Mil 3.2.9 — 9. Time Question

English translation by John Kelly.
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Text

Milinda’s Questions

Time Chapter

9. Time Question

The king asked: “Venerable Nāgasena, you talked then of a long extent of transmigration time. What is this thing called transmigration time?” “The past, your majesty, is transmigration time, the future is transmigration time, the present is transmigration time.” “But, venerable sir, does all transmigration time exist?” “Some transmigration time exists, your majesty, and some does not.” “What then, venerable sir, exists and what does not?” “Those mental formations, your majesty, that are past, gone, ceased, and changed, that transmigration time does not exist. Those mental formations that have reached fruition, or have the nature to be liable for fruition, or those that give reconnection elsewhere, that transmigration time does exist. Those beings that have died and arisen elsewhere, that transmigration time does exist. Those beings that have died and not arisen elsewhere, that transmigration time does not exist. And those beings that have attained final nibbāna, that transmigration time does not exist because of the attainment of nibbāna.”

“You are clever, Venerable Nāgasena!”

Time Question ninth

Time Chapter second

In this chapter nine questions