

## Abhidhamma Senior

05/2000 Explain the rebirth linking consciousness in respect of all planes of existence in detail.

The consciousness that performs the rebirth-linking function, the patisandhi citta or rebirth-linking consciousness, occurs only once in any individual existence at the moment of conception. It is so-called because it links the past with the present.

This patisandhi citta is conditioned by the powerful thought one experiences at the dying moment, and is regarded as the source of the present life-stream. In the course of one particular life, there is only one patisandhi citta. The mental contents of bhavanga, which later arises an infinite number of times during one's lifetime, and of cuti or decease, which arises only once at the first moment of death, are identical to those of patisandhi.

19 types of consciousness perform the function of rebirth-linking as well as bhavanga (continuum) and citi (decease).

1. The two types of investigating consciousness accompanied by equanimity;
2. The 8 great resultants;
3. The 9 fine-material sphere and immaterial sphere resultants.

Depending on which particular consciousness performs this rebirth-linking function, the result follows accordingly.

1. The rootless unwholesome resultant investigating consciousness does so in the case of those beings who take rebirth into the woeful planes - the hells, animal realms, the sphere of petas and the host of asuras.
2. The rootless wholesome resultant investigating consciousness accompanied by equanimity performs these functions in the case of a human rebirth as one who is congenitally blind, deaf, etc. as well as among certain lower classes of gods and spirits. While the deformity itself is due to unwholesome kamma, the human rebirth is the result of wholesome kamma, though of a relatively weak degree.
3. The eight great resultants – the beautiful sense-sphere resultants with 2 and 3 roots – perform these three functions for those reborn in the fortunate sensuous realms of gods and humans free from congenital defects.

The above 10 citta pertain to rebirth in the sensuous plane.

4. The five fine-material sphere resultants and four immaterial sphere resultants perform these three functions to those taking rebirth in the the respective fine-material and immaterials planes of existence.