

LBV ADVANCED BUDDHISM SERIES
2022 Thursday Series: Aug. 18 – Sep. 29: 7.00 PM-8.30 PM
Instructor: Bhante Upananda
Theme: MISSTEPS OF PERCEPTION

Dear participant:

Please note that this Thursday course is intended for advanced learners willing to learn the Dhamma with reference to key Pali canonical/scriptural terms and phrases that are incorporated into a single theme. Therefore, questions asked must pertain to the theme.

Session #3: September 01, 2022

The 7 shrewd agents of missteps:

- a. The making of self/I-am-ness (ahamkāra) and the process thereof (mamamkāra) describe how we become a different I/me at any given moment. Since this process is incessant, Buddha calls it attabhāva instead of atta (=atman). Attabhāva, therefore, is the canonical term for self/selfhood/I-am-ness.
- b. As a puthujjanas, we may easily tend to create a different 'ourselves/myself' due to 7 shrewd agents of attabhāva that remain beyond us. Such ability of those agents is due to their being latent or dormant in our consciousness. Those agents are therefore known as anusaya, which literally means 'lie down with.'
- c. The 7 agents are kāmarāga (sensual passion), patigha (resistance), ditthi ([wrong] view), vicikicchā (doubt), māna (conceit/measuring), bhavarāga (passion of becoming/rebecoming), and avijjā (ignorance) - Anusaya Sutta: Sattaka Nipāta: Anguttara Nikāya.
- d. The 7 agents in detail:
 1. kāmarāga (excitement of sensual pleasure)
 2. patigha (desire to injure/harm)
 3. ditthi (belief that one's own view is always right)
 4. vicikicchā (wavering in decision-making/dis-reflecting/vacillating irresolutely between choices. Strictly in a Buddhist spiritual sense, vicikicchā is generally regarding 8 factors. See footnote).
 5. māna (derived from 'man' meaning 'high opinion' [of self]. The term 'man' is connected to root 'mā' meaning to 'measure,' or 'build.' We tend to measure ourselves as higher [seyya/superior], equal [sadisa] or hīna (inferior)). Building can go wrong.
 6. bhavarāga (excitement of becoming anew the moment or in the future due to frustration caused by the unsatisfactory nature of the current being/self. There are different factors contributing to bhavarāga, such as aging, illness, wrong company, loss of desired company, etc.).
 7. avijjā (derived from a+vid meaning 'not knowing,' 'requiring clarification.' This is all about one's identity).

d.4

Avijjā regarding 8 factors: 1. Buddha, 2. Dhamma, 3. Sangha, 4. training of mind, body and speech by precepts, 5. Past life, 6. Future rebirth/afterlife, 7. Past life and future rebirth/afterlife, 8. Cause and effect/interdependent origination [From the Mahā Satipatthāna Sutra in the description of dhammānupassanā]