

Kalama Sutta

(AN 3.65 - excerpt)

I have heard that on one occasion the Blessed One,
on a wandering tour among the Kosalans
with a large community of monks,
arrived at Kesaputta, a town of the Kalamas.
(bell)

...the Kalamas of Kesaputta said to the Blessed One,
"Lord, there are some priests & contemplatives
who come to Kesaputta.
They expound & glorify their own doctrines,
but as for the doctrines of others,
they deprecate them, revile them,
show contempt for them, & disparage them.
And then other priests & contemplatives come to Kesaputta.
They expound & glorify their own doctrines,
but as for the doctrines of others,
they deprecate them, revile them,
show contempt for them, & disparage them.
They leave us absolutely uncertain & in doubt:
Which of these venerable priests & contemplatives
are speaking the truth, and which ones are lying?"
(bell)

"Of course you are uncertain, Kalamas.
Of course you are in doubt.
When there are reasons for doubt, uncertainty is born.
So in this case, Kalamas, don't go by reports,
by legends, by traditions, by scripture, by logical conjecture,
by inference, by analogies,
by agreement through pondering views,
by probability, or by the thought, 'This contemplative is our teacher.'
When you know for yourselves that,
'These qualities are unskillful;
these qualities are blameworthy;
these qualities are criticized by the wise;
these qualities, when adopted & carried out, l
ead to harm & to suffering' — then you should abandon them."
(bell)

"We go to the Blessed One for refuge,
to the Dhamma, and to the Sangha of monks.
May the Blessed One remember us as lay followers
who have gone to him for refuge, from this day forward, for life."