



KNOWN NUN DISCIPLES OF THE BUDDHA

Known Nun Disciples of the Buddha

(100+ disciples)

Pāli Suttapiṭaka

This is a list of the nun disciples of the Buddha as found in the Suttapiṭaka and its commentaries. The attempt is made to be comprehensive, but given such a large number it is possible one or two have been overlooked, and I will update when I get additions/corrections, etc. This list for now covers the nuns named in the Pāli Suttapiṭaka, I would like to add in names from the Vinaya, and from other traditions, but will need help to get that work done. I will add them in as and when I can.

The references are to the Chaṭṭha Saṅgāyana edition of the Tipiṭaka as this is still the most easily accessible edition of the texts. The numbering here should be the same in other editions, but there may be small variations occasionally.

The order is based roughly on information levels: first come the thirteen chief disciples, about which we have a lot of information in various canonical sources and commentaries; next come the Apadāna stories in the order that they appear in that collection; then the Therīgāthā in the order they appear. There are then a couple of references to nuns named separately in the Dhammapadaṭṭhakatha.

Key and References

AN (e.g. 1.14.5.1) = Aṅguttaranikāya and Commentary (e.g. Book of the Ones, Section 14, Chapter 5, First Sutta.)

Ap (e.g. 2.7) = Therī-Apadāna and Therī-Apadānadīpanī (e.g. Book Two, Section Seven.)

Thī (e.g. 6.6) = Therīgāthā and Commentary (e.g. Book of Six Verses, Sixth Section.)

DhpA (e.g. 391) = Dhammapada Commentary (e.g. to verse 391.)

JA = Jātaka Commentary by Jātaka number (numbering differs in the last ten [538-547] from PTS).

JNid p.15 = Jātakanidāna page 15.

IDs = identified with a character in the story, cf. here means compare the story as it is similar in many respects to a story about this nun.

Other = Materials not found in the preceding (e.g. MN 142) = Majjhimanikāya and Commentary (e.g. to Sutta 142.)

DN = Dīgha; MN = Majjhima; SN = Saṃyutta; AN = Aṅguttara; Sn = Suttanipāta; Bv = Buddhavaṃsa

Ānandajoti Bhikkhu,

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Known Nun Disciples of the Buddha - 2

	AN	Ap	Thī	DhpA	JA	Other
Mahāpajāpatī Gotamī	1.14.5.1 8.51-3	2.7	6.6	26.8	IDs: 222, 281, 358, (cf. 547)	MN 142 MN 146
Khemā	1.14.5.2 2.12.2 4.176 8.97	2.8	6.3	24.5, 26.20	JNid p.15, also v. 78 IDs: 354, 397, 534, 539, (cf. 547)	SN 44.1 Bv 25.19
Uppalavaṇṇā	1.14.5.3 2.12.2 4.176	2.9	11.1	05.10 (14.2)	JNid p.15, also v. 78 IDs: 15, 16, 29, 66, 88, 276, 354, 382, 392, 397, 408, 414, 442, 488, 501, 511, 513, 521, 527, 535, 538, 539, 540, 542, 543, 546, (cf. 547)	SN 1.5.5 Bv 25.19
Paṭācārā	1.14.5.4	2.10	5.10	8.12, 20.12	(cf. 4) (cf. 547) (cf. 301)	MA 36
Dhammadinnā	1.14.5.5	3.3	1.12 (cf. Thīg 6)	26.38	(cf. 547)	MN 44
Nandā	1.14.5.6	3.5		11.5		SnA 1.11
Bahuputtikā Soṇā	1.14.5.7	3.6	5.8	8.14		
Sakulā	1.14.5.8	3.4	5.7			
Bhaddā Kuṇḍalakesā	1.14.5.9	3.1	5.9	8.3	(cf. 301)	
Bhaddā Kāpilānī	1.14.5.10	3.7	4.1		IDs: 509, 540	
Bhaddā Kaccānā Rāhulamātā Yasodharā	1.14.5.11	3.8			JNid 54, 58 IDs: 11, 95, 194, 201, 276, 281, 292, 328, 397, 408, 411, 416, 421, 424, 434, 443, 451, 458, 459, 461, 485, 506, 509, 513, 525, 531, 539, 542, 546, 547 (cf. 281)	DA.ii.422
Kisāgotamī	1.14.5.12	3.2	10.1	8.13, 26.12	ID 438	SN 1.5.3
Sigālamātu	1.14.5.13	4.4				
Jaṭilagāhiyā						AN 9.37
Kajaṅgalikā						AN 10.28

Known Nun Disciples of the Buddha - 3

	AN	Ap	Thī	DhpA	JA	Other
Sumedhā		1.1	15.1			
Mekhalādāyikā		1.2				
Maṇḍapadāyikā		1.3				
Sāṅkamanatthā		1.4				
Naḷamālikā		1.5				
Ekapiṇḍapātadāyikā		1.6				
Kaṭacchubbhikkhādāyikā		1.7				
Sattuppalamālikā		1.8				
Pañcadīpikā		1.9				
Udakadāyikā		1.10				
Ekūposathikā		2.1				
Saḷalapupphikā		2.2				
Modakadāyikā		2.3				
Ekāsanadāyikā		2.4				
Pañcadīpadāyikā		2.5				
Naḷamālikā		2.6				
Yasodharā-pamukha- dasa-bhikkhunī-sahassa		3.9				
Yasodharā-pamukha- aṭṭhārasa-bhikkhunī-sahassa		3.10				
Yasavatī-pamukha- aṭṭhārasa-bhikkhunī-sahassa		4.1				
Caturāsīti-bhikkhunī- sahassa		4.2				
Uppaladāyikā		4.3				
Sukkā		4.5				SN 10.9 SN 10.10
Abhirūpanandā		4.6	2.1			
Aḍḍhakāsi		4.7	2.4			
Puṇṇikā		4.8				
Ambapāli		4.9	13.1			
Pesalā		4.10				
Aññatarā			1.1			

Known Nun Disciples of the Buddha - 4

	AN	Ap	Thī	DhpA	JA	Other
Aññatarā			5.1			
Aññatarātissā			1.5			
Anopamā			6.5			
Aparā-uttamā			3.3			
Aparāsāmā			3.1			
Abhayamātu			2.8			
Abhayā			2.9			
Āḷavikā						SN 1.5.1
Isidāsī			15.1			
Uttamā			3.2			
Uttarā			1.15			
Uttarā			7.1			
Uttarā				11.3		
Upacālā			7.3			SN 1.5.7
Upasamā			1.10			
Ubbirī			3.5			
Guttā			6.7			
Candā			5.12			
Cāpā			13.3			
Cālā			7.2			SN 1.5.6
Cittā			2.5			
Jentā			2.2			
Tissā			1.4			
Tiṃsamattā			5.11			
Dantikā			3.4			
Dhammā			1.17			
Dhīrā			1.6			
Nanduttarā			5.5			
Pañcasatamattā			6.1			
Puṇṇā			1.3			
Puṇṇā			12.1			
Bhadrā			1.9			
Mittā			1.8			

Known Nun Disciples of the Buddha - 5

	AN	Ap	Thī	DhpA	JA	Other
Mittā			2.7			
Mittākāḷī			5.6			
Muttā			1.2			
Muttā			1.11			
Mettikā			2.6			
Rohinī			13.2			
Vaḍḍhamātu			9.1			
Vajirā						SN 1.5.10
Vāsetṭhī			6.2			
Vijayā			6.8			SN 1.5.4
Vimalā			5.2			
Visākhā			1.13			
Vīrā			1.7			
Vuḍḍhapabbajitasumanā			1.16			
Saṅghā			1.18			
Sāmā			2.10			
Sīsūpacālā			8.1			SN 1.5.8
Sīhā			5.3			
Sukkā			3.6			
Sujātā			6.4			
Sundarī			13.4			
Sundarīnandā			5.4			
Subhākammāradhītu			13.5			
Subhājīvakambavanikā			14.1			
Sumanā			1.14			
Sumaṅgalamātā			2.3			
Selā			3.7			SN 1.5.9
Somā			3.8			SN 1.5.2
Anojā				6.4		AA 1.176 SA 2.178 Vism 393
Cīrā				30.43		SN 10.11