

Kalāpas – Groups of matter

Material phenomena (*rūpa*) always arise in groups, never individually. These material groups, “*kalāpa*” in Pāli, consist of at least eight material qualities or physical phenomena (*rūpa*). These eight are called the Inseparables (*abvinibbhoga*), because we cannot separate them. But we can pay attention and contemplate singly on one of these phenomena, for example only the earth-element (*paṭhavī*), which we can directly experience with our body-sense as hardness or softness through touching.

For understanding the material phenomena and the possible combinations in *kalāpas*, see in brief the charts on “*Rūpa*” in Pāli and English and the chart “Material phenomena (*rūpa*) – definitions and informations” – website www.abhidhamma.com.

The eight inseparable matters (*abvinibbhoga rūpa*) are:

1. earth-element, extension or hardness (*paṭhavī-dhātu*)
2. water-element, fluidity or cohesion (*āpo-dhātu*)
3. fire-element or temperature (*tejo-dhātu*)
4. air-element or movement (*vāyo-dhātu*)
5. colour (*rūpa*)
6. smell (*gandha*)
7. taste (*rasa*)
8. nutrition (*āhāra*)

Altogether there are 21 groups of matter (*kalāpa*) which can be grouped according to their origination. There are four causes for matter (*rūpa*) to arise:

1. *kamma*: The force of *kamma* (wholesome or unwholesome motivation (*cetanā*) in actions by body, speech and mind of the past)
2. *citta*: Consciousness (of the presence)
3. *utu*: Temperature (*tejo*, the fire-element at presence)
4. *āhāra*: Nutrition or nutritive essence in food.

As material groups tend to conglomerate, they can become visible for our eye. But because we cannot see the quick changing, arising and perishing of the *kalāpas*, we assume that matter is permanent and mix it up with concepts (*paññatti*) and easily identify with it or cling to it. Therefore, in order to get rid of attachment and wrong view concerning matters, a study of them and their arising process in groups is quite useful.

Kamma-born material groups (*kammaja kalāpa*)

18 material phenomena can be born of *kamma*, 9 of them are born exclusively of *kamma*, that means only *kamma* can produce them.

The 18 *kamma*-born material phenomena (*kammaja rūpas*) are:

1. earth-element (*paṭhavī*)
2. water-element (*āpo*)
3. fire-element (*tejo*)
4. air-element (*vāyo*)
- * 5. eye-sensitivity (*cakkhu-pasāda*)
- * 6. ear-sensitivity (*sota-pasāda*)
- * 7. nose-sensitivity (*ghāna-pasāda*)
- * 8. tongue-sensitivity (*jivhā-pasāda*)
- * 9. body-sensitivity (*kāya-pasāda*)
10. colour (*rūpa*)
11. smell (*ghandha*)
12. taste (*rasa*)
- * 13. femininity (*itthi-bhāva*)
- * 14. masculinity (*pum-bhāva*)

The asterix (*) marks the *rūpās* which are definitely and only produced by *kamma*.

- * 15. heart-base (*hadaya-vatthu*)
- * 16. physical life (*jīvita*)
- 17. nutriment (*āhāra*)
- 18. limitation (*pariccheda*) – not directly produced, but just the limitation or boundary of one material group

These 18 material phenomena occur grouped in 9 types of *kalāpas*:

1. *jīvita-navaka*: vital nonad = a group of 9 with physical life
8 inseparables (*avinibbhoga*) + physical life (*jīvita*)
2. *cakkhu-dasaka*: eye-decad = a group of 10 with eye-sensitivity
8 inseparables (*avinibbhoga*) + physical life (*jīvita*) + eye-sensitivity (*cakkhu-pasāda*)
3. *sota-dasaka*: ear-decad = a group of 10 with ear-sensitivity
8 inseparables (*avinibbhoga*) + physical life (*jīvita*) + ear-sensitivity (*sota-pasāda*)
4. *ghāna-dasaka*: nose-decad = a group of 10 with nose-sensitivity
8 inseparables (*avinibbhoga*) + physical life (*jīvita*) + nose-sensitivity (*ghāna-pasāda*)
5. *jivhā-dasaka*: tongue-decad = a group of 10 with tongue-sensitivity
8 inseparables (*avinibbhoga*) + phys. life (*jīvita*) + tongue-sensitivity (*jivhā-pasāda*)
6. *kāya-dasaka*: body-decad = a group of 10 with body-sensitivity
8 inseparables (*avinibbhoga*) + physical life (*jīvita*) + body-sensitivity (*kāya-pasāda*)
7. *itthibhāva-dasaka*: femininity-decad = a group of 10 with femininity
8 inseparables (*avinibbhoga*) + physical life (*jīvita*) + femininity (*itthi-bhāva*)
8. *pumbhāva-dasaka*: masculinity-decad = a group of 10 with masculinity
8 inseparables (*avinibbhoga*) + physical life (*jīvita*) + masculinity (*pum-bhāva*)
9. *vatthu-dasaka*: base-decad = a group of ten with the heart-base
8 inseparables (*avinibbhoga*) + physical life (*jīvita*) + heart-base (*hadaya-vatthu*)

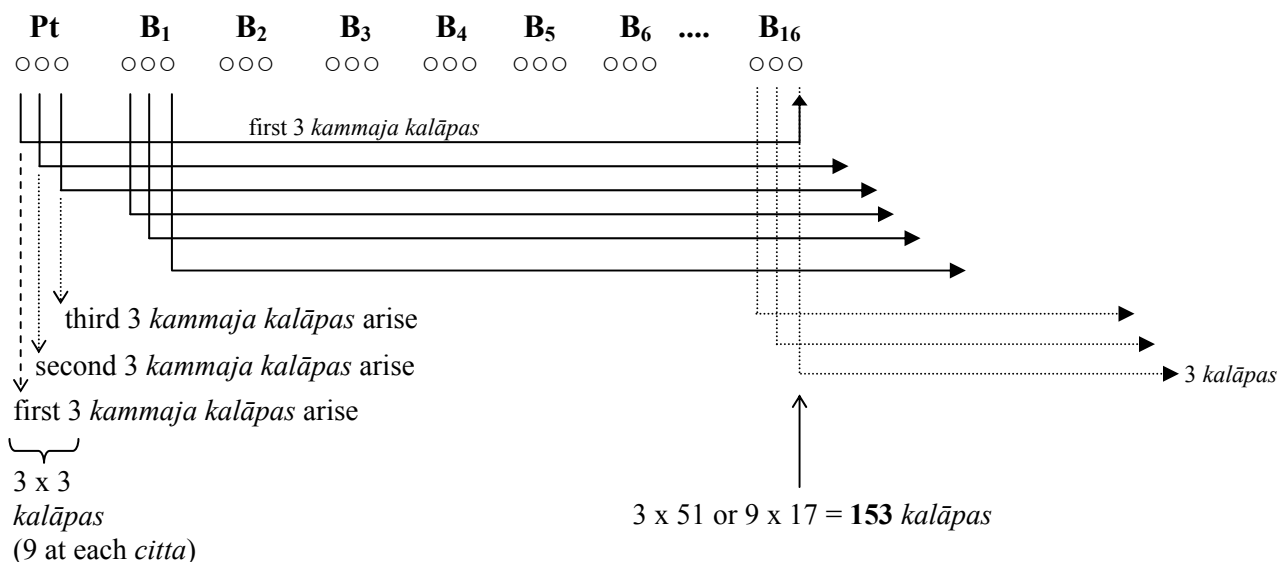
Out of these nine groups of matter, three groups are born together with rebirth-consciousness (*paṭisandhi citta*), the very first consciousness of a new being. This tiny spot of life, in Pāḷi called “*kalala*” already is built up by mind and matter (*nāma-rūpa*). While the mental part of this *kalala* consists of one *paṭisandhi-citta* together with its maximal 33 mental factors (*cetasikas*), the material part consists of three kamma-born material groups of ten (*kammaja dasaka*):

1. *kāya-dasaka*: body-decad
2. *bhāva-dasaka*: sex-decad (either femal or male)
3. *vatthu-dasaka*: (heart-)base-decad

The other kamma-born groups (*kammaja kalāpas*) develop only later with the support of nutriment etc., but as a pure product of kamma.

Considering the mental process (*citta-vīthi*), we learn that kamma-born matters arise every submoment of any consciousness, starting with the first submoment, the arising stage of rebirth-consciousness (*paṭisandhi*). The life-time of *rūpa* is 17 *citta*-moments or 51 *citta*-submoments, and its stages are arising, which takes just one *citta*-submoment, existence lasting 49 *citta*-sumoments, and dissolution taking one *citta*-submoment. Therefore, the first *rūpa-kalāpas*, which have arisen at the arising submoment of *paṭisandhi-citta*, will dissolve at the third submoment or ceasing stage of the 16th *bhavaṅga-citta*, which is the 17th and last consciousness within the first mental process.

In this way kamma-born matters develop and are built up and multiplied.



Pt = rebirth consciousness (*paṭisandhi citta*)
 B = *bhavaṅga citta*

Counting the number of kamma-born *kalāpas* at the end of the first mental process, that means at the dissolving submoment of its 17th and last consciousness, the 16th *bhavaṅga*, we already find the number of 153 *kalāpas* which will be the same for as long as other types will not arise:

- 3 *kammaja kalāpas* are just at the arising stage.
- 147 *kammaja kalāpas* are at the stage of existence (3 *kalāpas* born at 49 *citta*-submoments)
- 3 *kammaja kalāpas* are at the dissolution-stage

 153

The next *kalāpas* in the new being will be produced by temperature (*utu*) and consciousness (*citta*), as we will see later.

The kamma-born vital nonad (*kammaja jīva-navaka*) will appear sometime later in the embryo, arising every submoment of the *cittas* and spreading throughout the body. So these 51 kamma-born *kalāpas* have to be added since that mental process, where they firstly occur. So the total number of kamma-born *kalāpas* then will be 153 + 51 = 204.

Still later in the growing and developing process of the embryo the other types of kamma-born *kalāpas* will arise:

- cakkhu-dasaka*: eye-decad
- sota-dasaka*: ear-decad
- ghāna-dasaka*: nose-decad
- jivhā-dasaka*: tongue-decad

They also arise every submoment of the *cittas*, so after their appearance and building up during one mental process (*vīthi*) 4 by each submoment, finally we have to add the number of 204 (4 x 51) to the other kamma-born *kalāpas* getting the total of 408 which will be constant throughout our life until death-process.

For the detailed understanding of the appearance of the *kalāpas*, please also refer to the chart at the end of this text.

Consciousness-born material groups (*cittaja kalāpa*)

15 material phenomena can be born of consciousness (*citta*), 2 of them are born exclusively of *citta*, that means only *citta* can produce them.

The 15 consciousness-born material phenomena (*cittaja rūpas*) are:

1. earth-element (*paṭhavī*)
2. water-element (*āpo*)
3. fire-element (*tejo*)
4. air-element (*vāyo*)
5. colour (*rūpa*)
6. sound (*sadda*)
7. smell (*ghandha*)
8. taste (*rasa*)
9. nutriment (*āhāra*)
10. limitation (*pariccheda*) – not directly produced, but just the limitation or boundary of one material group
- * 11. bodily intimation (*kāya-viññatti*)
- * 12. vocal intimation (*vacī-viññatti*)
13. lightness (*lahutā*)
14. softness (*mudutā*)
15. adaptability (*kammaññatā*)

The asterix (*) marks the *rupās* which are definitely and only produced by *citta*.

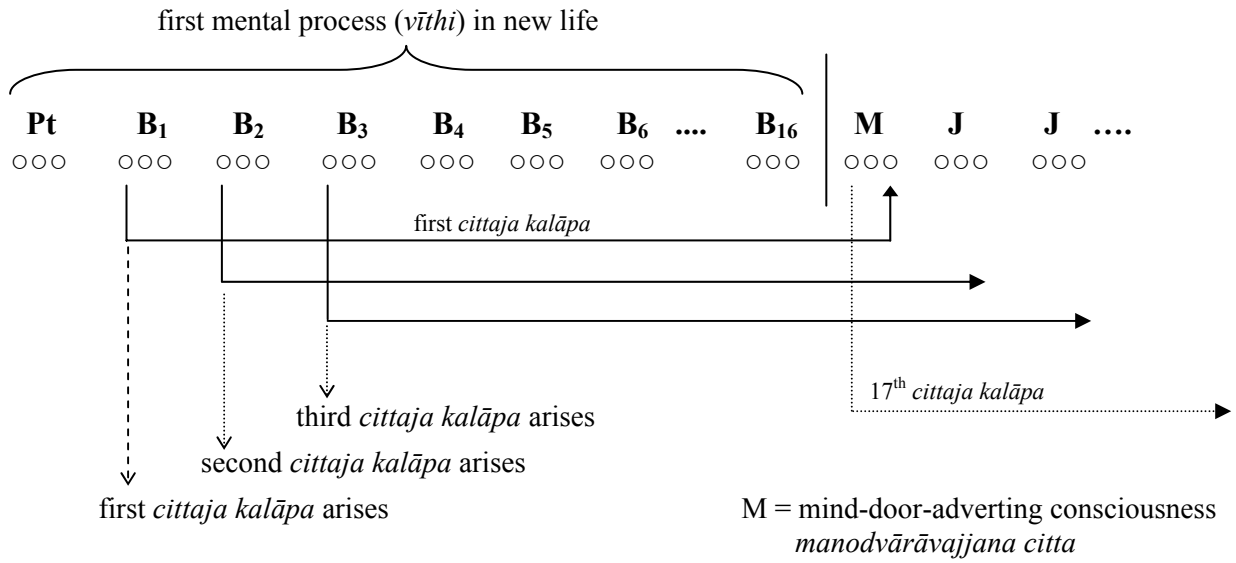
These 15 material phenomena occur grouped in 6 types of *kalāpas*:

1. *cittaja suddhaṭṭhaka*: consciousness-born pure octad = pure group of 8 inseparables (*avinibbhoga*)
2. *kāyaviññatti-navaka*: bodily intimation nonad = a group of 9 with bodily intimation 8 inseparables (*avinibbhoga*) + bodily intimation (*kāya-viññatti*)
3. *vacīviññatti-sadda-dasaka*: vocal intimation decad = a group of 10 with vocal intimation 8 inseparables (*avinibbhoga*) + vocal intimation (*vacī-viññatti*) + sound (*sadda*)
4. *lahutādi-ekādasaka*: undecad of lightness-triad = group of 11 with lightness etc. 8 inseparables (*avinibbhoga*) + lightness (*lahutā*), softness (*mudutā*), adaptability (*kammaññatā*)
5. *kāyaviññatti-lahutādi-dvādasaka*: dodecad of bodily intimation and lightness-triad = group of 12 with bodily intimation and lightness etc. 8 inseparables (*avinibbhoga*) + bodily intimation (*kāya-viññatti*) + lightness (*lahutā*), softness (*mudutā*), adaptability (*kammaññatā*)
6. *vacīviññatti-sadda-lahutādi-terasaka*: tridecad of vocal intimation, sound and lightness-triad = group of 13 with vocal intimation, sound and lightness etc. 8 inseparables (*avinibbhoga*) + vocal intimation (*vacī-viññatti*) + sound (*sadda*) + lightness (*lahutā*), softness (*mudutā*), adaptability (*kammaññatā*)

Consciousness (*citta*) produces consciousness-born material phenomena (*cittaja rūpa*) in its arising submoments, not in the existence- and dissolution-submoments. Starting from the second consciousness after the weak rebirth-consciousness (*paṭisandhi*), which is the first *bhavaṅga*, all types of consciousness, except the 10 sense-consciousness (*viññāṇa-cittas*) produce *citta*-born matters throughout the life.

The first *citta*-born *kalāpa*, which arose at the arising submoment of the first *bhavaṅga-citta* in life, dissolves at the dissolution-submoment of mind-door-adverting consciousness (*manodvārāvajjana*) in the second mental process (*citta-vīthi*). At that moment of dissolution of the mind-door-adverting consciousness there are altogether 17 *cittaja kalāpas*, one in the dissolving stage, the other 16 in

existence-stage. Throughout the life at any submoment we have 16 (at and after five-sense-door consciousness) or usually 17 *citta*-born material groups.



Temperature-born material groups (*utuja kalāpa*)

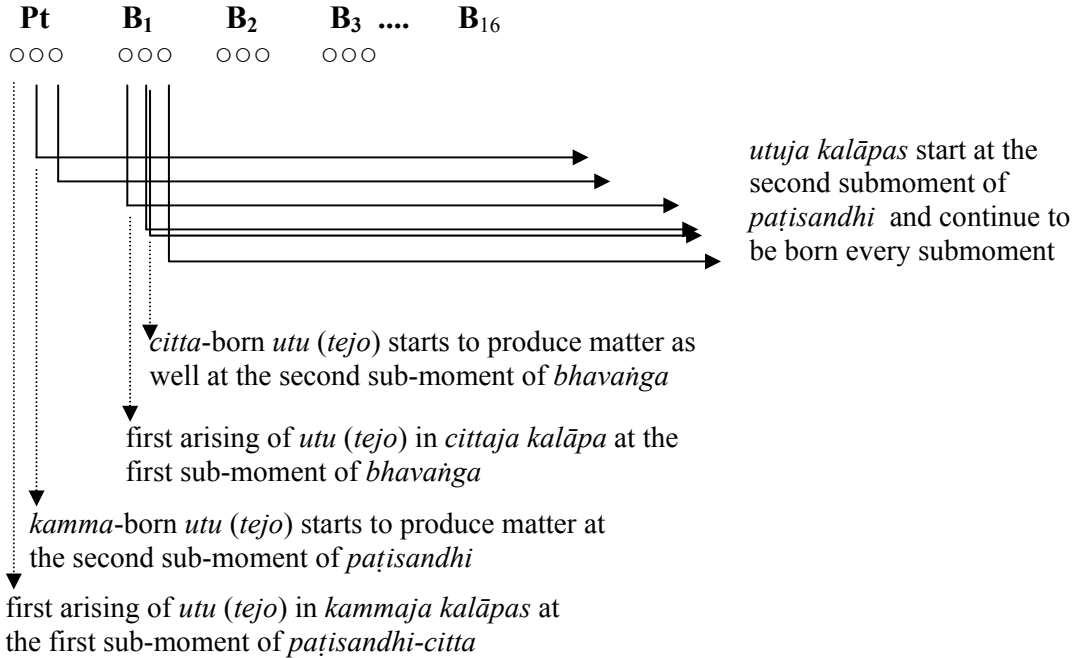
13 material phenomena can be born of temperature (*utu*), but non of them is born exclusively by *utu*..
The 13 temperature-born material phenomena (*utuja rūpas*) are:

1. earth-element (*paṭhavī*)
2. water-element (*āpo*)
3. fire-element (*tejo*)
4. air-element (*vāyo*)
5. colour (*rūpa*)
6. sound (*sadda*)
7. smell (*ghandha*)
8. taste (*rasa*)
9. nutriment (*āhāra*)
10. limitation (*pariccheda*) – not directly produced, but just the limitation or boundary of one material group
11. lightness (*lahutā*)
12. softness (*mudutā*)
13. adaptability (*kammaññatā*)

These 13 material phenomena occur grouped in 4 types of *kalāpas*:

1. *utuja suddhaṭṭhaka*: temperature-born pure octad = pure group of 8
8 inseparables (*avinibbhoga*)
2. *sadda-navaka*: sound nonad = group of 9 with sound
8 inseparables (*avinibbhoga*) + sound (*sadda*)
3. *lahutādi ekādasaka*: lightness-triad undecad = group of 11 with lightness etc.
8 inseparables (*avinibbhoga*) + lightness (*lahutā*), softness (*mudutā*), adaptability (*kammaññatā*)
4. *sadda-lahutādi-dvādasaka*: sound-lightness-triad dodecad = group of 12 with sound and lightness etc.
8 inseparables (*avinibbhoga*) + sound (*sadda*) + lightness (*lahutā*), softness (*mudutā*), adaptability (*kammaññatā*)

The matter-producing temperature (*utu*) is the same as the fire-element (*tejo*). And because the fire-element belongs to the eight inseparable material phenomena, it is present in every material group (*kalāpa*). Therefore any *kalāpa* produces temperature-born material groups (*utuja kalāpa*), which is a purely material or physical process, happening in animate beings as well as inanimate things or a corpse. This process is running on and on non-stop.



At the existence submoment of the first *bhavaṅga* there are altogether 13 temperature-born material groups (*utuja kalāpas*):

- 12 *kamma*-conditioned *utuja kalāpas* (3 each of the 4 submoments)
- 1 *citta*-conditioned *utuja kalāpa*

At the dissolution-submoment of this first *bhavaṅga* there are already 16 *utuja kalāpas*, at the arising submoment of the second *bhavaṅga* 19, and at its existence submoment 23 (3 x 7 *kamma*-conditioned, 1 x 2 *citta*-conditioned). At the end of the first mental process (*vīthi*), more exactly at the dissolution-submoment of the 16th *bhavaṅga*, there are already 166 *utuja kalāpas*, 150 conditioned by *kamma* and 16 by *citta*. From the presence submoment of the 17th *bhavaṅga* (= 18th *citta* since the beginning) on, there exists a constant number of 170 *utuja kalāpas* (153 conditioned by *kamma* and 17 by *citta*).

When other material groups also come into being, like the *kamma*-born vital nonads, later the *kamma*-born eye-decads, ear-decads, etc., and the nutriment-born groups, the number of temperature-born material groups will increase also quickly.

For details refer to the chart at the end of this text.

Nutrient-born material groups (*āhāraja kalāpa*)

12 material phenomena can be born of nutriment (*āhāra*), but non of them is born exclusively by *utu*. The 12 nutrient-born material phenomena (*āhāraja rūpas*) are:

1. earth-element (*paṭhavī*)
2. water-element (*āpo*)
3. fire-element (*tejo*)
4. air-element (*vāyo*)
5. colour (*rūpa*)

6. smell (*ghandha*)
7. taste (*rasa*)
8. nutriment (*āhāra*)
9. limitation (*pariccheda*) – not directly produced, but just the limitation or boundary of one material group
10. lightness (*lahutā*)
11. softness (*mudutā*)
12. adaptability (*kammaññatā*)

These 12 material phenomena occur grouped in 2 types of *kalāpas*:

1. *āhāraja suddhaṭṭhaka*: nutriment-born pure octad = pure group of 8 inseparables (*avinibbhoga*)
2. *lahutādi ekādasaka*: lightness-triad undecad = group of 11 with lightness etc. 8 inseparables (*avinibbhoga*) + lightness (*lahutā*), softness (*mudutā*), adaptability (*kammaññatā*)

When nutriment-born material groups start to arise, cannot be said definitely. They will start when the nutritive essence of the food, which the mother takes, will pervade into the embryo.

At the existence-stage of this nutriment they will start to produce nutriment-born matters and will continue to do so during all three submoments of all *cittas*, because at any instance there is nutritive essence (*āhāra*) – one of the eight inseparable matters – in the stage of existence in all the present *kalāpas*.

Within the 51 submoments of one mental process (*vīthi*), nutriment-born material groups will be produced one at each submoment, so 51 altogether.

At the dissolution-stage of the very first *āhāraja kalāpa* there are 51 *kalāpas*:

- 1 at arising stage
- 49 at existence stage
- 1 at dissolution stage

Throughout life there will exist 51 nutriment-born material groups within us.

The nutriment-born material groups consist of the nutriment-born fire-element (*āhāraja tejo-dhātu*) as one of the eight inseparables. This is temperature (*utu*) and this *utu* again will produce one temperature-born material group (*utuja kalāpa*) from each nutriment-born material group (*āhāraja kalāpa*).

For details see the chart below..

Process of *kalāpas* in the very first, the rebirth mental process

Citta	submoment	kammaja kalāpas	cittaja kalāpas	utuja kalāpas	āhāraja kalāpas	total number of kalāpas
Paṭisandhi	(1) arising	3				3
	(2) existence	6		3		9
	(3) dissolving	9		6		15
1. Bhavaṅga	(1) arising	12	1	9		22
	(2) existence	15	1	13		29
	(3) dissolving	18	1	16		35
2. Bhavaṅga	(1) arising	21	2	19		42
	(2) existence	24	2	23		49
	(3) dissolving	27	2	26		55
3. Bhavaṅga	(1) arising	30	3	29		62
	(2) existence	33	3	33		69
	(3) dissolving	36	3	36		75
4. Bhavaṅga	(1) arising	39	4	39		82
	(2) existence	42	4	43		89
	(3) dissolving	45	4	46		95
5. Bhavaṅga	(1) arising	48	5	49		102
	(2) existence	51	5	53		109
	(3) dissolving	54	5	56		115
6. Bhavaṅga	(1) arising	57	6	59		122
	(2) existence	60	6	63		129
	(3) dissolving	63	6	66		135
7. Bhavaṅga	(1) arising	66	7	69		142
	(2) existence	69	7	73		149
	(3) dissolving	72	7	76		155
8. Bhavaṅga	(1) arising	75	8	79		162
	(2) existence	78	8	83		169
	(3) dissolving	81	8	86		175
9. Bhavaṅga	(1) arising	84	9	89		182
	(2) existence	87	9	93		189
	(3) dissolving	90	9	96		195
10. Bhavaṅga	(1) arising	93	10	99		202
	(2) existence	96	10	103		209
	(3) dissolving	99	10	106		215
11. Bhavaṅga	(1) arising	102	11	109		222
	(2) existence	105	11	113		229
	(3) dissolving	108	11	116		235
12. Bhavaṅga	(1) arising	111	12	119		242
	(2) existence	114	12	123		249
	(3) dissolving	117	12	126		255
13. Bhavaṅga	(1) arising	120	13	129		262
	(2) existence	123	13	133		269
	(3) dissolving	126	13	136		275
14. Bhavaṅga	(1) arising	129	14	139		282
	(2) existence	132	14	143		289
	(3) dissolving	135	14	146		295
15. Bhavaṅga	(1) arising	138	15	149		302
	(2) existence	141	15	153		309
	(3) dissolving	144	15	156		315
16. Bhavaṅga	(1) arising	147	16	159		322
	(2) existence	150	16	163		329
	(3) dissolving	153	16	166		335
17. Bhavaṅga	(1) arising	153	17	169		339
	(2) existence	153	17	170		340
	(3) dissolving	153	17	170		340
...		153	17	170		340

Process of *kalāpas* when the *kamma*-born vital *nonad kalāpa* start to arise

Citta	submoment	kammaja kalāpas	cittaja kalāpas	utuja kalāpas	āhāraja kalāpas	total number of kalāpas
1. Citta	(1) arising	154	17	170		341
	(2) existence	155	17	171		343
	(3) dissolving	156	17	172		345
2. Citta	(1) arising	157	17			347
	(2) existence		17			349
	(3) dissolving		17			351
3. Citta	(1) arising		17			353
	(2) existence		17			355
	(3) dissolving		17			357
4. Citta	(1) arising		17			359
	(2) existence		17			361
	(3) dissolving		17			363
5. Citta	(1) arising		17			365
	(2) existence		17			367
	(3) dissolving		17			369
6. Citta	(1) arising		17			371
	(2) existence		17			373
	(3) dissolving		17			375
7. Citta	(1) arising		17			377
	(2) existence		17			379
	(3) dissolving		17			381
8. Citta	(1) arising		17			
	(2) existence		17			
	(3) dissolving		17			
9. Citta	(1) arising		17			
	(2) existence		17			
	(3) dissolving		17			
10. Citta	(1) arising		17			
	(2) existence		17			
	(3) dissolving		17			
11. Citta	(1) arising		17			
	(2) existence		17			
	(3) dissolving		17			
12. Citta	(1) arising		17			
	(2) existence		17			
	(3) dissolving		17			
13. Citta	(1) arising		17			
	(2) existence		17			
	(3) dissolving		17			
14. Citta	(1) arising		17			
	(2) existence		17			
	(3) dissolving		17			
15. Citta	(1) arising		17			
	(2) existence		17			
	(3) dissolving		17			
16. Citta	(1) arising		17			
	(2) existence		17			
	(3) dissolving		17			
17. Citta	(1) arising		17			
	(2) existence		17			
	(3) dissolving		17			
18. Citta	(1) arising		17			
	(2) existence		17			
	(3) dissolving		17			
.....			17			

(will be continued...)