

❁❁❁ **DEPENDENT ORIGATION** ❁❁❁  
(Paṭicca-Samuppāda)

*“Deep, indeed, Ananda, is this paṭicca-samuppāda - it is through not understanding, through not penetrating this doctrine, that these beings have become entangled like a matted ball of thread,...unable to pass beyond the woeful states of existence and saṃsāra, the cycle of existence.”*

- Mahānidāna Sutta, DN 15

Dependent origination is a key principle in Buddhist teachings. It represents a linear list of twelve elements that arise depending on the preceding link:

1. Dependent on ignorance there are activities
2. Dependent on activities there is consciousness
3. Dependent on consciousness there is mentality-materiality
4. Dependent on mentality-materiality there are the six bases
5. Dependent on the six bases there is contact
6. Dependent on contact there is feeling
7. Dependent on feeling there is craving
8. Dependent on craving there is clinging
9. Dependent on clinging there is becoming
10. Dependent on becoming there is birth
11. Dependent on birth there is old age and death
12. Dependent on old age and death, there is suffering

When *this* is present, there is *that*. With the arising of *this*, *that* arises. When *this* is not present, there isn't *that*. With the cessation of *this*, *that* ceases.

In the words of the Buddha: "He who sees dependent arising sees the Dhamma; he who sees the Dhamma sees dependent arising."

- Maha-hatthipadopama Sutta, MN 28

Instead of a first cause, the Buddha speaks of conditionality. The whole world is subject to the law of cause and effect, in other words, action and reaction. We cannot think of anything in this cosmos that is causeless and unconditioned.

The doctrine of dependent origination shows that the sentient being is a flow of mental and physical phenomena, which arises and continues in dependence on conditions. The layout of these conditions brings to light the cause of suffering and shows how suffering can be ended.

*No doer of the deeds is found,  
No one who ever reaps their fruits;  
Empty phenomena roll on:  
This only is the correct view.*

*And while the deeds and their results  
Roll on and on, conditioned all,  
There is no first beginning found,  
Just as it is with seed and tree...*

*No god, no Brahma, can be called  
The maker of this wheel of life:  
Empty phenomena roll on,  
Dependent on conditions all.*

- Visuddhimagga XIX

Transcendental dependent arising/overcoming of samsara:

Suffering (*dhukka*)  
Faith in the teachings (*saddha*)  
Joy (*pamojja*)  
Rapture (*piti*)  
Tranquillity (*passaddhi*)  
Happiness (*sukha*)  
Concentration (*samadhi*)  
Knowledge and vision of things as they are (*yathabhutañānadassana*)  
Disenchantment (*nibbida*)  
Dispassion (*viraga*)  
Emancipation (*vimutti*)  
Knowledge of destruction of the cankers (*asavakkhaye ñāna*)

- Upanisa Sutta, SN 12.23