# SN 2.8 — With Tāyana

English translation by Bhikkhu Sujato.
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## Text

Linked Discourses 2.8

Chapter One

With Tāyana

At Sāvatthī.

Then, late at night, the glorious godling Tāyana, formerly a religious founder, lighting up the entire Jeta’s Grove, went up to the Buddha, bowed, stood to one side, and recited these verses in the Buddha’s presence:

“Cut the stream, striving!

Cast aside sensual pleasures, brahmin.

A sage who doesn’t give up sensual pleasures

is not reborn in a unified state.

If one is to do what should be done,

one should staunchly strive.

For the life gone forth when laxly led

just stirs up dust all the more.

A bad deed is better left undone,

for it will plague you later on.

A good deed is better done,

one that does not plague you.

When kusa grass is wrongly grasped

it only cuts the hand.

So too, the ascetic life, when wrongly taken,

drags you to hell.

Any lax act,

any corrupt observance,

or suspicious spiritual life,

is not very fruitful.”

That is what the godling Tāyana said. Then he bowed and respectfully circled the Buddha, keeping him on his right, before vanishing right there.

Then, when the night had passed, the Buddha told the mendicants all that had happened.

“Mendicants, tonight, the glorious godling Tāyana, formerly a religious founder, lighting up the entire Jeta’s Grove, came to me, bowed, stood to one side, and recited these verses in my presence.” The Buddha repeated the verses in full, adding:

“That is what the godling Tāyana said. Then he bowed and respectfully circled me, keeping me on his right side, before vanishing right there. Mendicants, learn the verses of Tāyana! Memorize the verses of Tāyana! Remember the verses of Tāyana! These verses are beneficial and relate to the fundamentals of the spiritual life.”