

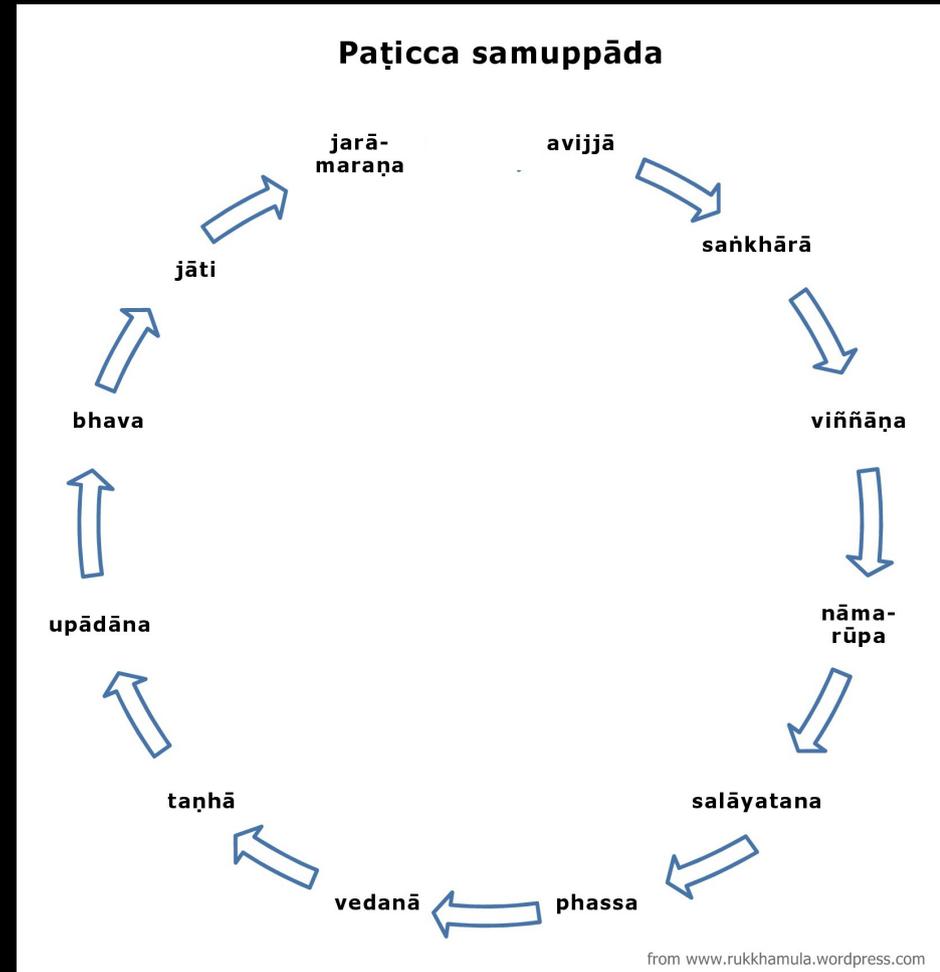
Brahmanism vs. Buddhism



Response to Brahmanism

- Creation of world vs. rebirth
- Self vs. nonself
- Desirable vs. undesirable
- Mythology vs. realism
- Redefinition + polemic

Creation of world vs. rebirth



Creation of world vs. rebirth

“The appearance of darkness hidden by itself ...”
(PwF, p.81)

“The manifestation of the creative power of the Absolute ...” (p.81)

“This cosmogonic Creator's wish to create the *ātman* is sometimes expressed by ... the verb *sam + kṛ [saṅkhāra]* ...” (p.83)

“Then, he devours food with his eating part. Thus, Prajāpati builds himself up (*ātmānam abhisamṣkaroti*), which is a natural consequence of eating.” (p.83)

Creation of world vs. rebirth

“He kills the animals, cuts off their heads, puts them on, and throws the torsos into the water. Then he looks for the torsos, calling them himself (*ātman* ...). He takes water and earth which was in the contact with the torsos of the animals and builds bricks. ... He bakes the bricks in the fire and out of the torsos of the animals he builds the altar; the heads he puts under the altar. Thus he reunites the heads of the animals with the torsos in the fire altar which is himself, his own *ātman*, and becomes the fire ...” (p.83)

Creation of world vs. rebirth

“We may assume that the *avidyā* link refers to all the states of ignorance (objective states) which manifest themselves in the cosmogony. So the *saṃskāra* link refers to all the acts of the creative will to dispel ignorance, and the *vijñāna* link refers to all the subjective manifestations which realize this will. This means that the sequence *avidyā* – *saṃskāra* – *vijñāna* can be used to express the whole Vedic creation.” (p.88)

Creation of world vs. rebirth

Brahmanism

- Ignorance of everything
- Desiring *ātman*, eating, killing, building an altar
- Creation of cosmos, humans, and inner self

Buddhism

- Ignorance of specific things, delusion
- Intentional actions (*kamma*)
- Rebirth