Mil 3.7.6 — 6. Question on the Factors for Awakening

English translation by John Kelly.
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Text

Milinda’s Questions

Analysis of Formless Dhammas Chapter

6. Question on the Factors for Awakening

The king asked, “Venerable Nāgasena, how many factors for awakening are there?” “There are seven factors for awakening, your majesty.” “By how many of these seven factors for awakening, venerable sir, does one awaken?” “One awakens by one of these, your majesty, the awakening factor of discrimination of states.” “Then, venerable sir, why is it that one speaks of seven factors?” “What do you think, your majesty, if a sword is placed in its sheath and not grasped in the hand is it able to cut what is to be cut?” “Certainly not, venerable sir.” “In the same way, your majesty, without the investigation of states awakening factor, one cannot awaken by the other six factors.”

“You are clever, Venerable Nāgasena!”

Question on the Factors for Awakening sixth