

**HYMNS OF THE FAITH  
(DHAMMAPADA): BEING AN ANCIENT  
ANTHOLOGY PRESERVED IN THE  
SHORT COLLECTION OF THE SACRED  
SCRIPTURES OF THE BUDDHISTS**

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Collection of the Sacred Scriptures of the Buddhists by Albert J. Edmunds

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**ALBERT J. EDMUNDS**

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# HYMNS OF THE FAITH

(DHAMMAPADA)

BEING

AN ANCIENT ANTHOLOGY PRESERVED  
IN THE SHORT COLLECTION OF  
THE SACRED SCRIPTURES  
OF THE BUDDHISTS

TRANSLATED FROM THE PĀLI

BY

ALBERT J. EDMUNDS

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DEDICATED  
TO MY FRIENDS  
BUNFORD AND ELLA SAMUEL  
OF MOUNT AIRY, PHILADELPHIA  
AS WHOSE GUEST  
I TRANSLATED THE GREATER PART  
OF THIS BOOK





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## INTRODUCTION.

THIS ancient anthology of Buddhist devotional poetry was compiled from the utterances of Gotamo and his disciples; from early hymns by monks; and from the popular poetic proverbs of India. Several of the *Dhammapada* verses are found in the Hymns by Monks, a book of the sacred Pāli Canon. Others are found scattered throughout that Canon, in all its main collections of Discourses, and four even in the Books of Discipline; while we encounter yet others in the national Epic of India and in the Law-Book of Manu, which is the Hindū Deuteronomy. These last are written in classical Sanskrit; but as Pāli is a popular idiom thereof, but little change is needed to turn a stanza from one tongue to the other—no more than to Anglicise the *Hallowe'en* of Burns. Not only in the pure Sanskrit of the Brahmin classics do we find stray lines of our Hymns, but in the corrupt Sanskrit of later Buddhist literature, which arose in the valley of the Ganges during the two centuries preceding the Christian era. Moreover, some fragments of Buddhist verse found in Chinese Turkestan, and dating from very early times, contain stanzas known to the *Dhammapada*, but written in a debased Prākṛit or provincial dialect.

In these various forms—Pāli, Sanskrit and Prākṛit,<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The Tibetans relate that the Buddhist Scriptures were handed down in Sanskrit and three dialects.