



ARAÑÑA SUTTA: THE WILDERNESS

(SAMYUTTA NIKAYA 10.1)

TRANSLATED FROM THE PALI BY

JOHN D. IRELAND

HALF DAY MOON PRESS | NO. 5

Copyright © 1981 Buddhist Publication Society

Half Day Moon Press Edition 2023

From Samyutta Nikaya: An Anthology (Wheel Publication No. 107), translated by John D. Ireland (Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society, 1981) (www.bps.lk). Used with permission.

See the penultimate page of this edition for licensing information and notes on formatting.

(SN 10.1)

ARAÑÑA SUTTA:
THE WILDERNESS

TRANSLATED FROM THE PALI BY

JOHN D. IRELAND

Thus have I heard. At one time the Lord was staying near Savatthi, at the Jeta Grove in Anathapindika's monastery. Now when night was passing a certain devata, lighting up the whole Jeta Grove with her surpassing beauty, approached the Lord. Having drawn near and prostrated herself she stood to one side.¹

Standing there the devata said:

Those living in the forest,
Peaceful and calm, of pure life,
Eating but one meal a day:
How is it they appear so radiant?



The Lord replied:

They sorrow not for what is past,
They have no longing for the future,
The present is sufficient for them:
Hence it is they appear so radiant.

By having longing for the future,
By sorrowing over what is past,
By this fools are withered up
As a cut down tender reed.



Note: 1. A devata (or deva) is an inhabitant of one of the several heavens. The word means "a shining one" and is related to the English words: deity, divinity, etc. The body of a devata is purer and more subtle than a human being's and radiates light. The period before dawn is the usual time for these beings to visit the Buddha, one of whose titles, it should be remembered, is *sattha devamanussanam*, the teacher of gods and men.

© 1989 Buddhist Publication Society. You may copy, reformat, reprint, republish, and redistribute this work in any medium whatsoever, provided that: (1) you only make such copies, etc. available free of charge and, in the case of reprinting, only in quantities of no more than 50 copies; (2) you clearly indicate that any derivatives of this work (including translations) are derived from this source document; and (3) you include the full text of this license in any copies or derivatives of this work. Otherwise, all rights reserved. The online copy consulted for this reformatted edition was retrieved from Access to Insight (<https://www.accesstoinsight.org>) on 15 February 2023. Pali diacritics, with the exception of those in the title, have been omitted.



HALF DAY MOON PRESS | NO. 5