

Fundamental Knowledge of **Abhidhamma**

Lesson – 16 –

Immaterial-sphere Consciousness

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Recommended reading – CMA – P.60 to 64
p. 342 - §19

Arūpabhūmi – Four realms in which matter has been totally transcended and only consciousness and mental factors remain.

Arūpāvacara Citta – the consciousnesses pertaining to the immaterial plain of existence (*Arūpabhūmi*).

The (Wholesome) attainment of *Arūpajjhāna* by worldings(*Puthujjana*) and trainees(*Sekha*)

The (Functional) attainment of *Arūpajjhāna* by *Arahant*

The (Resultant) consciousness of *Arūpajjhāna* Which arise through rebirth in the immaterial realms

Four Types Of Arūpāvacara Citta –

- 1. Ākāśānañcāyatana citta –*
the consciousness pertaining to the base of Infinite Space
- 2. Viññāṇañcāyatana citta –*
the consciousness pertaining to the base of Infinite Consciousness
- 3. Ākiñcañāyatana citta –*
the consciousness pertaining to the base of Nothingness
- 4. Nevasaññā-nāsaññāyatana citta –*
the consciousness pertaining to the base of Neither perception
nor non-perception

Wholesome – 4 + Resultants – 4 + Functional - 4 = 12 (*Arūpajjhāna cittas*)

| Immaterial-sphere Consciousness - 12 | Types Of Consciousness | Two Jhāna-Factors |
|--|---|--|
| Immaterial-sphere Wholesome Consciousness – 4 | Con...Pertaining to the base of Infinite Space | (1) Equanimity (2) One-pointedness |
| | Con...Pertaining to the base of Infinite Consciousness | (1) Equanimity (2) One-pointedness |
| | Con...Pertaining to the base of Nothingness | (1) Equanimity (2) One-pointedness |
| | Con...Pertaining to the base of Neither perception nor non-perception | (1) Equanimity (2) One-pointedness |
| Immaterial-sphere Resultant Consciousness – 4 | As they are produced by the wholesome, identical with <i>Kusala</i> (wholesome) | |
| Immaterial-sphere Functional Consciousness – 4 | Same as <i>Kusala</i> (Wholesome) (the only difference is not producing result) | |

Mahaggata Citta – Sublime Consciousnesses

1) *Rūpāvacara Citta* –

Fine-material sphere Consciousness (15)

2) *Arūpāvacara Citta* –

Immaterial sphere Consciousness (12)

(27) Sublime consciousness

Jhāna-cittas (Absorption Consciousness)

(Meditative attainments) {P.64}

As all Arūpāvacara-Cittas – have two jhāna-factors of equanimity and one-pointedness, they are included in fifth-jhāna (*pañcamajjhāna*)

(*Rūpāvacara-pañcamajjhāna* – 3 +

Arūpāvacara-Cittas – 12 = 15 - *Pañcamajjhāna-cittas*). {p.64}

| Name of Jhāna | Fine-Material-sphere-Consciousness - 15 | Immaterial-sphere Consciousness - 12 | Sublime Consciousnesses - 27 | By way of Feeling |
|----------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| First Jhāna | 3 | × | 3 | Accompanied by joy - 12 |
| Second Jhāna | 3 | × | 3 | |
| Third Jhāna | 3 | × | 3 | |
| Fourth Jhāna | 3 | × | 3 | |
| Fifth Jhāna | 3 | 12 | 15 | Accompanied by equanimity - 15 |

The attainment of first Arūpajjhāna –

The base of infinite space – (The meditator who has mastered the fifth fine-material *jhāna* based on a *kasina* object) spread out the counterpart sign of the *kasina* until it becomes immeasurable in extent.

Then he removes the *kasina* by attending only to the space it pervaded, contemplating it as “infinite space.”

Through repeated attention given in this way, there eventually arises in absorption a citta having as object the concept of infinite space (*Ākāśapaññatti*). See p.342 §19

| (Direct) Objects | Contemplation | Attainments |
|---|---|---|
| The concept of infinite space (<i>Ākāsa-paññatti</i>) | “ <i>Ananto Ākāso</i> – Infinite space” | <i>Ākāsañāncāyatana</i> <i>jhāna</i> |
| First Immaterial-sphere consciousness (<i>Ākāsañāncāyatana citta</i>) | “ <i>Anantaṃ viññāṇaṃ</i> - Infinite consciousness” | <i>Viññāṇañāncāyatana</i> <i>jhāna</i> |
| The Concept of Non-existence (or) Nothingness (of First Immaterial-sphere consciousness) (<i>Natthibhāva-paññatti</i>) | “ <i>Natthi kiñci</i> – there is nothing whatsoever” | <i>Ākiñcañāyatana</i> <i>jhāna</i> |
| Third Immaterial-sphere consciousness (<i>Ākiñcañāyatana citta</i>) | “ <i>Santa’metaṃ, paṇīta’metaṃ</i> - It is peaceful; it is good” | <i>Nevasaññā-</i> <i>nāsaññāyatana</i> <i>jhāna</i> |

(See – P.63)

| Immaterial-sphere Consciousness - 12 | Consciousness | Transcended Objects (Atikkamitabba) | Direct Objects (Ālambitabba) |
|--|--|--|---|
| Immaterial-sphere Wholesome Consciousness – 4 | Con...Pertaining to the base of Infinite Space | Concept of <i>Kasiṇa</i> | Concept of inf.Space |
| | Con...Pertaining to the base of Infinite Consciousness | Concept of inf.Space | Consciousness of Inf.Space |
| | Con...Pertaining to the base of Nothingness | Consciousness of Inf.Space | Concept of nothingness |
| | Con...Pertaining to the base of Neither perception nor non- perception | Concept of nothingness | Consciousness of the base of nothingness |
| Immaterial-sphere Resultant Consciousness – 4 | As they are produced by the wholesome, identical with <i>Kusala</i> (wholesome) | | |
| Immaterial-sphere Functional Consciousness – 4 | Same as <i>Kusala</i> (Wholesome) (the only difference is not producing result) ⁹ | | |