehension by the reader.

The format of this book, with a Dharma discussion on a theme from each story, is designed to introduce children to ethics (character development) and basic Buddhist concepts, and to gently guide them in identifying and applying those ethics and concepts in everyday modern life with all its challenges. The goal is to assist children in developing their good character, virtues, confidence, resilience, awareness and good habits so they have a firm foundation for a successful, happy and peaceful life. The Dharma discussion is a suggested outline for discussion, to be modified to suit the students' ages and backgrounds. It should invite students to pose their own questions, concerns and hypotheticals, and to share ideas, examples and solutions from their own experiences. The question and answer (with answers shown in parentheses) are to aid comprehension and recollection of the story. The quotation of the Buddha is included as an overarching guide for teachers and parents. The activity is intended to reinforce the lesson and engage students in practicing and contemplating what was learned. Teachers and parents should start a session with prayer or chanting and conclude with a dedication of merit.

I am very grateful to Khenpo Sumdup Rinpoche and Bhante Huruluwewe Chandrawansa Thero and for their guidance, inspiration and support for teaching children at their temples in the past several years. I thank all my students over the past years for their questions, comments and responses to the stories and discussions which have helped immeasurably in editing this book. I thank my co-teachers, Aleks Smirnov and Fawn Bui, for all their thoughtful suggestions for revisions. I am also very grateful to Dr. Sharmini and Don Jayamaha for generously sponsoring the printing of this book.

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