

# Contents

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	vii
INTRODUCTION	1
PART ONE: <i>Orality and Practice in the Early Buddhist Suttas</i>	
<b>1. What Is an Oral Literature, and How Does It Work?</b>	11
<b>2. Of Bards and Bhāvanā:</b> Oral Literature and Buddhist Practice	20
<b>3. Situating the <i>Dīghanikāya</i> amid the Four Nikāyas</b>	33
<b>4. Literary Features of the <i>Dīghanikāya</i></b>	48
<b>5. Number Symbolism and the <i>Dīghanikāya</i></b>	63
<b>6. Myth and the Cardinal Points:</b> Creating a Space for “Beings in All Directions”	86
PART TWO: <i>Exploring the Suttas of the Dīghanikāya</i>	
<b>7. Journeys and the Net of Views: <i>Brahmajāla-sutta</i>—</b> The Discourse on Brahmā’s Net (Sutta 1)	109
<b>8. The Fruits of Meditation: <i>Sāmaññaphala-sutta</i>—</b> The Discourse on the Fruits of the Contemplative Life (Sutta 2)	122
<b>9. Perception and Its Cessation: <i>Poṭṭhapāda-sutta</i>—</b> The Discourse about Poṭṭhapāda (Sutta 9, Part One)	130

<b>10. Self:</b> <i>Poṭṭhapāda-sutta</i> —The Discourse about Poṭṭhapāda (Sutta 9, Part Two)	149
<b>11. Repetition and Awakening:</b> <i>Mahāpadāna-sutta</i> —The Great Discourse on the Harvest of Deeds (Sutta 14)	155
<b>12. The Buddha's Last Journey:</b> <i>Mahāparinibbāna-sutta</i> — The Discourse on the Entry into Nirvana (Sutta 16)	163
<b>13. How Things Prosper:</b> <i>Mahāsudassana-sutta</i> — The Discourse on the Great King of Glory (Sutta 17)	168
<b>14. Establishing Mindfulness:</b> <i>Mahāsatipatṭhāna-sutta</i> — The Great Discourse on the Foundations of Mindfulness (Sutta 22)	177
<b>15. Origins and How Things Get Worse:</b> <i>Cakkavattisihanāda-sutta</i> —The Lion's Roar on the Turning of the Wheel (Sutta 26)	187
<b>16. The Great Person:</b> <i>Lakkhaṇa-sutta</i> — The Discourse on the Marks (Sutta 30)	196
<b>17. The Lay Life and How to Behave:</b> <i>Sigālovāda-sutta</i> — The Discourse with Advice to Sigāla (Sutta 31)	207
<b>18. Magic, Protection, and the Four Kings:</b> <i>Āṭānāṭiya-sutta</i> —The Discourse of Āṭānāṭā (Sutta 32)	222
<b>19. Chanting Together:</b> <i>Saṅgīti-sutta</i> — The Chanting Together Discourse (Sutta 33)	238
CONCLUSION	241
APPENDIX: The Thirty-two Marks of the Great Person	248
COSMOLOGY	250
NOTES	252
ABBREVIATIONS AND BIBLIOGRAPHY	273
INDEX	283