

## CHAPTER 6. CAUSAL CONDITION

The Nidāna Saṃyutta (Connected with Causal Condition) of SN and its Chinese counterpart, Yinyuan Xiangying (因緣相應)<sup>1</sup> of SA, deal mainly with *arising by causal condition* (paṭicca-samuppāda 緣起), one of the fundamental teachings of early Buddhism. The SN version has ninety-three discourses, and the SA version fifty-seven;<sup>2</sup> some forty-four discourses are common to the two versions. For twenty-five of the SA discourses (and their SN counterparts) the Sanskrit source text (largely complete) is available and will be referred to in footnotes.<sup>3</sup> This chapter compares the content of the Pāli and Chinese, regarding both the main topic, *arising by causal condition*, and also some subsidiary related topics.

### 1. Arising by causal condition and dharmas arisen by causal condition

Regarding *causal condition*, SN 12. 20<sup>4</sup> and its counterpart SA 296<sup>5</sup> record the Buddha as teaching two closely related concepts. The SN version states:<sup>6</sup>

I will teach you, bhiksus, *arising by causal condition* (paṭiccasamuppāda) and *dharmas* (phenomena) *arisen by causal condition* (paṭicca-samuppanne ca dhamme<sup>7</sup>).

In the SA version (SA 296) the corresponding terms are: 因緣法 (yinyuan fa = 緣起法 yuanqi fa) *the dharma of arising by causal condition*, and 緣生法 (yuansheng fa) *dharmas arisen by causal condition*.<sup>8</sup> The first of these differs from the Pāli in having a suffixed “dharma” – evidently in the sense of “law” or “nature”. This is likely to have been added by the translator, because the Sanskrit agrees with the Pāli, giving the two terms as “praṭīyasamutpādaṃ

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1 Skt. Nidāna Saṃyukta.

2 On the discourses and their locations, see Chapter 1, p. 19, and Appendix 1, pp. 244, 248.

3 Chandrabhāl TRIPĀṬHĪ, *Fünfundzwanzig Sūtras des Nidānasamyyukta* (Akademie-Verlag, Berlin, 1962). The twenty-five sūtras edited by Tripāṭhī correspond to SA 283-303 and SA 343-346.

4 SN ii, pp. 25-27.

5 T 2, p. 84b-c (CSA ii, pp. 34-35). For the Sanskrit version, see Tripāṭhī, Sūtra 14, pp. 147-152.

6 SN ii, p. 25.

7 SN ii, p. 26: paṭicca-samuppannā dhammā.

8 T 2, p. 84b (CSA ii, pp. 34-35). Cf. SA 299: T 2, p. 85b (CSA ii, p. 40); no Pāli counterpart, but see Skt. version, Tripāṭhī, Sūtra 17, pp. 164-165.