

# PATICCA SAMUPPĀDA

[ Dependent Origination ]

And

### INSIGHT MEDITATION

From a series of discourses given by
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#### The Basics of Dependent Origination

DISCOURSE NO.1 13-04-93 MORNING

'Sanātha Bhikkhave viharatha māanatha.'

These are the words of the **Bhagavā who**, in these words warned the worldlings not to come and go and live without taking refuge in **Vipassanā** meditation for insight. Aggamahā pandita Mahā Thera Mogok Sayadaw Payagyi used to remind the disciples all the time to follow Bhagavā's above exhortation - and so do I. I warn each and every one of you again not to take it lightly.

If I were to ask my virtuous audience why you all are right here in this Dhamma hall in a crowd like this you would have answered that you are here because you want to attain Nibbā na, where bliss prevails and suffering is extinguished. If it were so, you will have to practice the relevant method of contemplation to attain Nibbāna, that is to contemplate bhā vanā. What will you have to do? 'We will have to contemplate bhāvanā,'venerable sir!'

'Venerable sir! We have already done the various alms givings dāna. Is it not sufficient enough as yet?' you might have asked ine. I would say then, 'don't you realize that the so-called dāna alms giving will make you extra-ordinarily rich and able to live a fuxurious life [as a consequence of your dāna] in your next existence in the round of rebirths [which is] Samsāra. You might

also say that you have also observed morality Sila. The so-called morality sila will cause you to be reborn in the next existence in the round of rebirths with a flawless complexion and perfect physical features. This is how morality sila gives its reward, is it not? 'Right sir!' Only the practice of contemplation can extinguish all suffering and make you attain Nibbana, isn't it? Right you are venerable sir! Then how many practices will you have to do? Three venerable sir! Right! They are alms-giving dana, observing morality sila and contemplating bhāvanā to attain Nibbāna. Then you might ask me if the consequences of alms-giving dana and observing morality sila that you have practised are all null and void. No, they are not, but they are going to be aids to contemplation bhāvanā. I will repeat they are going to be aids to contemplation bhāvanā. How? Because of your meritorious deeds alms-giving dana and observance of morality, sila in your previous existence, you all are quite well-to-do in this existence without having to worry [much] for food, clothing and living for your families back at home. That is why you have the opportunity to be here in the hall of this meditation centre. Thus [your] dana and sila are giving aid to your bhāvanā aren't they? They are. venerable sir! Therefore alms-giving dana must be done.

Sila morality is also to be observed as it can cause you to be born in the upper classes [sugati bhava] in the next existence[s]. Not only that but the desire to meditate, to listen to the dhamma are opportunities that occur to you because you are born as human beings in the good states [sugati bhava], isn't it right? Right sir!

Suppose you were [born] in the evil states [dugati bhava] the desire to contemplate bhāvanā will not occur in your mind. Can the desire to give alms appear in your mind? 'Not at all sir!' Therefore it is to be noted that observing sila is really a necessity to be an aid to bhāvanā as a resultant. Then bear in mind that morality sila is not null and void and it must be observed throughout. When this basic morality element is firmly and completely established you are going to have the opportunity to practice contemplation at long last. Is it not right? Absolutely right sir! out of three [kinds of] meritorious deeds, alms giving dana, observing morality sila and contemplation bhāvanā, alms-giving dāna makes you wealthy, morality sila causes you to be born in the good states [sugati bhava] and contemplation bhāvanā will give you the ability to extinguish suffering and attain a state of bliss. Is it not? It is sir! Then you must have realized by now that dana, sila and bhāvanā have their own respective abilities to give you the relevant resultants as mentioned above. I can say that all the members of my audience are right here now, not because you want to learn the methods of doing dana and sila but to learn the method of contemplation bhāvanā. If it is so, I will have to teach you how to practice contemplation bhāvanā. However Mogok Mahā Thera had told [us] not to give the method of contemplation bhāvanā straight away to beginners. The requirements which ought to be known and learned before [starting] contemplation must be taught thoroughly. These requirements are nothing but to discard the hindrances to meditation for insight vipassanā. Then what are the hindrances? They are wrong view ditthi and perplexity viccikicca. They are to be discarded through knowledge [as a preliminary to meditation]. In Pali it is known as **nata prinnā**. What is it? It is to discard wrong view ditthi and perplexity vicikiccha. through knowledge. To repeat, it is known in Pali as ñata priññā. After the hindrances wrong view ditthi and perplexity vicikiccha have been removed through knowledge then-and only then- start practicing meditation for insight, vipassanā. When we talk about wrong view ditthi we must study the underlying notion on which wrong view is based. Wrong view has occurred [because of our misconception of] the aggregates of physical and mental phenomena of animate beings which in Pali are called khandhas. Then only you will know how to discard wrong view ditthi and perplexity vicikiccha regarding the khandhas. Now I must make my audience know about the Khandhas. To clarify Khandhas, it is better to understand Dependent Origination, Paticca Samuppāda. There are two ways of understanding Paticca Samuppāda; one is theoretical and the other is practical, to be applied on the aggregates Khandhas with the analytical knowledge of Paticca Samuppāda. Here the main requirement is to understand the practical side of the Khandha's Paticca Samuppāda. Before proceeding to the practical side let us start with the basis of Dependent Origination Paticca Samuppāda. Assume that there is a white cloth screen being erected on my side on the left. Draw a big circle on it. Have you drawn it in your imagination? yes, we have done so sir! Draw a diameter from top to bottom vertically. After that draw another diameter horizontally from left to right bisecting the first. When these two diameters have been drawn how many quadrants are formed in the circle? Four quadrants Sir! That's right! Number the top right hand side quadrant as No.1. Number the right bottom quadrant as No.2. Number the left bottom quadrant as No.3. Number the top left quadrant as No.4.

How many quadrants are there now? Four Sir! Now four quadrants have been formed in which we will have to insert the twelve factors of Dependent Origination, Paticca Samuppā da. Insert the two factors Ignorance AVIJJĀ and Activities SANKHĀRA first in the top right hand side No.1 quadrant. What are they? They are Ignorace AVIJJĀ and Activities SANKHĀRA Sir! In No.2 quadrant we will insert five factors of Dependent Origination. These five factors are:-

1	<b>—</b> .	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
1.	Rebirth consciousness	VIÑÑĀNAM	
2.	Mind and Matter	0_00	
2	C.	NĀMARŪPA	

3. Six sense bases of eye, ear, nose, tongue, body and mind.

4. Contact
5. Feeling
VEDANĀ

So far, note only the capital letters in your head, nothing else. I don't want my audience to get confused. Then there are

five factors in quadrant No.2. What are they? They are VINNĀNA, NĀMARŪPA, SAĻĀYATANA, PHASSA and VEDANĀ sir!

Now let us proceed to No. 3 quadrant, bottom left

We will insert three factors in this quadrant. They are craving TANHĀ, Clinging UPĀDĀNA and action creating effect KAMMA BHAVA. Don't keep the small letters as yet in your mind so as not to get confused. How many factors are there in No.3 quadrant? Three sir! What are they? TANHĀ, UPĀDĀNA, KAMMA-BHAVA sir!. Right you are! Very good! Let us carry on to No. 4 quadrant at top left. We will insert two factors in it. They are JĀTI and JARĀ-MARAŅA. Right! Here again I want to remind you not to heed the small letters. Let us enumerate the factors.

- Two factors in No. 1 quadrant
- Five factors in No.2 quadrant
- Three factors in No.3 quadrant
- Two factors in No.4 quadrant

Altogether there are twelve factors in Dependent Origination, Paticca-Samuppāda. Forget about the small letters as usual up to now. I will explain roughly about the twelve factors.

What does AVIJJĀ in No.1 quadrant mean? It means ignorance! That is knowing very little or nothing. Not knowing about what? In terms of the Buddha Dhamma it is not

knowing [anything] about The Four Noble Truths - to wit

- 1. The Noble Truth of Suffering. Dukkha Sacca.
- 2. The Noble Truth of the cause of Suffering. Samudaya Sacca
- 3. The Noble Truth of the Cessation of Suffering.

  <u>Nirodha Sacca</u>
- 4. The Noble Truth of The Way leading to the Cessation of Suffering Magga Sacca.

What is ignorance of The Four Noble Truths called? It is called ignorance AVIJJĀ. AVIJJĀ does not mean ignorance of other things such as the means of earning a living, worldly and social affairs, family affairs, civil and political affairs etc.. Thus AVIJJĀ means ignorance of the Four Noble Truths. What is ignorance of The Four Noble Truths? It is AVIJJĀ sir!

That's right. Let us go further. What is next after AVIJJĀ? It is SANKHĀRA sir! Yes, in Paticca Samuppāda it means volitional activities pertaining to the past. There are three kinds of action. Yes sir! Physical bodily action is Kāya SANKHĀRA. Yes Sir! When I ask my audience questions, answering them by the audience are verbal actions Vaci SANKHĀRA. Verbal action is Vaci SANKHĀRA. Yes Sir,! Now, in the dhamma hall members of my audience are sitting in front of me respectfully to hear out my discourse. This is bodily action Kāya SANKHĀRA. While I am preaching my discourse my mind is thinking of what to preach and how I am going to preach it. At the same time my audience is paying attention to

what I am preaching and what I am going to preach. These are the mental processes of myself and my virtuous audience. These mental processes or activities are all Citta SANKHĀRA! What do you call our mental processes in terms of Dhamma and Pali? These mental processes Mental action, thinking and intention are Citta SANKHĀRA Sir! Then how may kinds of SANKHĀ RA are there? Three Sir! remember these three activities. Keep them in mind. So I assume that you all have already understood the essence of [the meaning of] ignorance AVIJJĀ and activities SANKHĀRA.

Let us go ahead now into No.2 quadrant starting with VIÑÑĀNAM. Remember that mind CITTA is the very first CITTA that occurs at rebirth. The consecutive mind CITTA that occurs after rebirth consciousness is called Pavatti Citta. The last consciousness just at the moment of passing away [or the termination of an existence] is called Sutti Citta. Rebirth consciousness Patisandhi Citta VIÑÑANĀM is neither a soul nor a kind of animate creature but just citta on rebirth at the moment of conception in a mother's womb as the new existence immediately after the death consciousness of the previous existence without any intervening interval of time. What Citta is this? This is rebirth consciousness Patisandhi Citta. This is literally called VIÑÑĀNAM.

Next if we go further into the factors we will see NAMA=RŪPA' This is the combination of two words; mind,

NAMA is one word and matter RUPA is another. Mind NAMA is 'mental state' CETASIKA. I will repeat CETASIKA. Matter RŪPA is just RŪPA. Along with what does this mental state CETASIKA occur? It occurs concomitantly with VIÑÑĀ NAM so-called rebirth consciousness Patisandhi Citta. That is CETASIKA. This is to say, mind VIÑÑĀNAM is based on and dependent on matter. Thus RUPA has come into play in existence. VIÑÑĀNAM is NĀMA dhamma. RŪPA is RŪPA dhamma. They are inseparable and thus are called  $N\bar{A}MAR\bar{U}$ -**PA** or RŪPA-NĀMA the other way round; but they are the same. That is, RÜPA-NĀMA or NĀMARŪPA occur simultaneously. But Bhagavā expounded VIÑÑĀNAM at first and NĀMARŪ -PA occurred only in later discourses. The actual process is in this order. VIÑÑĀNAM NĀMA - RŪPA In what order is it? It is VIÑÑANAM NĀMA and RŪPA venerable sir! In fact, all VINNANAM NAMA and RUPA occurr at the same time together. They are RUPA dhamma and NAMA dhamma. Right, let us go forward and you will find SALAYATANA. What is it? SALĀYATANA sir! SA means six, ĀYATANA means place where they are based or established. In between SA and ĀYATANA a Burmese alphabet pronounced LAGYI is inserted so as to enable the word to be pronounced smoothly and rhythmically. The pronunciation will be SALĀYATANA instead of SAA YATANA. Don't you find it more smooth and rhythmical to pronounce? Yes it is sir! How many bases are there? There are

six sir! Each and everyone of my virtuous audience has his own six bases, namely, eye-base, ear-base, nose-base, tongue-base, body-base and mind-base.

How many of them? Six sir! Will you recite them together and count them? Eye-base, ear-base, nose-base, tongue-base, body-base, and mind-base sir! These six bases are called SALĀYATANA. When translated they are six places on which senses are based or established. As and when one of the sense bases is impinged upon by a sense object, consiousness NĀMA DHAMMA will be generated. This will become clear as we proceed with the discourse and further clarify [What is meant].

'Venerable sir! Whenever you refer to the mind citta you point your finger at the cavity of your chest. Is it an indication that the mind is in the chest?' [asked the audience] The venerable sayadaw replied,' It is not exactly, but according to the pitaka, round about the cavity of the chest inside the body, is the seat of the heart-base [?] called in pali 'HĀDAYA-VATTHU' pervaded by some blood, upon which consciousness and knowledge NĀMA function. That is why I point at the cavity of my chest whenever I refer to the mind.'

To wind up SAĻĀYATA, they are six bases for the senses, namely eye-base, earbase, nose-base, tongue-base, body-base and mind-base.

Let us see what comes next in the factors after

will find it is contact PHASSA PHASSA means contactual element. This will be explained later and [its meaning] will become clearer. What is the next factor? It is VEDANĀ. It is translatted as feeling. When I say feeling, it is not the sort or type of feeling that you get when you are enjoying your food with friends at a picnic. I would define feeling as knowledge through contact. To explain it in the esiest way, let us look at ourselves. The audience and myselfhave been sitting without moving almost half an hour, aren't we? You must have been murmuring and grumbling, 'Ah! ouch! Kyoot kyoot [Burmese way of murmuring in pain]'. Why? Because of stiffness, ache or numbness that you are feeling in the lower part of your body and limbs. What kind of feeling is it? It is an uncomfortable feeling sir! Then it is dukkha VEDANĀ.

Sometimes you don't feel any ache, stiffness or pain and are quite comfortable. This also is termed as feeling. It is a good feeling sukha VEDANĀ. What feeling is it? Sukha VEDANĀ sir! Uncomfortable feeling [or pain] is dukha VEDANĀ. Comfortable feeling is Sukha VEDANĀ. Sometimes you may feel neither comfortable nor uncomfortable. This is called indifferent feeling which in Pali is known as upekkhā VEDANĀ. How is it called? upekkhā VEDANĀ sir! Then how many kinds of VEDANĀ are there? Three sir! Uncomfortable feeling is ...? Dukkha vedanā sir! Comfortable feeling is ...? Sukha VEDANĀ

sir! Neither-comfortable-nor-uncomfortable-feeling is...? Upekkhā VEDANĀ sir!

Good! Now let's move forward to the third quadrant. What is there to start with? It's craving TANHĀ sir! TANHĀ means craving, strong desire and wants. When it comes to grasping or clinging it is called UPĀDĀNA. Craving TANHĀ and grasping UPĀDĀNA are fundamentally the same; however craving TANHĀ is lesser in degree whereas grasping or clinging UPĀ DĀNA is stronger, serious and uncontrollable. To give an example of grasping, imagine a rat being caught by a cat, biting it firmly with a growl giving the rat no chance to escape at all. Is it not right? Right venerable sir! When a frog is swallowed by a snake is it not with grasping also? Yes it is sir! In both the cases is it not because of grasping UPĀDĀNA for the prey? Yes it is venerable sir! therefore it is to be noted that the lesser degree of craving is TANHĀ. The stronger and more serious craving is grasping UPĀDĀNA. The difference is in the degree of craving.

Let us carry on to the next factor. What is it? It is KAMMA-BHAVA sir! It is making an attempt to acquire in any way whatever one desires. In other words it is an attempt to get anything, [sometimes] by hook or by crook. What is KAMMA-BHAVA, what is the meaning of KAMMA-BHAVA? The meaning is to endeavour to acquire anything by verbal or physical action. If physical action is involved it is KĀYA KAMMA and if verbal action is involved it is VACI KAMMA. [In such cases]

mental processes or mental action is also involved as a prelude to physical and / or verbal action and thus MANNO KAMMA is the motivating force to KĀYA KAMMA and VACI KAMMA. Therefore all physical action, verbal action and mental action are complements to one another, because volition precedes all actions.

To take an example, all the members of my audience happen to be here in this dhamma hall because you all are physically fit and mentally diligent and these qualities have enabled you to listen to this discourse on the Dhamma. What KAMMA is it? It is KĀYA KAMMA sir! Then in whispers you discuss about dhamma. This is VACI KAMMA Now you may be wondering in your mind what discourses are going to be preached. This is MANO KAMMA. How many kinds of **KAMMA** are there? Three sir! Then this is similar to which factor in which quadrant? This seems to be similar to SANKHARA in No. 1 quadrant which means activities, isn't it? Indeed it is sir! Then my audience would have asked me why it has been inserted here again. To learn a new word? The meaning seems to be similar, but they are not the same in terms of period [or time frame | SANKHARA donotes what you have done in past existences. Thus what you had done physically in past existences before coming into being in the present existence is KĀYA SANKHARA. What you have done physically in the present existence is KĀYA KAMMA. What you have done verbally in

past existences is VACI SANKHĀRA. What you have done in the present existence is VACI KAMMA. What you have done in your past existences involving mental processes is MANO SANKHĀRA. What you have done mentally in the present existence is MANO KAMMA. Thus the nature of the function is similar but not the name and the period [or time frame]. To repeat - the nature of actions are similar but not the period [or time frame]. That is why activities [in past existences] SANKHĀ-RA belong to the past [period] and actions or activities [in the present period] KAMMA belong to the present. Therefore action KAMMA has to be written in the third quadrant.

Let us go further to the fourth quadrant. In this quadrant the first word we encounter is JĀTI, arising or becoming. If asked what has arisen or become it is the becoming of the five aggregates, namely aggregate of matter Rūpakkhandha. aggregate of feeling VEDANĀkkhandha, aggregate of perception Saññākkhandha, aggregate of mental state Saṅkhārakkhandha and aggregate of consciousness viññāṇakkhanda. How many khandhas are there? Five sir! Well my virtuous audience, with how many khandhas are you listening to the discourse? With five khandhas sir! Repeat the five khandhas please! Rūpakkahandha VEDANĀkkhandha, Saññākkhandha, Sankhāra-kkhandha, VIÑĀNAkkhandha. That is right. Your are listening with five khandhas. To explain roughly, you are seeing one another sitting upright all around because you

all are NĀMARŪ PA dhamma which is the composition of the five khandhas [and the physical aggregate is known as | rū pakkhandha. When the [physical aggregate | rūpakkhandha has sat down and remained without movement for a long time, feelings of stiffness, pain and aching VEDANĀ appear. VEDANĀ combined with khandha is known as VEDANĀkhandha in Pali. Feeling of pleasure or pain, or even absence of any feeling of pleasure or pain is known as VEDANĀ. The feeling of indifference [absence of pleasure or pain] is known as uppekkha VEDANĀ. Therefore there are three types of VEDANĀ. namely sukha VEDANĀ, dukkha VEDANĀ and uppekkhā VEDANĀ.

Now we come to percepton Saññākkhandha. The function of sañña is to perceive, to note, to be aware. Combined with khandha it is known as saññākhandha. There are fifty-two mental states cetasika [s]. If feeling VEDANĀ and perception or noting saññā are taken out from these 52 mental states only fifty mental states are left, led by volition or motivating cetanā [which is the spring of action good or bad]. When these are collectively grouped they are known as Sankhā-rakkhandha in Pali. In fact SANKHĀRA is the name of volition cetanā and the leader of the remaining fifty mental s tates -cetasika. But if they are collectively grouped into aggregates or khandha they are known as Sankhārakkhandha, that is SANKHĀRA plus khandha. What are they known as? Sankhā

rakkhandha sir! They are all mental states - cetasika. So also are the aggregates of feeling VEDANĀkkhandha and of perception saññākhandha. Beyond them is the aggregate of consciousness VIÑÑĀNAkkhandha. What is that? VIÑÑĀNAkkhandha sir! The aggregate of consciousness VIÑÑĀNAkkhandha, the aggregate of feeling VEDANĀ-kkhandha, the aggregate of perception saññākkhandha and the aggregate of mental states Saṅkhārakkhandha, being mental phenomena are not visible by the eye. However the very first aggregate the physical body rūpakkhandha is visible. Is it right? Right Venerable sir! The remaining khandha[s] VEDANĀkkhadha, saññā kkhadha, Sankhārakkhandha and VIÑÑĀNAkhandha are not visible because they are nāmakkhandha[s]

How many nāmakkhandha[s] are there? There are four sir! Though nāmakkhandha[s] are not visible they can be perceived through knowledge. What are they? They are VEDANĀ kkhadha, saññākkhadha, SANKHĀRAkkhandha and VIÑNĀNAkhandha sir! How many nāmakkhandha[s]? Four sir! Of the five aggregates, the first or rūpakkhandha is a physical aggregate rūpakkhandha while the remaining four are mental aggregates nāmakkhandha[s]. This makes one rū pakkhandha and four nāmakkhandha[s]. In short they are rū pa and nāma or nāma and rūpa and whichever way you may choose to call them, they are the same, isn't it?

Just two kinds -rūpa and nāma dhamma[s] or nāma and

khandha[s]. Taken together they are five aggregates [or] khandha[s]. The becoming of rūpa and nāma or the five khandha[s] is JĀTI. Yes, that JĀTI evolves into old age JARĀ and eventually death MARĀNA. Whose death is it? It is the death of the five khandha[s].

<sup>8</sup>To summarize [the discourse on JĀTI, JARĀ and MARĀ NA]:-

JĀTI

Of

[Two] RŪPA NĀMA or five KHANDHA[s] JARĀ

Of

[Two] RÜPA NĀMA or five KHANDHA[s] MARĀŅA

Of

[Two] RŪPA NĀMA or five KHANDHA[s]

This is the way to discard wrong view ditthi. This is the way to digest [to proceed to comprehend the meaning of] Dependent Origination, Paticca Samuppāda. To begin with let us start roughly with the twelve factors of Dependent Origination, because they are the body of Paticca Samuppāda.

My virtuous audience and myself are revolving in the round of rebirths in the wheel of the twelve factors of Dependent Origination, Paticca Samuppāda.

When we look for the leading factors which have brought us

into the round of rebirths [which is Samsarā] we find the words AVIJJĀ ignorance in No. 1 quadrant and TANHĀ craving in No.3 quadrant. Yes! These two factors are the two original and primary causes that have brought us into the round of rebirths in Samsāra. In terms of Pail 'MŪLA' means origin, Thus the two original factors are AVIJJĀ ignorance and TANHĀ craving. They are the leaders of the twelve factors of Dependent Origination. In the series of the twelve factors of Dependent Origination the very first factor is AVIJJĀ ignorance. AVIJJĀ means 'not knowing the Four Noble Truths'. - to wit:-

- 1. The Noble Truth of Suffering
- 2. The Noble Truth of the Origin of Suffering.
- 3. The Noble Truth of the Extinction of Suffering.
- 4. The Noble Truth of the Path leading to the Extinction of Suffering.

According to the dictionary ignorance means knowing a little or nothing but in terms of the Buddha Dhamma AVIJJĀ is not knowing The Four Noble Truths mentioned above. What is SANKHĀRA? SANKHĀRA motivates activities i.e. it causes the formation of activities i.e. formation of kamma good or bad. AVIJJĀ is 'not' knowing. <sup>9</sup>The combination of these two words thus means 'acting or doing in ignorance' or acting indiscriminately. If this is so what will be the result of such actions? Definitely such acts will result in demeritorious deeds with horrible consequences. [Therefore] they will be the causes for bad resultants. Who are the authors? They are AVIJJĀ and TANHĀ. They are the bad causes.

When they are defined in terms of the Truth [sacca] AVIJJĀ and TANHĀ are named Samudaya Sacca. What are they named? Sumudaya Sacca sir! At the base of the first and third quadrants, don't you see Samudaya Sacca, referring to AVIJJĀ and SANKHĀRA? Yes, we do sir! Craving, clinging and attempting to acquire one's desire or craving are causes for bad resultants, and if defined in terms of sacca they are Samudaya Sacca. Why? Because they are the origin of the causes of saffering. What are they? They are AVIJJĀ and SANKHĀRA sir! [P18]

Originating from AVIJJĀ and SANKHĀRA, conseiousness VIÑÑĀNA, mind and matter NĀMARŪPA, six sense bases SALĀ YATANA, contact PHASSA, feelings VEDANĀ appear as resultants. Are these resultants, being the outcome of bad causes, good or bad resultants? They will certainly be bad resultants sir! If this is so they must be named in terms of Truth-Sacca. Under what category [of truth or Sacca] will they fall? It will be Dukkha Sacca sir! At the base of No.2 quadrant it is written that the above four factors VIÑÑANĀM through VENDANĀ are the Truth of Suffering - Dukkha Sacca Sir! Right you are! Let's now proceed further into No.3 quadrant in which TANHĀ, upādāna and KAMMA BHAVA have been inserted. What are they? They are TANHĀ, upādāna and KAMMA BHAVA sir! TANHĀ is craving, upādāna is clinging and KAMMA BHAVA is attempting. Therefore to repeat the

sequence in plain language:-

Craving! Clinging! Attempting! Craving! Clinging! Attempting! Craving! Clinging! Attempting!

[Note:- In the discourses of Mogok Mahā Thera verses and prose which are essential for memorizing have to be repeated for better retention in the memory according to the Puchaka method of preaching. When the Bhagavā preached the first Sutta the Dhammacakkapavattana Sutta and the Anatta-lakkhana Sutta they were propounded in the form of questions and answers]

Can the words Craving! Clinging! Attempting in the above verse be of any good? Not at all sir! Even when one hears them they sound bad. Because of craving, clinging and attempting, becoming JĀTI, [of] the so-called five khandha[s], aggregates of mind and matter will have to occur on the yonder side of [beyond] this existence, [i.e. in No.4 quadrant.] with its consequences of old age JARĀ and death MARAŅA following inexorably. Are their resultants good or bad? They are bad resultants indeed! Thus these three-craving, clinging and attempting are the bad causes of suffering and are of the same category as those factors mentioned in No. 1 quadrant, aren't they? Right they are <sup>10</sup>sir! Thus they must be named as Samudaya Sacca which points towards TANHĀ, UPĀDĀNA and KAMMA-BHAVA. What Sacca are these? They are

Samudaya Sacca. Right! They are bad caues. Because they are had causes for JATI, becoming [or arising] of the five aggregates which has to occur in No.4 quadrant. Isn't it? Yes it is sir! Are they good resultants or bad resultants? They are bad resultants venerable sir! Then if they are to be defined in terms of the Truth Sacca what Sacca will they be? They will be the Truth of Suffering which is mentioned at the base of No.4 quadrant. It refers to JĀTI, JARĀ and MARAŅA. Right now then! Ignorance AVIJJĀ and activities SANKHĀRA are Samudaya Sacca. The five factors [VIÑÑĀNAM, NĀMA-RŪPA, SALĀ YATANA and PHASSA] in No.2 quadrant are Dukkha Sacca, the three factors [TANHĀ, UPĀDĀNA and KAMMA-BHAVA] in No. 3 quadrant are Samudaya Sacca, and the two ractors in No.4 quadrant are Dukka Sacca. So, if we are to point out the Sacca[s] in their respective quadrants in sequence we will have to recite thus: - Samudaya Sacca - Dukkha Sacca -Samudaya Sacca - Dukkha Sacca. We recite the Sacca four times but there are only two Sacca involved. Thus the twelve factors fall into the category of two Saccas [Dukkha Sacca and Samudaya Sacca].

This is mentioned in the verse concerning Dependent origination as 'Two Saccas - Four Divisions'. Quadrants 1,2,3,4 may also be described as four divisions. Thus if you refer to the divisions, you will find ignorance AVIJJĀ, activities SANKHĀ -RA [factors] and Cause of Suffering Samudaya Sacca

[category] in No. I quadrant and craving TANHA, clinging UPA DANA and action KAMMA-becoming BHAVA [factors] in No.3 quadrant. The factors in both No.1 and No.3 quadrants are defined or classed as Samudava Sacca and thus fall under the same category. [of The Four Noble Truths] Why can't we put them together? 'You might ask. We cannot, because AVIJJA and SANKHĀRA concern [volitional activities committed in] the past period whereas TANHĀ, UPĀDANA and KAMMA BHAVA concern the present. If we try to, AVIJJA and SANKHĀRA will say 'No you cannot, our Samudaya was committed in the past while TANHA, UPADANA and KAMMA-BHAVA belong to the present, we do not belong to the same period.' Let us look at the other quadrants and see if we can put together any other elements in the quadrants or divisions]. Let us take Dukkha Sacca in No.2 quadrant which refers to the present resultant continuum and Dukha Sacca in No.4 quadrant which refers to future resultants. They too cannot be put together because they are of different periods namely, present and future Then there are only AVIJJA and SANKHARA that can be put together in No. I quadrant. They are of the same period [the pas] causal continuum]. If they are given a name - the causes of the past - who are they? They are AVIJJA and SANKHARA. Then let them live together as in a village with a fence around it.

When we look at [the factors in] No.3 quadrant we should note that they are not only of the present period but also the causes

of the future and thus belong to the division of the [present] causal continuum aren't they? TANHĀ, UPĀDĀNA and KAMMA-BHAVA [thus] belong to the present period but produce resultants in the future period and are in the division of the present causal continuum for future resultants. In what division are TANHĀ, UPĀDĀNA and KAMMA-BHAVA? They are in the present causal division sir! Right!

The five factors in No.2 quadrant and the two factors in No.4 quadrant are [in terms of Sacca] Dukkha Sacca, aren't they? Yes they are Sir! Right! When asked to combine they said 'No' Why? Because the five factors in No.2 quadrant are of the present period while the two factors in No.4 quadrant are of the future period sir! Then let them stay in their own separate groups.

Similarly VIÑĀNAM, NĀMARŪ PA, SAĻĀYATANA, PHASSA and VEDANĀ live in a group separately as in a village with fencing around them. These five factors are not only of the present period but also of the division of the present resultant continuum. Now, let us look at JĀTI, JARĀ and MARAŅA [Thus] these twelve factors of Dependent Origination Paţicca-Samuppāda fall into the four divisions which are named as follows:-

- 1. Division of past causal continuum
- 2. Division of present resultant continuum
- 3 Division of future causal continuum
- 4. Division of future resultant continuum

#### Thus:-

- 1. 2 factors AVIJJĀ and TANHĀ of No. 1 quadrant fall into No. 1 division of past causal continuum.
- 2. 5 factors VIÑÑĀNA, NĀMARŪPA, SAĻĀYATANA, PHASSA and VEDANĀ of No. 2 quadrant fall into No.2 division of present resultant continuum.
- 3. 3 factors TANHĀ, UPĀDĀNA and KAMMA-BHAVA
  of No. 3 quadrant fall into No.3 division of future causal
  inum.
- 4. Lors JĀTI and JARĀ-MARAŅĀ of No. 4 quadrant fall into No. Vivision of future resultant continuum.

How many divisions are there according to the verse? Four divisions sir! How many factors? Twelve factors sir! My virtuous audience, let us recite the twelve factors together.

In Pali - AVIJJĀ, SANKHĀRA; VIÑNĀNA, NĀMARŪPA, SAĻĀYATANA, PHASSA, VEDANĀ; TANHĀ, UPĀDĀNA, KAMMA-BHAVA; JĀTI, JARĀ-MARAŅA.

In plain language - Ignorance, Activities; Consciousness, Mind & Matter, Six Sensory Bases, Contact, Feeling; Craving, Clinging/Grasping, Action-Becoming; Rebirth, Old age-Death.

They have already made known their wishes that they do not want to be mixed up indiscriminately and that they want to be on their own? Yes they have sir! How can we let them have their wish? Now let us recite the twleve factors with a little pause in

between the quadrants, thus:-

AVIJJĀ, SANKHĀRA; [a little pause] VINNĀNA, NĀ MARŪPA, SAĻĀ YATANA, PHASSA, VEDANĀ; [a little pause] TANHĀ, UPĀ DĀNA, KAMMA-BHAVA; [a little pause] JĀTI, JARĀ-MARAŅA.

Very good! Reciting the above twelve factors with a little pause between the quadrants is very appropriate and natural and depicts the twelve factors quadrant by quadrant vividly. When Paticca Samuppāda is analyzed in terms of factors there are twelve factors isn't it? Yes there are sir! In other words these twelve factors are the main body of Paticca Samuppāda. That is why in the verse they are described as the body of Dhamma.

When death MARANA occurs, the incidental consequences are sorrow soka, lamentation parideva, misery dukkha, anger domanassa, and grief upāyāsa. They are not the twelve factors or body [of Paţicca Samuppāda] but the natural sequential states that follow in the wake of death among worldlings. It is to be noted that sorrow soka and lamentation parideva never occur in Buddhas and Arahats. They occur in ordinary laymen.

The twelve factors occur in Buddhas and Arahats also. Thus it is to be noted that the twelve factors concern Buddhas and Arahats as well as worldlings. How many factors are there? There are twelve factors sir! After the [twelve] factors are the three links or connections that connect the four quadrants. Between the

first and second quadrants there is one link; between the second and third quadrants there is one link; between the third and fourth quadrants there is one link. Thus altogether there are three links or connections, is it not?

four heaps or mounds of paddy. There is a connection between the first and second heaps, another between the second and third heaps and still another between the third and fourth heaps of paddy. How many connections are there between the four heaps or mounds of paddy? There are three sir! that's right. To explain further, in the first quadrant of the diagram the last word [or factor] is SANKHĀRA and in the second quadrant the first word [or factor] is VIÑNĀNAM. Thus the first link or connection is between SANKHĀRA and VIÑNĀNAM. Similarly between the last word of the second quadrant VEDANĀ and the first word TANHĀ of the third quadrant there is another. Finally, between the last word of the fourth quadrant there is the third and the first word of the fourth quadrant JĀTI there is the third link. So how many links are threre altogether? Three sir! Right!

Let us now look at the Two Origins. What did I say? Two Origins sir! You must have heard this word 'origin' before haven't you? [Are they] The two origins that you mentioned in the verse sir? Yes! At that time I recited the words in Pali mula which means 'origin'. How many 'origins' [were mentioned]? Two sir! They are ignorance AVIJIA and craving TANHA, is it

not? AVIJJĀ is the very first factor in No 1 quadrant and TANHĀ is the very first one from No. 3 quadrant. At that time I have recited 'Mula two in number.' Now I am describing them as two 'Mulas' two origins. Any way they are the <sup>13</sup>same. I.e. AVIJJĀ and TANHĀ, you can repeat that again. [Let us say]. I have changed them around as TANHĀ [the first word in No. 3 quadrant] and AVIJJĀ just to change the sound. What is that? TANHĀ and AVIJJĀ sir! They are the two 'origins' Mula.

In the verse 'Vatta' comes after Mūla the origin. The concept of 'Vatta' is an integral part of the twelve factors of Dependent Origination Paticca Samuppāda. Vatta means circle. round, revolving recurring cycles, round and round of the wheel of life [the infinite cycles or rounds of rebirths in Samsāra]. Now then [let us see] who turns the wheel of life. Let us refer to the cyclic Diagram of Dependent Origination and look for the word AVIJJĀ [rhymes with fire]. If we were to ask AVIJJĀ if he turned the wheel of life of creatures sattava he would reply, 'Sure!' and if asked how he did it he would say.  $1-AVIJJ\bar{A}$  - make the mind of creatures. Sattavā - dirty and impure '[Continuing the dialogue]. 'Are you alone?' No, not at all! I have my own kith and kin as accomplices.' 'Where are they now and where did you leave them?" I never leave them, we are always in touch. They are always at arm's length, we have links between one another and we always go hand in hand."

In this case we can be positive that the members of the band

of culprits are ignorance AVIJJA, craving TANHA, clinging UTA  $-\mathbf{D}\bar{\mathbf{A}}\mathbf{N}\mathbf{A}$ , and impurities of mind Kilesa which turn the wheel of life. The round of rebirths is VATTA; thus KILESA plus VATTA is KILESA VATTA. How many KILESA VATTA are there? There are three sir! Who are they? They are AVIJJA, TANIIA and UPADANA sir! Right! let us ask SANKHARA if he also turns the wheel of life. He would reply.' Of course I do. 'If ask: if he does it in the same way as AVIJJA, he would say,' I am on my own and I don't do it directly; I just torture creatures, kicking and beating them before throwing them out into the round of rebirths Samsāra. 'Are you alone SANKHĀRA?' 'Don' underestimate me. I have a very close relative. You are rather inquisitive aren't you? But since you want to know so much you better follow me along this little piece of string until you reach action KAMMA, becoming BHAVA, i.e. KAMMA-BHAVA in the third quadrant.' ['What is that?' 'KAMMA-BHAVA sir!' 'KAMMA-BHAVA is my relative and has the character of torturing and oppressing creatures in the same way as I do since we are birds of the same feather.' [added SANKHĀRA]. Yes! torturing, beating, kicking and oppressing are all the work of **KAMMA** in the very present existence. Turning the wheel round and round is Vatta. Thus the combination of KAMMA and VATTA becomes KAMMA-VATTA. Then how many **KAMMA-VATTA**[s] are there?

There are two. They are SANKHARA and KAMMA-

**VATTA**. Who and who? **SANKHĀRA** and **KAMMA** sir! Yes, it is right! The rest are **vipāka** vatta[s].

How many vipāka vatta[s] are there? There are eight sir! Are you sure? There are only twelve factors of Paticca Samuppā da. Out of those, three vatta[s] are kilesa vatta[s] and two are kamma vatta [s]. Two plus three makes five. Substract five from twelve and the reminder is seven. What is the remainder? Seven sir! The remainder is seven, right! Let us see what they are. They are VIÑÑĀ NAM, NĀ MARŪ PA, SAĻĀ YATANA, PHASSA and  $VEDAN\bar{A}$  from No.2 quadrant and  $J\bar{A}TI$  and JARĀ-MARANA from No. 4 quadrant. Therefore there are only seven left, isn't it? Right sir! All these remaining factors are vipāka vatta[s]. You may erply that according to what is written on the chart there are eight vipāka vatta[s].Oh! That is because UPAPATTI - BHAVA has been included If this is included how many [vipāka vatta[s] will there be? Eight sir! Then insert it in No.4 quadrant under the word JATI. You might ask from where UPAPATTI-BHAVA comes. I will explain it later on because it will take quite some time to clarify it. Then UPAPATTI-BHAVA is an addition. If this is counted the remainder is eight sir!

At the moment we are dealing with the main factors aren't we? Yes we are sir! Let us now count the vipāka vatta[s]. They are VIÑÑĀNAM, NĀMARŪPA, SALĀYATANA, PHASSA and VEDANĀ from No.2 quadrant and JĀTI, JARĀ-MARAŅA and UPAPATTI-BHAVA [from No. 4 quadrant]

How many are there altogether? Eight sir! I will tell you later how UPAPATTI-BHAVA comes into the list of vipāka vatta[s].

Thus if the twelve factors of **Paticca-Samupāda** are analyzed in terms of **vatta** they fall into the following three categories, namely:-

Three KILESA VATTA[s]

Two KAMMA VATTA[s]

Eight VIPĀKA VATTA[s]

If the twelve factors of Paţicca-Samuppāda are to be arranged in sequence [according to the respective periods in which they occur], AVIJJĀ and SANKHĀRA from No. 1 quadrant are of the past period. Where do they occur? They are of the past period sir! I will repeat - AVIJJĀ and SANKHĀRA are of the past period. JĀTI and JARĀ-MARAŅA are from No.4 quadrant. They occur in the future period, in other words, in the forthcoming period after the present existence. VIÑNĀNAM. NĀMARŪPA, SAĻĀYATANA, PHASSA and VEDANĀ from No.2 quadrant and TANHĀ, UPĀDĀNA and KAMMA-BHAVA from No. 3 quadrant, that is 5+3 = 8 factors are of the present period. I will repeat: -5 factors form No.2 quadrant plus 3 factors from No.3 quadrant making 8 factors are from the very present period.

How many periods? Three periods sir! Thus to summarize, when the twelve factors of **Paticca-Samuppāda** are arranged in series [according to periods] the result will be as follows:-

- 1. **AVIJJĀ** and **SANKHĀRA** from No. I quadrant are of the Past Period.
- 2. **JĀTI** and **JARĀ-MARANA** from No. 4 quadrant are of the Future Period.
- 3. VIÑNANAM, NĀMARUPA, SALĀYATANA, PHASSA, VEDANĀ from No.2 quadrant and TANHĀ, UPĀ DANA, KAMMABHAVA from No. 3 quadrant are of the very present period.

In the verse [concerning the cyclical diagram of Paticca-Samuppāda], after the three periods come the twenty modes. In No. 1 quadrant pertaining to the past, only AVIJJĀ and SANKHĀRA are to be found but SANKHĀRA insists, 'TANHĀ and UPĀDĀNA in No.3 quadrant are my close associates,' while TANHĀ also claims that KAMMA-BHAVA in No. 3 quadrant is his accomplice. Thus AVIJJĀ, SANKHĀ RA, TANHĀ, UPĀDĀNA and KAMMA-BHAVA together make up the five modes of the Past Causal Continuum.

Let us now go to No. 2 quadrant. There we will easily find the five modes of the Present Resultant Continuum. They are VIÑNANAM, NĀMARŪPA, SALĀYATANA, PHASSA, VEDANĀ.

When we come to No. 3 quadrant, of the Present Causal Continuum, we find only three factors **TANHĀ**. **UPĀDANA** and **KAMMA-BHAVA** instead of five. [As we have seen when we studied No. 1 quadrant they are very close indeed to **AVIJJĀ** 

and SANKHĀRA, constantly keeping in touch, conspiring together when ever a chance occurs and generally working together hand in glove. The close associate of TANHĀ and UPĀ DĀNA [in No. 3 quadrant] is AVIJJĀ [ignorance] in No. 1 quadrant while that of KAMMA-BHAVA [in No.3 quadtant] is SANKHĀRA [activities] in No. 1 quadrant. [Note:- KAMMA refers to actions of the present while SANKHĀRA always refers to activities of the past. After counting the factors of the Present Causal Continuum let us insert their close associates. Thus the five modes of The Present Causal Continuum are:- TANHĀ, UPĀDĀNA, KAMMA-BHAVA, AVIJJĀ and SANKHĀRA.

Let us now go to No.4 quadrant [to find out] which are the five modes of the Future Resultant Continuum. There we find only two factors JĀTI and JARĀ-MARAŅA. Even then the two factors JĀTI and JARĀ-MARAŅA cannot be found in the five modes of the Future Resultant Continuum. We shall now look at the five factors in No. 2 quadrant, namely - VIÑÑĀNAM, NĀMARŪ PA, SAĻĀ YATANA, PHASSA and VEDANĀ. These are in fact the five modes of the Future Resultant Continuum. Now, it seems that JARĀ and MARAŅA have been left out! No, not at all! JĀTI [becoming is the occurring of the Five Khandha[s] in No. 2 quadrant while JARĀ [old age] and MARAŅA [death] are, respectively, old age [JARĀ] and death [MARAŅA] of the Five Khandha[s] in No.2 quadrant. So then, have they been left out? No, not at all sir! Right, now let us

recount the twenty modes:-

- The five modes of the Past Causal Continuum
- 2. The five modes of the Present Resultant Continuum
- 3. The five modes of the Present Causal Continuum
- 4. The five modes of the Future Resultant Continuum  $[5 \times 4 = 20 \text{ modes}]$

How many constituent parts are there in Dependent Origination Paticca-Samuppāda? There are eight constituent parts sir! It starts from the Two Origins doesn't it? Are The Two Origins included in the twelve factors? Yes, they are sir! [If they are classified] by SACCA How many SACCA [s] are there? Two SACCA [s] sir! By divisions, how many divisions are there? Four divisions sir! By factors, how many factors are there? Twelve factors sir! By links, how many links are there? Three links sir! By VATTA [s] how many VATTA [s] are there? Three periods sir! By modes, how many modes are there? Twenty modes sir!

Now let us count them on our fingers: -

- The two Origins are one constituent part
   The Two Truths are one constituent part
   The Four Divisions are one constituent part
   The Twelve Factors are one constituent part
   The Three Links are one constituent part
   The Three Vatta [s] are one constituent part
- 7. The Three Periods are one constituent part

8. The Twenty Modes are - one constituent part How many constitutent parts are there? Eight sir!

These eight constituent parts are to be learnt thoroughly and comprehended through knowledge. They are the causes of the round of rebirths **Samsāra** and the path to freedom from **Samsāra** lies through [our understanding of] these causes.

Now the discourse on the eight constituent parts is over and our time is up.

#### Sādhu! Sādhu! Sādhu!

Translated by Commander Thein Han, B.N. [Retd.]

## THE LENGTHY ROUND OF REBIRTHS SAMSĀRA

DISCOURSE NO.2 13-04-93 EVENING

Today being the day of commencement of Vipassanā Bhāvanā, I will continue my discourse on the basics of Dependent Origination. So let us continue with our study of Dependent Origination Paţicca Samuppāda.

Assuming that there is a white screen erected on this side draw a circle on it by yourselves. Have you done so? Yes we have done so sir! How fast it is to draw a circle in our imagination! Now draw a diameter from the top of the circle to the bottom. Then draw another horizontally so that it is at right angles to the first. Now how many quadrants are formed in the circle? Four sir! Number the top right quadrant as No.1, the bottom right as No.2. The bottom left as No.3 and the top left as No.4 respectively. Now let us insert the relevant factors of **Paţicca Samuppāda** in each of the four quadrants.

Insert two factors, ignorance AVIJJĀ and activities SANKHĀRA In No. 1 quadrant. Yes they are AVIJJĀ and SANKHĀRA, only two of them. Do you all remember? Yes we do sir! Disregard the remaining words for the time being. Insert five factors in No.2 quadrant. VIÑNANAM, NĀMA RŪPA, SALĀYATANA, PHASSA, VEDANĀ.