SN 5.8 — Sisupacala Sutta: Sister Sisupacala

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, Sisupacala 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 from solitude, approached her & said, "Whose philosophy do you approve of, nun?"

"I don't approve of anyone's philosophy, my friend."

[Mara:]

For whose sake have you shaved your head? You look like a contemplative but don't approve of a philosophy, so why are you wandering here confused?

[Sister Sisupacala:]

Outside philosophers place their confidence in views. I don't approve of their teaching. They're not adept in the Dhamma. But there is the Awakened One, born in the Sakyan clan, a person without peer: all-conquering, Mara's subduer, everywhere undefeated, everywhere freed, independent; endowed with an Eye all-seeing, reaching the end of all kamma — with the ending of acquisitions, released. He, that Blessed One, is my teacher. It's in his Dhamma that I delight.

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