

Rupa (Matter)

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"The Highest gift all gifts is the gift of Dhamma"

-Lord Buddha-

Rupa (Matter)

Rupa is the third of the four ultimate realities taught in Abhidhamma. It is the only Paramatta Dhamma which can be seen.

Rupa Dhammas are 28 in number.

The 28 Rupa Dharmas are categorized as follows:

- Maha Bhuta Rupa (Four Great Essentials) - 4
 - Patavi (Earth)
 - Apo (Water)
 - Tejo (Fire)
 - Vayo (Air)
- Pasada Rupa (Five Physical Sense Organs) - 5
 - Cakku (Eye)
 - Sota (Ear)
 - Ghana (Nose)
 - Jivha (Tongue)
 - Kaya (Body)
- Visaya Rupa (Objective Material Phenomena)- 4
 - Rupa/ Vanna (Visible Forms)
 - Sadda (Sound)
 - Gandha (Smell)
 - Rasa (Taste)
- Bhava Rupa (Sexual Phenomena) - 2
 - Ittindriya (Femininity)
 - Purisaindriya (Masculinity)
- Hadaya Rupa (Heart Phenomena) - 1
 - Hadayavattu (Heart Base)
- Jivitindriya Rupa (Life Phenomena) - 1
 - Jivitindriya (Life Faculty)
- Ahara Rupa (Nutritional Phenomena) - 1
 - Ahara/ Oja (Nutriment)
- Paricceda Rupa (Limiting Phenomena) - 1
 - Akasa (Space Element)
- Vinnatti Rupa (Communicating Phenomena)- 2
 - Kaya Vinnatti (Bodily Intimation)
 - Vaci Vinnatti (Vocal Intimation)

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- Vikara Rupa (Mutable Phenomena) - 3
 - Lahuta (Lightness)
 - Muduta (Malleability)
 - Kammannata (Wieldiness)
- Lakkhana Rupa (Characteristics of Matter) - 4
 - Upacaya (Producing)
 - Santati (Continuity)
 - Jarata (Decay)
 - Aniccata (Impermanence)

The above 28 material elements can be categorized as Nippanna Rupa and Anipphanna Rupa.

The Nipphanna Rupa includes:

- Maha Bhuta Rupa - 4
- Pasada Rupa - 5
- Visaya Rupa - 4
- Bhava Rupa - 2
- Hadaya Rupa - 1
- Jivitindriya Rupa - 1
- Ahara Rupa - 1

They are so called because they are directly produced by the four modes of origin (Kamma, Citta, Utu, Ahara).

The remaining ten material elements are considered as Anipphanna Rupa as they do not arise directly because of the four modes of origin.

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Rupa Vibhaga (Classification of Matter)

The classification of Matter under various categories according to their characteristics is discussed under this topic.

First we'll look at the Rupa considered to have one character. Some of the examples are listed below.

As Single Fold

- 1) Ahetuka (Rootless) : Because Rupa Dhammas are not associated with roots (Loba, Dosa, etc)
- 2) Sappaccayan (Causal): Because Rupa Dhammas are conditioned by the four modes of origin.
- 3) Sasavam (Subject to Taints): Rupa Dhammas serve as objects for defilements.
- 4) Sankatam (Conditioned): Rupa Dhammas exist due to many conditions. They cannot exist alone.
- 5) Lokiya (Mundane): Rupa Dhammas are attached to the five aggregates. There is no supra mundane Rupa. Therefore Rupa Dhammas are mundane.

Next we'll look at how Rupa is classified under two groups. Some of the example categories and the Rupa Dhammas that come under each category are as follows:

As Two Fold

1)

- Maha Bhuta Rupa (four Great Essentials) : 4
- Upadaya Rupa (Derived Material Phenomena): remaining 24 Rupa

Four great essentials are the most primary elements and the remaining 24 elements arise depending on them. So the remaining 24 elements are named as derived Rupa.

2)

- Ajjhatthika (Internal) : 5 Pasada Rupa
- Bahiram (External): remaining 23 Rupa

The five Pasada Rupa are the doors through which the external objects are contacted, hence are named as internal. The remaining 23 Rupas are named as external.

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3)

- Vattu Rupa (Bases) : 5 Pasada Rupa and Hadayavattu
- Avattu Rupa (Non Bases): remaining 22 Rupa

The bases are the elements on which the arising of consciousness is dependent. So the 5 Pasada Rupa and the Hadayavattu are the bases on which the consciousness arise.

4)

- Dvara Rupa (Doors) : 5 Pasada Rupa and 2 Vinnatti Rupa
- Advvara Rupa (Non Doors): remaining 21 Rupa

The doors are of two types as doors of contact and doors of action. Doors of contact are the 5 Pasada Rupa and doors of action are the 2 Vinnatti Rupa. Remaining 21 Rupa are the non doors.

5)

- Indriya Rupa (Faculties): 5 Pasada Rupa, 2 Bhava Rupa and Jivitindriya
- Anindriya Rupa (Non Faculties): remaining 20 Rupa

There are namely 8 faculties as 5 Pasada Rupa, 2 Bhava Rupa and Jivitindriya. These faculties have their own functions. Without these faculties their relevant functions cannot be carried out. For example seeing cannot be done without eyes; hearing cannot be done without ears and so on.

The balance 20 Rupas are called non faculties.

The above mentioned groups are just a few out of many. You are advised to read the relevant texts to get the full list of categories.

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Rupa Samutthana (The Origination of Matter)

Rupa arise due to four main factors. Those four factors or conditions are discussed under this topic.

The four conditions are namely,

- Kamma (Volition/ Action)
- Citta (Consciousness)
- Utu (Temperature)
- Ahara (Nutriment)

The 28 Rupa Dhammas arise because of the above mentioned four categories. Some arise because of one or two of the conditions while the others arise due to all the conditions

Now we'll look at each of those conditions separately.

Kamma (Volition)

Eighteen Rupa Dhammas arise because of Kamma, namely;

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------|----------------------------------|
| • Pasada Rupa | - | 5 | } Nine Exclusively born of Kamma |
| • Bhava Rupa | - | 2 | |
| • Jivitindriya | - | 1 | |
| • Hadayavattu | - | 1 | |
| • Avinibbhoga Rupa (Inseparables) | - | 8 | |
| ○ Patavi (Earth) | | | |
| ○ Apo (Water) | | | |
| ○ Thejo (Fire) | | | |
| ○ Vayo (Air) | | | |
| ○ Vanna (Visible Forms) | | | |
| ○ Gandha (Smell) | | | |
| ○ Rasa (Taste) | | | |
| ○ Oja (Nutriment) | | | |
| • Paricceda Rupa (Akasa) | - | $\frac{1}{18}$ | |

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Citta (Consciousness)

Fifteen Rupa Dhammas arise due to Citta.

- Avinibbhoga Rupa - 8
 - Vinnatti Rupa - 2 : Exclusively born of Citta
 - Vikara Rupa - 3
 - Paricceda Rupa - 1
 - Sadda (Sound) - 1
-
- 15

Utu (Temperature)

There are thirteen Rupa Dhammas that arise due to Utu.

- Avinibbhoga Rupa - 8
 - Paricceda Rupa - 1
 - Sadda (Sound) - 1
 - Vikara Rupa - 3
-
- 13

Ahara (Nutriment)

There are twelve Rupa Dhammas that arise due to Ahara.

- Avinibbhoga Rupa - 8
 - Paricceda Rupa - 1
 - Vikara Rupa - 3
-
- 12

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Rupa Kalapa (Grouping of Matter)

Matter cannot arise alone. These arise in groups as mentioned in Rupa Samutthana. There are 21 such groups and are called Rupa Kalapa.

For example

The eight inseparables or pure octad (four great elements + Vanna + Gandha + Rasa + Oja) are present in every matter. They are the basis for all Rupa or matter. Along with those eight if we take eye and the life faculty, then we have the Cakku Dasaka Rupa Kalapa. The Eye means the combination of the above 10 material elements. All those 10 should be present to make the Eye.

Likewise there are 21 such groups of matter that arise conditioned by Kamma, Citta, Utu and Ahara.

The Rupa Kalapas are as follows:

Rupa Kalapa originating from Kamma

1. Eight inseparables + Life faculty (Jivita Navaka Rupa Kalapa)
2. Eight inseparables + Life faculty + Eye (Cakku Dasaka Rupa Kalapa)
3. Eight inseparables + Life faculty + Ear (Sota Dasaka Rupa Kalapa)
4. Eight inseparables + Life faculty + Nose (Ghana Dasaka Rupa Kalapa)
5. Eight inseparables + Life faculty + Tongue (Jivha Dasaka Rupa Kalapa)
6. Eight inseparables + Life faculty + Body (Kaya Dasaka Rupa Kalapa)
7. Eight inseparables + Life faculty + Femininity (Itti Bhava Dasaka Rupa Kalapa)
8. Eight inseparables + Life faculty + Masculinity (Purusa Bhava Dasaka Rupa Kalapa)
9. Eight inseparables + Life faculty + Heat Base (Vatthu Dasaka Rupa Kalapa)

Rupa Kalapa originating from Citta

1. Eight inseparables (Suddhatthaka Kalapa), conditioned by Citta
2. Eight inseparables + Bodily intimation (Kaya Vinnatti Navaka Rupa Kalapa)
3. Eight inseparables + Vocal intimation + Sound (Vaci Vinnatti Saddha Dasaka Rupa Kalapa)
4. Eight inseparables + Mutable Phenomena (Lahuta Eka Dasaka Rupa Kalapa)
5. Eight inseparables + Bodily intimation + Mutable Phenomena (Kaya Vinnatti Lahutadi Dvadasaka Rupa Kalapa)
6. Eight inseparables + Vocal intimation + Sound + Mutable Phenomena (Vaci Vinnatti Lahutadi Terasaka Rupa Kalapa)

Rupa Kalapa originating from Utu

1. Eight inseparables (Suddhatthaka Kalapa), conditioned by Utu
2. Eight inseparables + Sound (Sadda Navaka Rupa Kalapa)
3. Eight inseparables + Mutable Phenomena (Lahuta Eka Dasaka Rupa Kalapa)
4. Eight inseparables + Sound + Mutable Phenomena (Lahutadi Dvadasaka Rupa Kalapa)

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Rupa Kalapa originating from Ahara

1. Eight inseparables (Suddhatthaka Kalapa), conditioned by Ahara
2. Eight inseparables + Mutable Phenomena (Lahuta Eka Dasaka Rupa Kalapa)

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Rupa Pavatikkama (Occurrence of Matter)

Rupa is available only in

Kama Bhava (sense spheres) : 11 worlds and

Rupa Bhava (fine material spheres) : 16 Brahma worlds

There are four types of birth of beings in these worlds as

1. Andaja (Egg born)
2. Jalabuja (Womb born)
3. Sansedaja (Moisture born)
4. Opatatika (Spontaneous birth)

Andaja (Egg Born)

They are the creatures born from eggs. At the moment of conception they will have the decades of body, sex and heart base. Other decades will develop gradually.

Jalabuja (Womb Born)

Similar to Andaja these beings also have the decades of body, sex and heart base at birth, but these beings are born in mothers' womb. They are also called "Gabbaseyyaka" as they are born from mothers' womb.

Sansedaja (Moisture Born)

This category includes some of the lower forms of animals. These beings have the decades of eye, ear, nose, tongue, body, sex, and the heart base at birth. Although these beings have all these decades, they are not fully developed. So these decades are gradually developed.

Opatatika (Spontaneous Births)

The beings that are invisible to the human eye come under this category. The Devas, Brahmas, beings in Hells and the Petas come under this category. Like Sansedaja beings, they also have the decades of eye, ear, nose, tongue, body, sex, and the heart base at birth, but there will be no further development as those decades are fully completed at birth.