SN 9.3 — SN 9:3 Kassapa Gotta | Kassapa Gotta 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

Kassapa Gotta

Kassapa Gotta Sutta (SN 9:3)

On one occasion Ven. Kassapa Gotta was staying among the Kosalans in a forest grove. Now at that time, as he had gone to spend the day (in the grove), he was exhorting a certain hunter.

Then the devatā inhabiting the forest grove, feeling sympathy for Ven. Kassapa Gotta, desiring his benefit, desiring to bring him to his senses, approached him and recited verses:

“This monk strikes me as stupid:

at the wrong time,

exhorting a hunter,

roaming through the rugged mountains,

undiscerning, unaware.

He hears— he doesn't understand.

He looks— he doesn't see.

While Dhamma is being spoken,

the fool doesn't awaken to the meaning.

Even if you were to bring

ten lamps, Kassapa,

he still wouldn't see forms,

for his eyes can't be found."

Then Ven. Kassapa Gotta, chastened by the devatā, came to his senses.

Publisher references (not part of the sutta)

See also: AN 6:86–88