# SN 21.7 — With Visākha, Pañcāli’s Son

English translation by Bhikkhu Sujato.
Source: https://suttacentral.net/sn21.7/en/sujato
Source revision: 3bc8665e0e28e70518eba94304a2fafcab80f933
License: CC0-1.0 — https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/

## Text

Linked Discourses 21.7

1. Monks

With Visākha, Pañcāli’s Son

So I have heard. At one time the Buddha was staying near Vesālī, at the Great Wood, in the hall with the peaked roof.

Now at that time Venerable Visākha, Pañcāli’s son, was educating, encouraging, firing up, and inspiring the mendicants in the assembly hall with a Dhamma talk. His words were polished, clear, articulate, expressing the meaning, comprehensive, and independent.

Then in the late afternoon, the Buddha came out of retreat and went to the assembly hall. He sat down on the seat spread out, and addressed the mendicants: “Mendicants, who was educating, encouraging, firing up, and inspiring the mendicants in the assembly hall with a Dhamma talk?”

“Sir, it was Venerable Visākha, Pañcāli’s son.”

Then the Buddha said to Visākha:

“Good, good, Visākha! It’s good that you educate, encourage, fire up, and inspire the mendicants in the assembly hall with a Dhamma talk, with words that are polished, clear, articulate, expressing the meaning, comprehensive, and independent.”

That is what the Buddha said. Then the Holy One, the Teacher, went on to say:

“Though an astute person is mixed up with fools,

they don’t know unless he speaks.

But when he speaks they know,

he’s teaching the state free of death.

He should speak and illustrate the teaching,

holding up the banner of the seers.

Words well spoken are the seers’ banner,

for the teaching is the banner of the seers.”