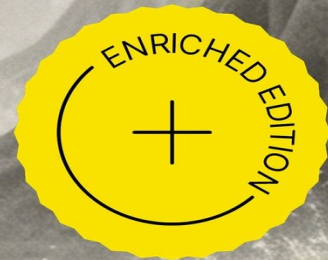
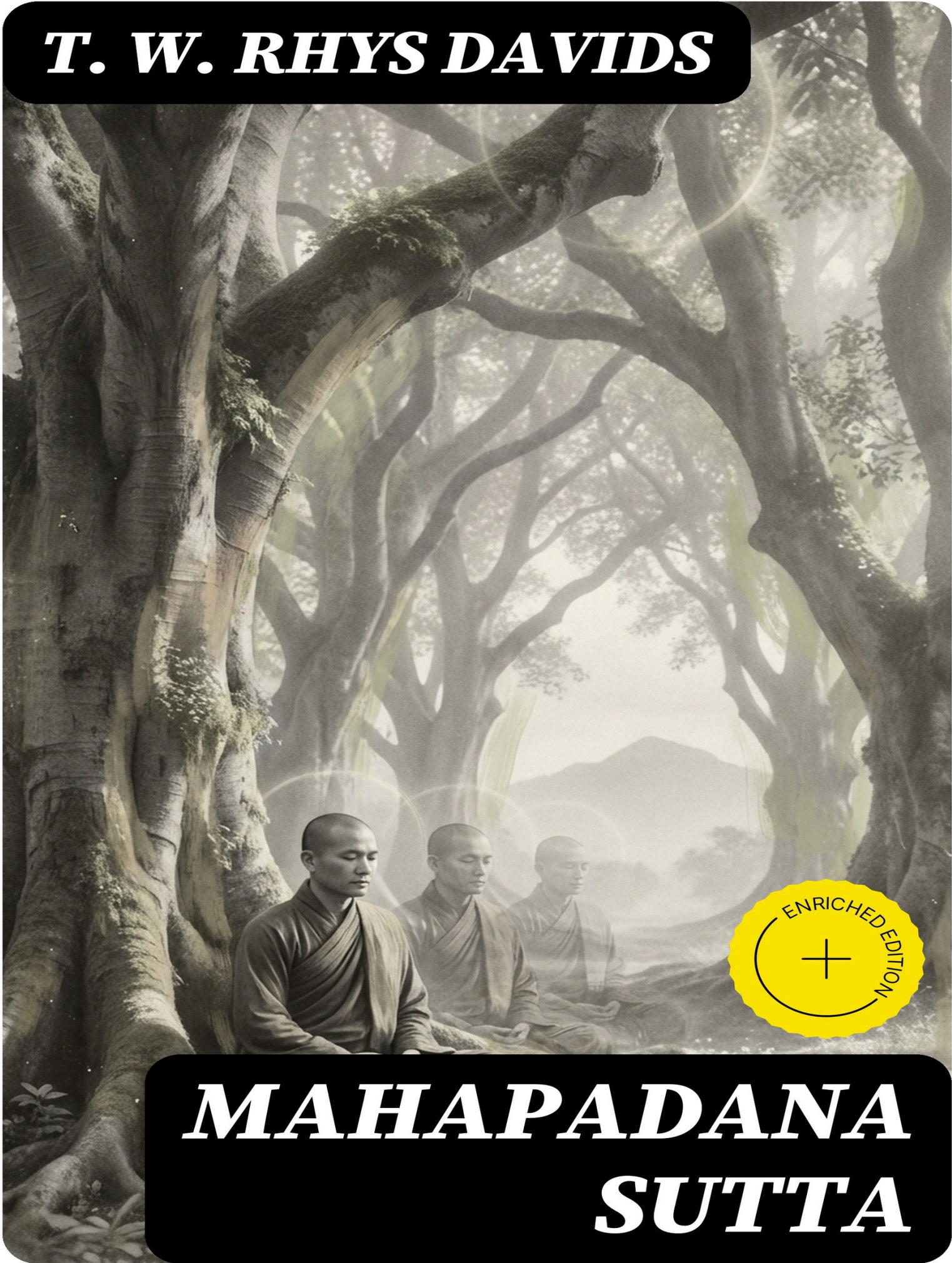
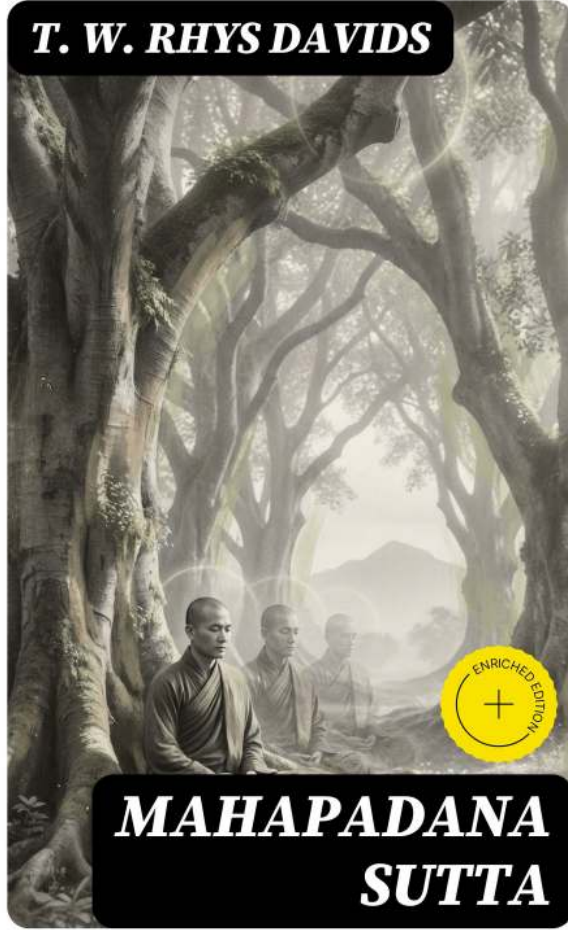


**T. W. RHYS DAVIDS**



**MAHAPADANA  
SUTTA**

**T. W. RHYS DAVIDS**



**MAHAPADANA  
SUTTA**

**T. W. Rhys Davids**

# **Mahapadana Sutta**

**Enriched edition.**

*Introduction, Studies and Commentaries by Sydney Caldwell*

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# Introduction

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Stretching across immeasurable spans of time while addressing the most intimate human questions, Mahapadana Sutta as rendered by T. W. Rhys Davids invites readers to contemplate how a single pattern of awakening can recur through ages without losing its moral urgency or luminous strangeness, asking us to hold together the grandeur of cosmic cycles and the precision of ethical practice, the authority of tradition and the vulnerability of memory, the stability of archetype and the singularity of a life, all within a narrative whose ceremonious cadence makes vast doctrines feel at once remote, meticulous, and unmistakably present.

Mahapadana Sutta belongs to the Digha Nikaya, the collection of long discourses in the Pali Canon, and Rhys Davids presents it in English as part of his Dialogues of the Buddha series published by the Pali Text Society in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The genre is canonical religious discourse, combining instruction, narrative, and ritualized refrain. Its setting moves between ancient North Indian cultural space and expanses of time that dwarf historical chronologies. The translation emerges from a formative era of Pali studies, marked by philological rigor and a desire to make foundational Buddhist texts accessible to general readers and scholars alike.

Without disclosing developments best discovered in the reading, the premise circles around the Buddha's