

Fundamental Knowledge of **Abhidhamma**

Lesson – 16 –

Immaterial-sphere Consciousness

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Recommended reading – CMA – P.60 to 64

p. 342 - §19

Arūpabhūmi – Four realms in which matter has been totally transcended and only consciousness and mental factors remain.

Arūpāvacara Citta – the consciousnesses pertaining to the immaterial plain of existence (*Arūpabhūmi*).

The (**Wholesome**) attainment of *Arūpajjhāna* by worldings(*Puthujjana*) and trainees(*Sekha*)

The (**Functional**) attainment of *Arūpajjhāna* by *Arahant*

The (**Resultant**) consciousness of *Arūpajjhāna* Which arise through rebirth in the immaterial realms

Four Types Of Arūpāvacara Citta –

- 1. *Ākāśañāncāyatana citta* –**
the consciousness pertaining to the base of **Infinite Space**
- 2. *Viññāṇañcāyatana citta* –**
the consciousness pertaining to the base of **Infinite Consciousness**
- 3. *Ākiñcañāyatana citta* –**
the consciousness pertaining to the base of **Nothingness**
- 4. *Nevasaññā-nāsaññāyatana citta* –**
the consciousness pertaining to the base of **Neither perception
nor non-perception**

Wholesome – 4 + Resultants – 4 + Functional - 4 = 12 (*Arūpajjhāna cittas*)

Immaterial-sphere Consciousness - 12	Types Of Consciousness	Two Jhāna-Factors
Immaterial-sphere Wholesome Consciousness – 4	Con...Pertaining to the base of Infinite Space	(1) Equanimity (2) One-pointedness
	Con...Pertaining to the base of Infinite Consciousness	(1) Equanimity (2) One-pointedness
	Con...Pertaining to the base of Nothingness	(1) Equanimity (2) One-pointedness
	Con...Pertaining to the base of Neither perception nor non-perception	(1) Equanimity (2) One-pointedness
Immaterial-sphere Resultant Consciousness – 4	As they are produced by the wholesome, identical with <i>Kusala</i> (wholesome)	
Immaterial-sphere Functional Consciousness – 4	Same as <i>Kusala</i> (Wholesome) (the only difference is not producing result)	

Mahaggata Citta – Sublime Consciousnesses

1) *Rūpāvacara Citta* –

Fine-material sphere Consciousness (15)

2) *Arūpāvacara Citta* –

Immaterial sphere Consciousness (12)

(27) Sublime consciousness
Jhāna-cittas (Absorption Consciousness)
(Meditative attainments) {P.64}

As all Arūpāvacara-Cittas – have two jhāna-factors of equanimity and one-pointedness, they are included in fifth-jhāna (*pañcamajjhāna*)

(*Rūpāvacara-pañcamajjhāna* – 3 +

Arūpāvacara-Cittas – 12 = 15 - *Pañcamajjhāna-cittas*). {p.64}

Name of Jhāna	Fine-Material-sphere-Consciousness - 15	Immaterial-sphere Consciousness - 12	Sublime Consciousnesses - 27	By way of Feeling
First Jhāna	3	×	3	Accompanied by joy - 12
Second Jhāna	3	×	3	
Third Jhāna	3	×	3	
Fourth Jhāna	3	×	3	
Fifth Jhāna	3	12	15	Accompanied by equanimity - 15

The attainment of first Arūpajjhāna –

The base of infinite space – (The meditator who has mastered the fifth fine-material *jhāna* based on a *kasina* object) spread out the counterpart sign of the *kasina* until it becomes immeasurable in extent.

Then he removes the *kasina* by attending only to the space it pervaded, contemplating it as “infinite space.”

Through repeated attention given in this way, there eventually arises in absorption a citta having as object the concept of infinite space (*Ākāśapaññatti*). See p.342 §19

(Direct) Objects	Contemplation	Attainments
The concept of infinite space (<i>Ākāsa-paññatti</i>)	“ <i>Ananto Ākāso</i> – Infinite space”	<i>Ākāsañāṇcāyatana</i> <i>jhāna</i>
First Immaterial-sphere consciousness (<i>Ākāsañāṇcāyatana citta</i>)	“ <i>Anantaṃ viññāṇaṃ</i> - Infinite consciousness”	<i>Viññāṇañcāyatana</i> <i>jhāna</i>
The Concept of Non-existence (or) Nothingness (of First Immaterial-sphere consciousness) (<i>Natthibhāva-paññatti</i>)	“ <i>Natthi kiñci</i> – there is nothing whatsoever”	<i>Ākiñcañāyatana</i> <i>jhāna</i>
Third Immaterial-sphere consciousness (<i>Ākiñcañāyatana citta</i>)	“ <i>Santa’metaṃ, paṇīta’metaṃ</i> - It is peaceful; it is good”	<i>Nevasaññā-</i> <i>nāsaññāyatana</i> <i>jhāna</i>

(See – P.63)

Immaterial-sphere Consciousness - 12	Consciousness	Transcended Objects (Atikkamitabba)	Direct Objects (Ālambitabba)
Immaterial-sphere Wholesome Consciousness – 4	Con...Pertaining to the base of Infinite Space	Concept of <i>Kasiṇa</i>	Concept of inf.Space
	Con...Pertaining to the base of Infinite Consciousness	Concept of inf.Space	Consciousness of Inf.Space
	Con...Pertaining to the base of Nothingness	Consciousness of Inf.Space	Concept of nothingness
	Con...Pertaining to the base of Neither perception nor non- perception	Concept of nothingness	Consciousness of the base of nothingness
Immaterial-sphere Resultant Consciousness – 4	As they are produced by the wholesome, identical with <i>Kusala</i> (wholesome)		
Immaterial-sphere Functional Consciousness – 4	Same as <i>Kusala</i> (Wholesome) (the only difference is not producing result) ⁹		