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bo·dhi·satt·va  (bō'dī-sūt və)

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n.

Buddhism

An enlightened being who, out of compassion, forgoes nirvana in order to save others.

[Sanskrit *bodhisattvaḥ*, one whose essence is enlightenment : *bodhiḥ*, perfect knowledge; see **bheudh-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *sattvam*, essence, being (from *sat-*, existing; see **es-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

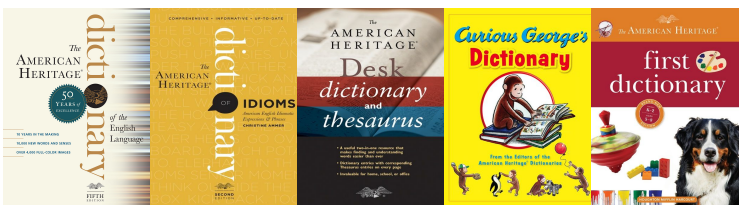
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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