

Question

[A person has this view] ‘That which is the self is the world (*ātman*) ... I shall endure as long as eternity.’ They hear the Tathāgata or a disciple of the Tathāgata, teaching the *Dhamma* aiming at the complete destruction of speculative views ... aiming at the extinction of craving, aiming at dispassion, cessation, Nibbāna. Then that person thinks: ‘I will be annihilated! I will be destroyed! I will be no more! Then they mourn, grieve and weep beating their breast and become bewildered. Thus *bhikkhus*, this is the case where someone is tormented when something within oneself is not found.
(*Alugaddūpama Sutta* MN. 22 136-137)

Is this an argument? If so, of what form? Are there hidden premises lurking in this passage? Are there incorrect inferences being drawn? Using these questions as guides discuss and analyze this passage.