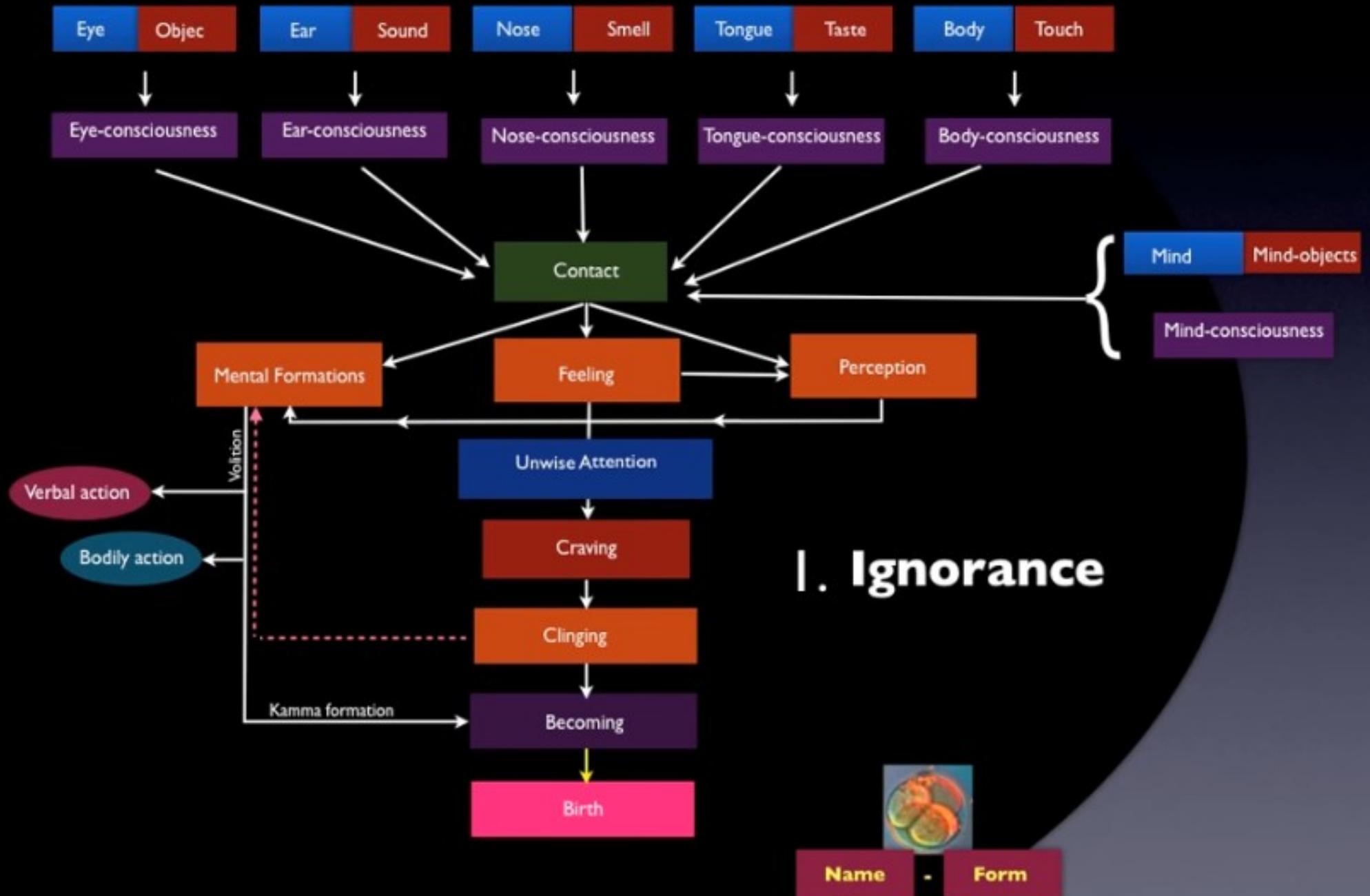


Last week...

Why Dependent Origination?

The Dependent Origination



Why Dependent Origination?

- to explain the noble truths
- to provide more “weapons”

This week...

Causal
or
Dependent ?

“Dependent origination is cause
and effect.”

“Dependent origination is also
called the law of causality.”

A Sufi story

“What is Fate?” Nasrudin was asked by a scholar.

“An endless succession of intertwined events, each influencing the other.”

“That is hardly a satisfactory answer. I believe in cause and effect.”

“Very well,” said the Nasrudin, “look at that.” He pointed to a procession passing in the street. “That man is being taken to be hanged. Is that because someone gave him a silver piece and enabled him to buy the knife with which he committed the murder; or because someone saw him do it; or because nobody stopped him?” — *Indries Shas*

causal versus **dependent** (or **'conditional'**)

“Conditional statements are not statements of causality. [...] Confusion commonly arises since many different statements in English may be presented using ‘If..., then...’ form.”

— Wikipedia 'causality'

causal versus **dependent** (or **'conditional'**)

“In general, a process has many causes, which are also said to be causal factors for it, and all lie in its past.”

— Wikipedia 'causality'

Example of the difference

For rain to fall, there need to be clouds.

So rain depends on clouds; clouds are a condition for rain.

Clouds do not really “cause” rain.

Humidity and gravity (among other things) cause rain.

Example of the difference

For it to be Christmas, it needs to be December 25th.

So Christmas depends on December 25th; December 25th is a condition for Christmas.

December 25th does not really “cause” Christmas.

Santa Claus causes Christmas!

Example of the difference

Before you can die, you need to be born.

So death depends on birth; birth is a condition for death.

Birth does not really “cause” death.

Heart attacks and crossing the street without looking cause death.

Does the difference matter?

Karma (willed acts) causes rebirth

versus

Your rebirth depends on your karma

Does the difference matter?

Sensations (*vedanā*) cause craving

versus

Craving depends on sensations

- *paṭicca*: dependent
(from *pacceṭi*: to fall back on, to depend on)
- *paṭicca-samuppāda*: dependent origination
- “The body is dependent (*paṭicca*) on food and will die without it.” (SN46.2)
- “An oil lamp burns dependent (*paṭicca*) on the wick and oil.” (SN12.53)
- Sariputta: “Imagine two bundles of reeds that stand leaning against one another. Likewise, the mental aspects and form of a being are dependent (*paṭicca*) on consciousness, and consciousness is dependent on the mental aspects and form of a being.” (SN12.67)

- *paccaya*: support, condition, something one depends on, requisite, necessity
(also from *pacceti*)
- “Someone gives ... clothes, bedding, food, drink, and various kinds of requisites (*paccayas*) to the monks.” (AN5.44)
- “The noble one's knowledge is not dependent (*paccaya*) on others.” (SN12.15)
- “Dependent (*paccaya*) on birth, there is old age and death.” (SN12.1)

- *idap-paccaya*: dependent on something
- *idap-paccaya-tā*: dependency on something ('specific conditionality')
- “Ananda, if you are asked whether old age and death are dependent on something (*idap-paccaya*), you should answer that they are. And if you are asked what old age and death are dependent on, you should answer that old age and death are dependent on birth.” (DN15)

Dependency

- Imasmim̐ sati, idaṃ hoti.
Imass'uppādā, idaṃ uppajjati.
- Imasmim̐ asati, idaṃ na hoti.
Imassa nirodhā, idaṃ nirujjhati. (e.g. SN12.21)
- There will be *this*, only if there is *that*.
This arises, because *that* arises.
- If there isn't *that*, there won't be *this*.
If *that* ceases, *this* will cease.
- There will be *B*, only if there is *A*.
B arises, because *A* arises.
- If there isn't *A*, there won't be *B*.
If *A* ceases, *B* will cease.

Example of dependency

- There will be *this*, only if there is *that*.
This arises, because *that* arises.
 - If there isn't *that*, there won't be *this*.
If *that* ceases, *this* will cease.

 - There will be rain only if there are clouds.
If rain falls, it's because clouds formed first.
 - It stops raining if there are no more clouds.
If the clouds disappear, the rain will stop.
- Clouds are necessary for rain. Rain is dependent on clouds.

Example of dependency

- There will be *this*, only if there is *that*.
This arises, because *that* arises.
 - If there isn't *that*, there won't be *this*.
If *that* ceases, *this* will cease.
 - You can die only if you were born.
If death happens, it's because birth happened.
 - You won't die again if you are not born again.
If birth ceases, death will cease.
- Birth is necessary for death. Death is dependent on birth.

“Specific conditionality [*idap-pacayatā*] is a relationship of indispensability and dependency: the indispensability of the condition (e.g. birth) to the arisen state (e.g. aging and death), the dependency of the arisen state upon its condition.”

— Bhikkhu Bodhi

Causality

Dependency

Dependency applied

“Before my awakening—when I was not yet fully awake, still to wake up—I thought: ‘Oh no! People have really gotten into trouble. They get born, age, die, pass on, and then get reborn again. And no-one sees any escape from this suffering of old age and death and such. When will an escape from all this finally be found?’ ... (SN12.10)

Dependency applied

... Then I thought: 'There will be old age and death, only if there is what? What are old age and death dependent on?' Then, by focusing appropriately, I penetrated it. I understood that there will be old age and death, only if there is birth. Old age and death are dependent on birth.

[And so on...]

Then I thought: 'There will be willed acts, only if there is what? What are willed acts dependent on?' Then, by focusing appropriately, I penetrated it. I understood that there will be willed acts, only if there is ignorance. Willed acts are dependent on ignorance. ...

- ... So, dependent on ignorance, there are willed acts.
- Dependent on willed acts, there is consciousness.
- Dependent on consciousness, there are the mental aspects and form of a being.
- Dependent on the mental aspects and form of a being, there are the six senses.
- Dependent on the six senses, there are sense impressions.
- Dependent on sense impressions, there are sensations.
- Dependent on sensations, there is craving.
- Dependent on craving, there is fuel/taking up.
- Dependent on fuel/taking up, there is life.
- Dependent on life, there is birth.
- And dependent on birth, there come to be old age and death, and sorrow, grief, pain, sadness, and distress.

... I then thought: 'There won't be old age and death, if there isn't what? Old age and death will cease, if what ceases? Then, by focusing appropriately, I penetrated it. I understood that there won't be old age and death, if there is no birth. If birth ceases, old age and death will cease.

[And so on ...]

Then I thought: 'There won't be willed acts, if there isn't what? Willed acts will cease, if what ceases? Then, by focusing appropriately, I penetrated it. I understood that there won't be willed acts, if there is no ignorance. If ignorance ceases, willed acts will cease. ...

- ... So, if ignorance ceases, willed acts will cease.
- If willed acts cease, consciousness will cease.
- If consciousness ceases, the mental aspects and form of a being will cease.
- If the mental aspects and form of a being cease, the six senses will cease.
- If the six senses cease, sense impressions will cease.
- If sense impressions cease, sensations will cease.
- If sensations cease, craving will cease.
- If craving ceases, fuel/taking up will cease.
- If fuel/taking up ceases, life will cease.
- If life ceases, birth will cease.
- And if birth ceases, old age and death, and sorrow, grief, pain, sadness, and distress will cease.



ignorance

willed acts

consciousness

"name and form"

six senses

sense impressions

craving

fuel / taking up

life

birth

old age & death