SN 2.17 — SN 2:17 Subrahma the Deva’s Son | Subrahma 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

Subrahma the Deva’s Son

Subrahma Sutta (SN 2:17)

Standing to one side, Subrahma the deva’s son recited this verse to the Blessed One:

“Constantly troubled is this mind,

constantly trembling this heart,

over duties1 that have yet to arise,

and those already arisen.

If there is an Untroubled,

point it out to me, when asked."

The Buddha:

"Apart from the factors for awakening, austerity,2

apart from sense-faculty restraint,

apart from relinquishing the all,3

I see no safety

for living beings."

That is what the Blessed One said... the deva disappeared right there.

Notes

1. Reading kiccesu with the Thai version. The Burmese version has kicchesu, "troubles."

2. Reading bojjhaṅga-tapasā with the Thai version. The Burmese version has bojjhā tapasā, "from awakening, from austerity." The Commentary notes that bojjhaṅga/bojjhā refers to the development of the factors of awakening (see MN 118). Tapasā, it says, refers to undertaking the dhutaṅga practices (see Thag 16:7).

3. On the definition of the all, see SN 35:23.