SN 9.4 — Several Mendicants Set Out Wandering

English translation by Bhikkhu Sujato.
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Text

Linked Discourses 9.4

1. In the Woods

Several Mendicants Set Out Wandering

At one time several mendicants were staying in the land of the Kosalans in a certain forest grove.

Then after completing the three months of the rainy season residence, those mendicants set out wandering. Not seeing those mendicants, the deity haunting that forest cried. And on that occasion they spoke this verse:

“Dissatisfaction, it seems to me today,

seeing so many vacated seats.

They were so learned, such brilliant speakers!

Where have these disciples of Gotama gone?”

When they had spoken, another deity replied with this verse:

“They’ve gone to Magadha, they’ve gone to Kosala,

and some are in the Vajjian lands.

Like deer that wander free of ties,

the mendicants live with no abode.”