



www.dhammadstream.org

Namo Tassa Bhagavato Arahato Sammasambuddhasa

Published by

Buddhist Discussion Centre Australia.

33 Brooking Street, Upwey, Victoria 3158, Australia

Email: wbu@bdcu.org.au

Website: www.bdcu.org.au

May You Be Well And Happy

Associated Institution of the World Buddhist University

Summary

Buddhism teaches that there are many planes or frequencies of consciousness where beings can take birth, in accordance with what the Buddha and many other awakened ones perceive directly.

These planes of existence include some births, such as human and animal, where the beings have a coarse material body. In some other planes, such as deva (heaven) worlds, beings have a fine material body which usually cannot be perceived by the human physical eye, and finally, above the deva heavens beings can be born as mind only, not having any body or form whatever.

These planes of existence are listed below although some of the subdivisions of some of the lower realms are not elaborated.

THE PLANES OF EXISTENCE:

*0 is Opapayika, i.e. Instantaneous Rebirth

Four formless attainments	0*	The Base consisting of neither-perception-nor-non perception (the Summit of Existence)
	0	The Base consisting of nothingness
	0	The Base consisting of infinity of consciousness
	0	The Base consisting of infinity of space

FORM DISAPPEARS

Pure abodes of non-returns	0	Akanittha (junior to none)
	0	Sudassi (fair-seeing)
	0	Sudassa (fair-to-see)
	0	Atappa (untormenting)
	0	Aviha (bathed in their own prosperity)

4th Jhana	0	Asannasatta (non-percipient beings)
	0	Vehapphala (very fruitful)

3rd Jhana	0	Subhakinna (refulgent glory)
	0	Appamanasubha (measureless glory)
	0	Parittasubha (limited glory)

2nd Jhana	0	Abhassara (streaming radiance)
	0	Appamanabha (measureless radiance)
	0	Parittabha (limited radiance)

1st Jhana	0	Mahabrama (Great Brahma)
	0	Brahmapurohita (Brahma's Ministers)

0 Brahmaparisajja (Brahma's Retinue)

FIVE HINDRANCES DISAPPEAR

Faith 0 Paranimmitavasavatti (wielding power over other's creations)

Generosity

& eight

precepts

0 Nimmanarati (delight in creating)

0 Tusita (contented)

0 Yama (gone to bliss)

0 Tavatimsa (thirty-three)

0 Catumaharajika (four great kings)

five
precepts

Womb
Born

Human beings (manussa)

Desire for
power

0

Demons (asura)

Meanness,
Attachment

0

Ghosts (peta)

Stupidity,
Animal
Desires

Womb
Born -
Egg
Born

Animals (tiracchana)

Cruelty,
Torture,
Killing.

0

Beings in Hell - The World of Yama, or Niraya
