

# *The Questions of Milinda*

First Night:

*The King, the Monk, and Pain*

# Ignorance and Pain

## मिलिन्दप्रश्न

The Questions of Milinda  
Chapter II, Section 18

अध्वानोऽविद्यामूलकाः

Ignorance as the Root of the Three Times

राजाऽहं भन्ते नागसेन अतीतस्यध्वनः किं मूलं अनागतस्याध्वनः किं मूलम्  
प्रत्युत्पन्नस्याध्वनः किं मूलमिति ॥

And the King said, "O Venerable Nagasena, what is the root of the past, and the root of the future, and the root of the present?"

अतीतस्य च महाराज अध्वनः अनागतस्य चाध्वनः प्रत्युत्पन्नस्य चाध्वनोऽविद्या  
मूलम् ॥

"The root of the past, my King, and the root of the future, and the root of the present as well, is ignorance.

अविद्याप्रत्ययात् संस्काराः

"And because of ignorance, we collect new karma."

संस्कारप्रत्ययाद् विज्ञानं

"And because of new karma, a new consciousness grows."

विज्ञानप्रत्ययान्नामरूपं

"And because of this consciousness, name and form [the mind and body in the womb] begin."

नामरूपप्रत्ययात् षडायतनां

"And because of this name and form, the six doors of sense begin."

षडायतनप्रत्ययात् स्पर्शः

“And because of the six doors of sense, contact is made with the outside world.”

स्पर्शप्रत्ययाद् वेदना

“And because of this contact, we start to have feelings.”

वेदनाप्रत्ययात् तृष्णा

“And because of these feelings, we start to crave things.”

तृष्णाप्रत्ययादुपादानं

“And because of this craving, we begin to grasp for things.”

उपादानप्रत्ययाद् भवः

“And because we grasp for things, our karma becomes ripe.”

भवप्रत्ययाजातिः

“And because our karma has become ripe, we are born once again.”

जातिप्रत्ययाज्जरामरणशोकपरिदेवदुःखदीर्घमनस्योपायासाः सम्भवन्ति ॥

“And because we are born once again, everything else begins again—we begin to age again, and we die, and we live in misery, and cry out in pain, and suffer, and all the rest—all this weeping in the mind.

एवमेतस्य केवलस्याध्वनः पूर्वा कोटिर्न प्रज्ञायत इति ॥

“And thus it is that we can see no beginning point at all, to any one of these times.”

कल्योऽसि भदन्त नागसेनेति ॥

And the King said, “You are so good, my Venerable Nagasena!”



## A Broken World

*Katha Yoannain*

The Gospel According to John, 3:6

*To gegennaimenon ek tais sarkos  
sarkos estin,  
kai to gegennaimenon ek tou pneumatos  
pneuma estin.*

That which is born of the flesh is flesh;  
and that which is born of the spirit is spirit.



The Gospel of John 6:27

*Ergadzesthe mai tain brosin tain apollumenain,  
alla ten brosin tain menousan  
eis dzoain ainoion.*

Labour not for the meat which perisheth,  
but for that meat which endureth  
unto everlasting life.



The Gospel of John 12:25

*Ho filon tain psukain autou  
apolluei autain,  
kai ho mison tain psukain autou  
en to kosmo touto  
eis dzoain aionion fulaksei autain.*

He that loveth his life  
shall lose it;  
and he that hateth his life  
in this world  
shall keep it unto life eternal.