SN 5.6 — Cala Sutta: Sister Cala

English translation by Thanissaro 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

At Savatthi. Then, early in the morning, Cala the nun put on her robes and, taking her bowl & outer robe, went into Savatthi for alms. When she had gone for alms in Savatthi and had returned from her alms round, after her meal she went to the Grove of the Blind to spend the day. Having gone deep into the Grove of the Blind, she sat down at the foot of a tree for the day's abiding.

Then Mara the Evil One, wanting to arouse fear, horripilation, & terror in her, wanting to make her fall away from concentration, approached her & said, "What is it that you don't approve of, nun?"

"I don't approve of birth, my friend."

[Mara:]

Why don't you approve of birth? One who is born enjoys sensual pleasures. Who on earth ever persuaded you: 'Nun, don't approve of birth'?

[Sister Cala:]

For one who is born there's death. One who is born sees pain. It's a binding, a flogging, a torment. That's why one shouldn't approve of birth. The Awakened One taught me the Dhamma — the overcoming of birth — for the abandoning of all pain, he established me in the truth. But beings who have come to form & those with a share in the formless, if they don't discern cessation, return to becoming-again.

Then Mara the Evil One — sad & dejected at realizing, "Cala the nun knows me" — vanished right there.