



# **The Other Shore: A New Translation of the Heart Sutra with Commentaries**

*Thich Nhat Hanh*

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## **The Other Shore: A New Translation of the Heart Sutra with Commentaries** Thich Nhat Hanh

This new translation of the Buddha's most important, most studied teaching offers a radical new interpretation.

In September, 2014 Thich Nhat Hanh completed a profound and beautiful new English translation of the Prajñaparamita Heart Sutra, one of the most important and well-known sutras in Buddhism.

The Heart Sutra is recited daily in Mahayana temples and practice centers throughout the world. This new translation came about because Thich Nhat Hanh believes that the patriarch who originally compiled the Heart Sutra was not sufficiently skillful with his use of language to capture the intention of the Buddha's teachings—and has resulted in fundamental misunderstandings of the central tenets of Buddhism for almost 2,000 years.

In *The Other Shore: A New Translation of the Heart Sutra with Commentaries*, Thich Nhat Hanh provides the new translation with commentaries based on his interpretation. Revealing the Buddha's original intention and insight makes clear what it means to transcend duality and pairs of opposites, such as birth and death, and to touch the ultimate reality and the wisdom of nondiscrimination. By helping to demystify the term "emptiness," the Heart Sutra is made more accessible and understandable.

Prior to the publication of *The Other Shore*, Thich Nhat Hanh's translation and commentaries of the Heart Sutra, called *The Heart of Understanding*, sold more than 120,000 copies in various editions and is one of the most beloved commentaries of this critical teaching. This new book, *The Other Shore*, supersedes all prior translations.

## **The Other Shore: A New Translation of the Heart Sutra with Commentaries Details**

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Author : Thich Nhat Hanh

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# **From Reader Review The Other Shore: A New Translation of the Heart Sutra with Commentaries for online ebook**

## **Luke says**

Clearly articulated focus for a new translation, replacing "emptiness" with "no separate self", with short essay commentary on the application of each phrase to life today - footnotes for language and canon, but the focus is practical understanding of the Heart Sutra's message. Conze's translation was a ground for me when I first became interested in Buddhism, this is a solid alternative.

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## **Lily says**

How lovely. As usual, the mixture of history and philosophy in his simple and clear voice is rich and deep. Thich Nhat Hanh explores the Heart Sutra, getting to the depths of what "nothingness" actually means and the false binaries of conceptualization and language that prevent people from accessing reality. The heart sutra reminds me a lot of the beginning of the tao te ching.

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## **Brent says**

### **An illuminating translation**

A have read several translations and commentaries on the Heart Sutra. Different translations serve different purposes, but this is the best I have found for illuminating the meaning for a Western audience.

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## **Karen says**

THE OTHER SHORE: A NEW TRANSLATION OF THE HEART SUTRA WITH COMMENTARIES  
WRITTEN BY THICH NHAT HANH

Thank you to Net Galley, Thich Nhat Hanh, and Parallax Press for my digital copy for a fair and honest review.

At the heart of the Buddhist teaching is the Prajnaparamita. Throughout the world in monastic and lay communities it is recited daily. I love and have many of Thich Nhat Hanh works. I find tranquillity and peace in every one of his publications. His commentaries that appear in his books are a basic teachings of Buddhism. Prajnaparamita means Perfect Understanding go all of the way back in time 2500 years ago.

Thay (an informal title) for teacher pronounced "Tie" During the retreats Thay encouraged participants to give calm, clear seeing and intimate attention to each daily activity, whether eating a a meal, or just walking quietly being aware of the sound or feel as we walk and our foot makes contact with the earth that supports it. In order to reach this kind of mindfulness a bell is rung or it is called a bodhisattva. Thay will say wake up and keep in mind to bring your attention back to yourself for a moment taking deep breaths and notice those

around us. Anything can be used to bring yourself to the present moment. For that is what it takes for us to reach mindfulness. To be present in the here and the now.

In our lives there are things that block our way, causing confusion and preventing us from finding our true home. Not only obstacles and suffering cause us to lose our true way, sometimes.

I enjoyed this peaceful teaching very much. It was transcending. I need to learn the basics again.

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### **Forest Tong says**

I hadn't really resonated with Thich Nhat Hanh's teachings before reading this book--but whether it was the ripening of conditions in my mind, or whether it was the intellect and sensitivity in his writing, this book touched me.

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### **Sherry Seymour says**

I have read other interpretations of the Heart Sutra before, but I now feel like I'm finally starting to understand it after reading this book. I also became more aware of the differences between Buddhism and ancient Indian beliefs (where things like karma and reincarnation often get wrongly associated with Buddhism). One of the most beautiful aftereffects of reading came from his explanation of death, which has given me a feeling of peace through the dismissal of nihilism. His examples of interbeing are not only poetic, but they also help me feel a sense of connection to nature. The cloud is in the tea (p. 76).

As a computer technology and language teacher, I benefited from the reminder that "out of compassion... a good teacher knows that no matter how careful they are, some people will inevitably become confused, and yet they must still try their best to help guide their students out of suffering" (p. 15). I know that sometimes I get impatient with students who need me to go through instructions slowly or lay them out extra clearly, and I forget that what may seem obvious to me is not common sense to everyone. I have to make more of a conscious effort to see things from their perspective in order to try to relieve their suffering.

Another useful reminder was that "everything is impermanent, including insight and compassion" (p. 112). He cautions us that if we do not put our new awareness into practice, we will regress. I know that I have regressed over the years in certain aspects of my life, and this was a needed nudge to show me the right path again.

This is a book I will re-read, as I am sure there is more wisdom to gain from it.

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### **James Laf says**

Absolutely incredible. His insights are so deep, so profound, it's totally inspiring. A real zen role model for mindful living.

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## **Jocelyn says**

I took this book slowly, at times a difficult read even with Thich Nhat Hanh's enlightened commentary. The emptiness / nothingness concepts are hard to grasp. I really like the idea of inter-being. So, now I'm ready to return to the beginning and read *The Other Shore* again. Slowly and mindfully, a continuing study of *The Heart Sutra*.

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## **Jared says**

An insightful and useful text. His new translation of the heart sutra helps to move beyond both pessimistic and dualistic readings of the sutra. Very helpful as a meditator and a teacher of meditation.

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## **Megan Pasnik says**

Thich Nhat Hanh has a simple yet beautiful way of explaining and shining light on what he's touching on. In his new translation of *The Heart Sutra*, he breaks it down bit by bit in each chapter, illustrating each verse with his words. Read it very easily in about a couple hours. Great read for people getting into Buddhism!

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## **Susan Oleksiw says**

The Heart Sutra, a short prose prayer in Buddhism, holds a central place in all branches. Known for his writings and work to bring Buddhism more fully to the West, Thich That Hanh has produced a new translation with some slight additions to bring clarity and deeper understanding to the essentials of Buddhism. The full translation is followed by chapters focused on each discrete section. These chapters are followed by the Sanskrit text, a literal English translation, and an alternate translation also used in Plum Village.

An effort is made to make the text about suffering, etc., more relevant to contemporary readers, but the stories or parables are those of earlier Buddhist works and continue the sensibility of an earlier mode of perceiving and understanding. Some chapters are more successful than others in conveying the sense of the original text, but all reward effort at patient rereading.

The translator spends time introducing the text and its history, as well as how he came to make this translation. The entire book is short, only 133 pages with front matter, in a well-designed format designed to appeal to western readers.

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## **Anneliese says**

This book was so lovely. It includes a new translation of and commentary on the Heart Sutra by my favorite teacher, Thich Nhat Hanh.

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**Mark A. Baker says**

**Great!**

Loved the depth and simplicity of this elegant work. He is a great spiritual teacher of our age. I recommend it.

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**Melissa says**

Some of the things discussed in this book can be found in Tich Nhat Hahn's other books. Still a fascinating and wonderful book worth that is worth reading if interested in Buddhism.

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**Phillip says**

Disclaimer: I received a free ecopy via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Going into this book, I felt a little out of place because I had no familiarity with the Heart Sutra. It seemed like I should have known more about it to truly appreciate this book.

Yet, this book does a wonderful job of providing the new translation, an explanation of why this differs from previous translations, and connects it to Buddhist precepts. As I went through the book, I found it possible to follow the ideas that connect to the new translation. They made a lot of sense to me. The amount of detail used to explain the concepts from the Heart Sutra is awesome.

These build on each other, so it may be necessary to reread sections, most of which are short enough to make it easy to do. I really like that each section takes a short portion of the Heart Sutra and breaks it down, and then the translation is provided in its entirety at the end. It makes it possible to read it as a whole and to focus down on individual portions. Worth picking up for anyone interested in Zen practices.

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