AN 3.3 — Cintī Sutta (On Thinking)

English translation by Bhikkhu Candana.

Source: https://www.mindreleased.com/s/Book-3_Anguttara-Nikya-A-New-Translation.pdf#page=22

Source revision: ee5230c458ad6c1566f518d5909916ad92d12aebf1240750c5357dd9b5699f30

License: Candana — free distribution, unaltered contents — https://www.mindreleased.com/s/Book-3_Anguttara-Nikya-A-New-Translation.pdf

Copyright © Bhikkhu Candana, 2020, 2026. Free distribution only; do not alter the contents. The original book, including its complete permission notice, accompanies this text.

Candana source labels: 3. Site text ID: AN 3.3.

Text

3. Cintī Sutta (On Thinking) Bhikkhus, these are the three traits, the three behaviors of a fool. Which three?

Here, a fool behaves unskillfully in body, unskillfully in his speech, and unskillfully in his thoughts. If a fool were to behave skillfully in body, skillfully in speech, and skillfully in his thoughts, then wise individuals would not be able to see him for who he is.

However, it is because a fool is one who behaves unskillfully with his body, unskillfully in his speech, and unskillfully in his thoughts, that wise individuals are able to identify him as an unskillful person, as a fool.

Bhikkhus, these are the three traits, the three behaviors of a wise person. Which three?

Here, a wise person behaves skillfully in body, skillfully in his speech and skillfully in his thoughts. If a wise person were to behave unskillfully in body, unskillfully in speech, and unskillfully in his thoughts, then wise individuals would not be able to see him for who he is.

However, it is because a wise person is one who behaves skillfully with his body, skillfully in his speech, and skillfully in his thoughts, that wise individuals are able to identify him as a skillful person, as a truly wise person.

Therefore, Bhikkhus, it is in this manner that you must train yourselves, by reflecting:

‘We will fully relinquish and abandon all those qualities that designate one as a fool, those qualities with which a fool is identified. And instead, we will continuously develop and cultivate

within us those qualities that transform us into wise individuals, chiseling for ourselves those bright characteristic features that make one be recognized as truly skillful and wise!’

It is in this manner, O Bhikkhus, that you must all train yourselves!