Mil 3.6.4 — 4. Celibacy of the Blessed One Question

English translation by John Kelly.
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Text

Milinda’s Questions

Mindfulness Chapter

4. Celibacy of the Blessed One Question

The king asked: “Venerable Nāgasena, was the Buddha a Brahma-farer (celibate)?” “Yes, your majesty, the Buddha was celibate.” “Well then, Venerable Nāgasena, was the Buddha a student of Brahmā?” “But, your majesty, do you have a chief elephant?” “Yes, venerable sir, I do.” “And does this elephant, your majesty, roar the ‘Heron’s roar’ from time to time?” “Yes, venerable sir, he does.” “Well then, your majesty, is this elephant a student of the heron?” “Certainly not, venerable sir.” “Was Brahmā, your majesty, one with intelligence or without?” “With intelligence, venerable sir.” “Well then, your majesty, Brahmā was a student of the Blessed One.”

“You are clever, Venerable Nāgasena!”

Celibacy of the Blessed One Question fourth