

Kamma and Vipaka

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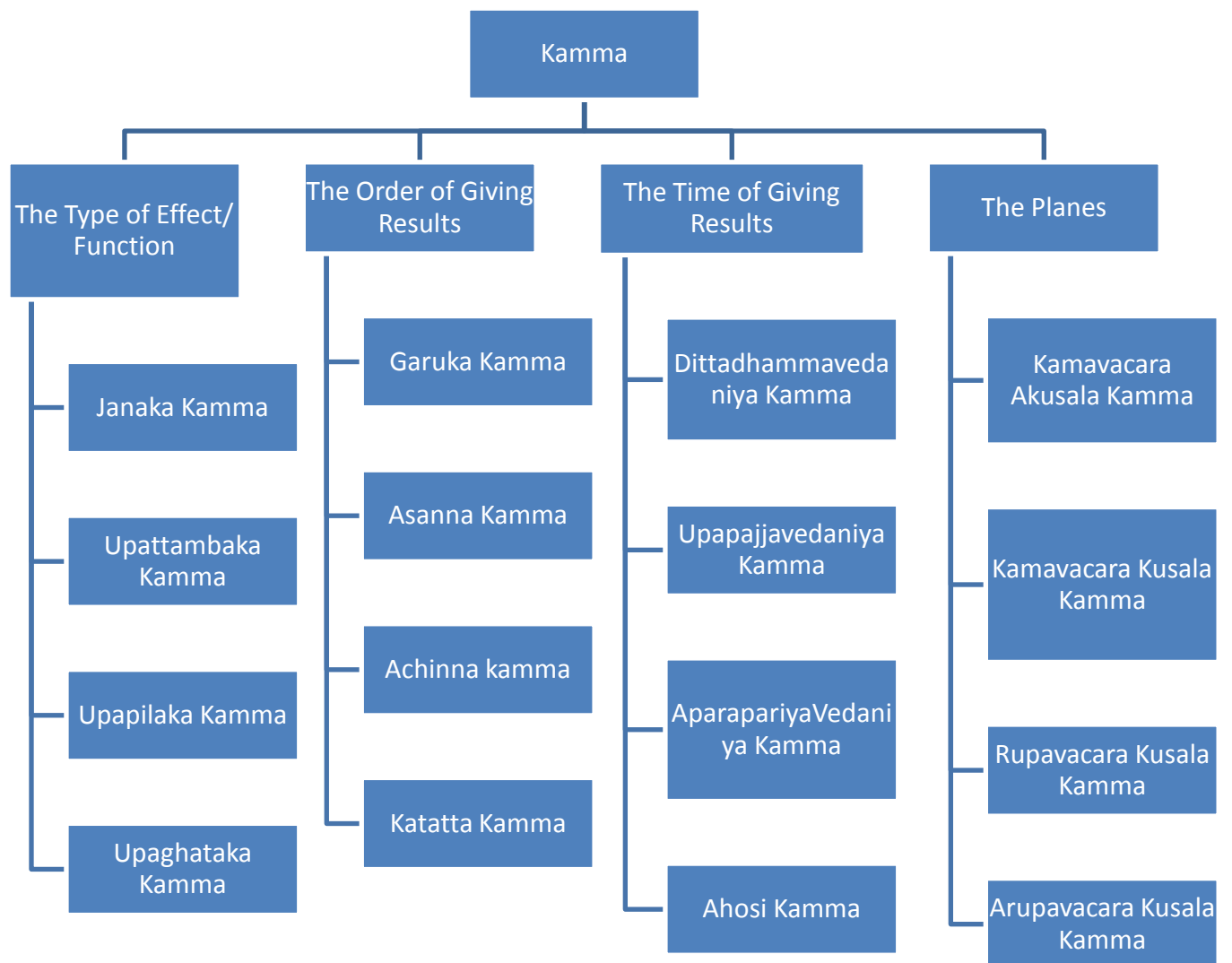
"The Highest gift all gifts is the gift of Dhamma"

-Lord Buddha-

Kamma and Vipaka (Actions and Results)

Kamma means actions. These actions are three fold as physical, verbal and mental. Every action has a reaction and that reaction is called Vipaka. For good actions you get good Vipaka and for bad actions you get bad Vipaka.

The Kamma is classified into different groups according to their characteristics. Some of the classifications are given in the following diagram.



Classification of Kamma Based on the Function

This classification of kamma is done according to the type of effect that is produced.

1. Janaka Kamma : The Kamma that supports one's birth.
2. Upatthambaka Kamma : The Kamma that supports the continuity of a person's life
3. Upapilaka Kamma : The Kamma that makes problems time to time while living.
4. Upaghataka Kamma : The Kamma that breaks the whole life.

Classification of Kamma Based on the Order of Giving Results

1. Garuka Kamma : The Kamma which is predominant and gives results before other Kammās. The five heinous acts (Panca anantariya papa Kamma) come under the unwholesome side of Garuka Kamma. Panca anantariya papa Kamma are :
 - Killing Mother
 - Killing Father
 - Killing an Arahant
 - Breaking the order of Sangha (Sangha Bheda)
 - Hurting the Buddha
2. Asanna Kamma : The Kamma that we do just before dying. The next birth is determined by this Kamma.
3. Achinna Kamma : The Kamma that we practice again and again for a very long time. If both Garuka Kamma and Asanna Kamma are absent, then this Kamma will take effect.
4. Katatta Kamma : This Kamma will take effect only if all the above three Kamma are not available.

Classification of Kamma Based on the Time of Giving Results

1. Dittadhammavedaniya Kamma : The Kamma that produce results at this birth.
2. Upapajavedaniya Kamma : The Kamma that produce results in the next birth.
3. Aparapariyavedaniya Kamma : The Kamma that produce results in at birth from the third to the last in which a person attain Nibbana.
4. Ahosi Kamma : The Kamma that fails to produce results.

Classification of Kamma Based on the Plane of Existence

1. Kamavacara Akusala Kamma
2. Kamavacara Kusala Kamma
3. Rupavacara Kusala Kamma
4. Arupavacara Kusala Kamma

Another different classification of Kamma is as follows;

	Good / Advantage	Bad / Disadvantage
Gati : Rebirth	Sampatti : A person doing bad actions throughout his whole life, but does a good action on his death bed, he will be reborn in a good place. This is called Gati Sampatti	Vipatti : A person doing good actions throughout his whole life, but does a bad action on his death bed, he will be reborn in a bad place. This is called Gati Vipatti
Upadi : Physical Body	Sampatti : If a person does bad actions throughout his previous life, but has a pretty physical body in this birth, then it is called Upadi Sampatti	Vipatti : If a person does good actions throughout his previous life, but has an unpleasant physical body in this birth, then it is called Upadi Vipatti
Kala : Season	Sampatti : A person who has done bad actions in his previous birth but is reborn in a place where there is a good season will not suffer. This is called Kala Sampatti	Vipatti : A person who has done good actions in his previous birth but is reborn in a place where there is a bad season will suffer. This is called Kala Vipatti
Payoga : Effort	Sampatti : If a person does	Vipatti : If a person does good

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	bad actions but tries to get good results, will get good results. It is called Payoga Sampatti	actions but doesn't try to get good results, will get bad results. It is called Payoga Vipatti
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Although there are different classifications of Kamma mentioned above, they are not the only causes that determine a person's birth. Lord Buddha has said that there are many causes that condition the things in this world. Kamma is just one of those causes.

The Five Natural Laws (Panca Niyama Dhamma) shows that Kamma is only one of the causes that determine the things in the world.

The Five Natural Laws (Panca Niyama Dhamma)

1. Utu Niyama : Law of Seasons

Blooming and fruition of trees in different seasons and the changing of weather conditions are because of the Law of Seasons.

2. Bija Niyama : Law of Seeds

The natural behaviors and special features of plants is a result of Law of Seeds. For example when you plant a mango seed the result will be a mango tree.

3. Citta Niyama : Law of Consciousness

The different states of the mental process come under this category. For example arising of kusala and akusala citta in mind.

4. Dhamma Niyama : Law of Doctrine

Miraculous occurrences like the arising of earthquakes at the time of the birth of a bodhisatta and different natural behaviors of the nature, like a river never flow upward comes under this category.

5. Kamma Niyama : Law of Actions

Various effects of different Kammass come under this category.