

A BRIEF STUDY ON THE MILINDAPAÑHA: IN THE VIEW OF HISTORY OF AYURVEDA.

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The *Milindapañha* is the work, which records the questions asked by the king *Milinda* and the answers given by the Venerable *Nāgasena*. Some traditions like Burmese have given more importance to the *Milindapañha*, which has been treated as a canonical text.¹ They treat it as a book of the *Khuddakanikāya*, the fifth division of the *Suttapitaka*. Even in India, some scholars consider the *Milindapañha* as a book of the *Khuddakanikāya*.² The *Milindapañha*, according to the Sri Lankan tradition, is not included in the *Khuddakanikāya* and has been treated as an important non-canonical work.

The content of the *Milindapañha* is a conversation on religious and philosophical problems and disputed points of Buddhism. It is to be noted that though the *Milindapañha* is not important from the medical point of view some portions in the *Milindapañha* throw some light on the history of Ayurveda. It may be a determining factor of the date of the *Milindapañha*.