AN 5.165 — AN 5:165 On Asking Questions | Pañhapucchā Sutta

English translation by Ṭhānissaro Bhikkhu.

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Changes: Presentation only: original HTML markup reflowed into plain text; wording, numbering and source repetitions retained. No repetitions expanded.

Completeness: ABBREVIATED. Every source-unit character is preserved, including introductions, notes and verse structure. Thanissaro's collection-level note explicitly states that repetitions were cut: https://www.dhammatalks.org/suttas/about.html. This is evidence about the translation method, not an assertion that every individual unit contains an omission; no repetitions reconstructed.

Text

On Asking Questions

Pañhapucchā Sutta (AN 5:165)

Then Ven. Sāriputta addressed the monks: "Friend monks."

"Yes, friend," the monks responded to him.

Ven. Sāriputta said: "All those who ask questions of another do so from any one of five motivations. Which five?

“One asks a question of another through stupidity & bewilderment. One asks a question of another through evil desires & overwhelmed with greed. One asks a question of another through contempt. One asks a question of another when desiring knowledge. Or one asks a question with this thought,1 ‘If, when asked, he answers correctly, well & good. If not, then I will answer correctly (for him).’

“All those who ask questions of another do so from any one of these five motivations. And as for me, when I ask a question of another, it’s with this thought: ‘If, when asked, he answers correctly, well & good. If not, then I will answer correctly (for him).’

Note

1. Reading panevaṁ-citto with the Thai edition. The PTS reading—pakuppanto citto, “with a provoked heart”—does not fit the context at all.

Publisher references (not part of the sutta)

See also: AN 3:68; AN 4:42