SN 2.5 — SN 2:5 Dāmali the Deva’s Son | Dāmali 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

Dāmali the Deva’s Son

Dāmali Sutta (SN 2:5)

Then Dāmali the deva’s son, in the far extreme of the night, his extreme radiance lighting up the entirety of Jeta’s Grove, went to the Blessed One and, on arrival, having bowed down to him, stood to one side. As he was standing there, he recited these verses in the Blessed One’s presence:

“This should be done

by the brahman

exerting himself relentlessly:

Abandoning sensuality,
he should not, through that,
wish for becoming."

"For the brahman, there's no duty,
[Dāmali," said the Blessed One,]
"for the brahman's duty is done.
As long as he hasn't gained a footing in the river,
a man will strain with all his limbs.
But when he's gained a footing
and is standing on firm ground,
he doesn't strain, for he's gone
beyond.

This, Dāmali, is a simile
for the brahman—effluents ended,
masterful, doing jhāna:
Having reached the end
of birth & death,
he doesn't strain, for he's gone
beyond."

Publisher references (not part of the sutta)

See also: SN 1:1; SN 35:197; SN 45:171; AN 4:5