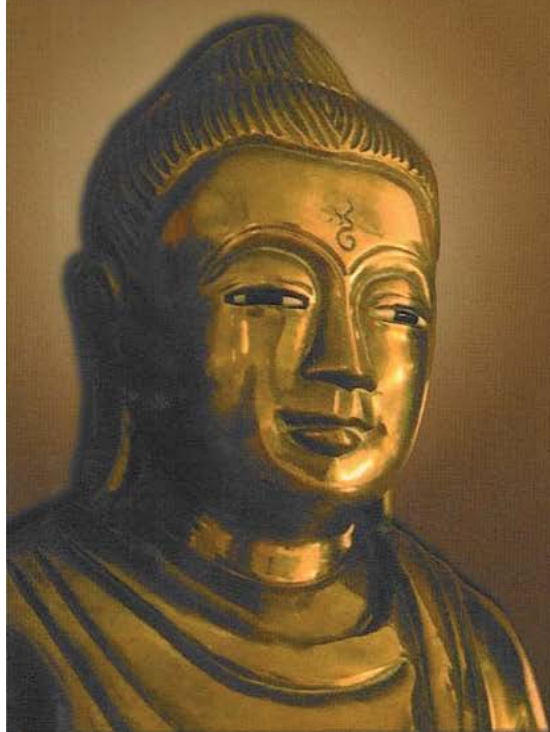




ESSENCE OF Tipitaka



U Ko Lay

Essence of Tipiṭaka

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Preface

VRI would like to extend its gratitude to the Burma Piṭaka Association and U Ko Lay for permission to publish the *Essence of Tipiṭaka* here in India.

Until now, this lucid and inspiring introduction to the words of the Buddha has been difficult to obtain outside Myanmar.

VRI hopes that the *Essence* will encourage students of Vipassana both here and abroad in their meditation practice, and also lead them to further study of the actual texts.

With the permission of U Ko Lay and the Burma Piṭaka Association, VRI has made some small changes to the general formatting and style of the book but its substance remains intact. An index has been added.

U Ko Lay was formerly the Vice-Chancellor of Mandalay University and was a devoted student of Sayagyi U Ba Khin. He is presently carrying out translation work in Yangon, where he lives with his wife.

WHAT IS VINAYA PIṬAKA?

WHAT IS VINAYA PIYAKA?

The Vinaya Piṭaka is made up of rules of discipline laid down for regulating the conduct of the Buddha's disciples who have been admitted into the order as bhikkhus (monks) and bhikkhunis (nuns). These rules embody authoritative injunctions of the Buddha on modes of conduct and restraints on both physical and verbal actions. They deal with transgressions of discipline, and with various categories of restraints and admonitions in accordance with the nature of the offence.

Seven Kinds of Transgression or Offence (Āpatti)

The rules of discipline first laid down by the Buddha are called *mūlapaññatti* (the root regulation). Those supplemented later are known as *anupaññatti*. Together they are known as *sikkhāpadas* (rules of discipline). The act of transgressing these rules of discipline, thereby incurring a penalty by the guilty bhikkhu, is called *āpatti*, which means "reaching", "committing".

The offences for which penalties are laid down may be classified under seven categories depending on their nature:

- (1) *Pārājika*
- (2) *Saṅghādisesa*
- (3) *Thullaccaya*
- (4) *Pācittiya*
- (5) *Pāṭidesanīya*
- (6) *Dukkata*
- (7) *Dubbhāsita*

An offence in the first category of offences (*pārājika*), is classified as a grave offence (*garukāpatti*), which is irremediable (*atekicchā*), and entails the removal of the offender from bhikkhuhood.