



# The Diamond Sutra: Transforming the Way We Perceive the World

By Mu Soeng

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In this brilliant new translation and commentary on *The Diamond Sutra*--one of the sublime wisdom teachings of Mahayana Buddhism--Mu Soeng integrates this ancient wisdom teaching with current scientific and psychological thought. His clear and readable commentary traces the connections between these teachings and contemporary theories of quantum reality, explores the sutra within the framework of Buddhist meditation practices, and provides a comprehensive historical survey of the Mahayana Buddhist tradition. Mu Soeng's goal throughout is to reveal the inspiration and wisdom of *The Diamond Sutra* to today's reader in an accessible, engaging, and modern manner.

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## **The Diamond Sutra: Transforming the Way We Perceive the World By Mu Soeng Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

Composed of 32 short chapters, the *Diamond Sutra* is nonetheless one of the monumental scriptures of Mahayana Buddhism. The great Sixth Patriarch of Zen, Huineng, is said to have achieved enlightenment after hearing a single line of this sutra. We can't promise sudden enlightenment, but we can tell you that Mu Soeng's version is one of the best. A former Zen monk, Mu Soeng takes us back in an extensive introduction to the beginnings of Buddhist sutras and traces their development up to the appearance of the *Diamond Sutra* in the third or fourth century. He also details why Zen Buddhists in particular are attracted to it. The *Diamond Sutra* is intended as an antidote to suffering, which is achieved through wisdom. It tells us that realizing the emptiness of all things is the key step on this path and that its articulation comes, paradoxically, in the bodhisattva ideal of saving all sentient beings. Paradox is at the heart of this classic sutra, and in extensive commentaries Mu Soeng unravels the paradoxes while explaining the challenging vocabulary. For an authoritative version of the *Diamond Sutra*, you can't do better, and notice the fluid language:

So you should view all of the fleeting world: A star at dawn, a bubble in the stream; A flash of lightning in a summer cloud; A flickering lamp, a phantom, and a dream.

--Brian Bruya

#### Review

"What a pleasure to read this lyrical rendering of the *Diamond Sutra*. Providing a full historical and cultural context for this great teaching inspires an understanding of its contemporary relevance, while the clarity of Mu Soeng's prose makes sophisticated Buddhist scholarship available to all interested readers." (Sylvia Boorstein, author of *It's Easier Than You Think*)

"Mu Soeng relates the sutra in fresh ways to early Buddhist social, cultural and institutional history... the messages of the text are given fresh expression in teaching encounters, poems, and delightful stories." (Prof. John Makransky, Dept. of Theology, Boston College)

"This book is a job well done. Mu Soeng clearly illuminates the fascinating world of ancient Buddhist thought and skillfully guides us through its historical evolution. For the first time, I began to understand this important history. And his insightful commentary on the *Diamond Sutra* makes accessible to us all the transforming wisdom of this profound text. I highly recommend this book for all those wishing an in-depth exploration of the enlightened mind." (Joseph Goldstein, author of *A Heart Full of Peace and Insight Meditation: The Practice of Freedom*)

"Mu Soeng's interpretation of the *Diamond Sutra* is an attempt to present traditional Buddhist insights, as found in one of the fundamental scriptures of Mahayana Buddhism, in a modern or post-modern form appropriate for contemporary practitioners and others interested in making ancient wisdom relevant and vital for today. Together with a translation based largely on Conze's rendition of a Sanskrit text, Mu Soeng, a Zen practitioner, presents his detailed running commentary, which fuses traditional Buddhist lore with the contemporary approaches of quantum physics and deconstructionist literary theory. Accompanied by a lengthy introduction, Mu Soeng's work, which is in some ways reminiscent of the insightful commentaries of Thich Nhat Hanh, should be of great interest to all those who seek modern and post-modern relevance in ancient Buddhist thought." (Jonathan Silk, Yale University)

"Mu Soeng's commentary on the *Diamond Sutra* is a combination Buddhist history lesson, philosophical investigation, and thorough contemporary reading of this core Mahayana text... Mu Soeng applies both scholarship and years of dharma training to his analysis... [A] fresh and inspiring exposition of core Mahayana philosophy..." (*Inquiring Mind*)

"Composed of 32 short chapters, the *Diamond Sutra* is nonetheless one of the monumental scriptures of Mahayana Buddhism. The great Sixth Patriarch of Zen, Huineng is said to have achieved enlightenment after hearing a single line of this sutra. We can't promise sudden enlightenment, but we can tell you that Mu Soeng's version is one of the best. A former Zen monk, Mu Soeng takes us back in an extensive introduction to the beginnings of Buddhist sutras and traces their development up to the appearance of the *Diamond Sutra* in the third or fourth century. He also details why Zen Buddhists in particular are attracted to it. The *Diamond Sutra* is intended as an antidote to suffering, which is achieved through wisdom. It tells us that realizing the emptiness of all things is the key step on this path and that its articulation comes, paradoxically, in the bodhisattva ideal of saving all sentient beings. Paradox is at the heart of this classic sutra, and in extensive commentaries Mu Soeng unravels the paradoxes while explaining the challenging vocabulary. For an authoritative version of the *Diamond Sutra*, you can't do better, and notice the fluid language:

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of lightning in a summer cloud; A flickering lamp,

a phantom, and a dream." (*Amazon.com Delivers Eastern Religion*)

"The text and Mu Soeng's commentary on it are a real treasure house." (*The Middle Way*)

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Stephan Stephens:**

Book is to be different for each and every grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important for all of us. The book *The Diamond Sutra: Transforming the Way We Perceive the World* seemed to be making you to know about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It is extremely advantages for you. The book *The Diamond Sutra: Transforming the Way We Perceive the World* is not only giving you a lot more new information but also to be your friend when you experience bored. You can spend your personal spend time to read your publication. Try to make relationship with the book *The Diamond Sutra: Transforming the Way We Perceive the World*. You never sense lose out for everything in case you read some books.

#### **Rick Braden:**

Reading a e-book tends to be new life style on this era globalization. With looking at you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Using book everyone in this world can certainly share their idea. Ebooks can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire all their reader with their story or their experience. Not only situation that share in the books. But also they write about the data about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your children, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors on this planet always try to improve their talent in

writing, they also doing some analysis before they write for their book. One of them is this The Diamond Sutra: Transforming the Way We Perceive the World.

**Ernest Tate:**

Is it you actually who having spare time then spend it whole day through watching television programs or just lying on the bed? Do you need something new? This The Diamond Sutra: Transforming the Way We Perceive the World can be the reply, oh how comes? A book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these guides have than the others?

**Anthony Davidson:**

What is your hobby? Have you heard which question when you got pupils? We believe that that problem was given by teacher to the students. Many kinds of hobby, All people has different hobby. And you also know that little person such as reading or as reading become their hobby. You have to know that reading is very important and also book as to be the point. Book is important thing to add you knowledge, except your personal teacher or lecturer. You get good news or update in relation to something by book. A substantial number of sorts of books that can you decide to try be your object. One of them is actually The Diamond Sutra: Transforming the Way We Perceive the World.

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