Realms of Rebirth

& Karma

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **FORMLESS REALMS**◦ 4 of them | *Rebirth* here because of **good karma** | Can *experience* the results of **good karma** |
| **FORM REALMS**◦ 16 of them |
| **SENSUAL REALMS** | Can *experience* the results of **good & bad karma** |
| ◦ 6 Deva |
| ◦ Human |
| ◦ Asura | *Rebirth* here because of **bad karma** |
| ◦ Ghost |
| ◦ Animal |
| ◦ Hells | Can *experience* the results of **bad karma** |

ReadingFaithfully.org

**Causes for Rebirth in Various Realms**

|  |
| --- |
| The Immaterial World (arūpa-loka) |
| Nevasaññānāsaññāy-Atana (Neither perception nor non- perception) | Meditation on the base of neither perception nor non-perception |
| Ākiñcaññāyatana (Nothingness)  | Meditation on the base of nothingness |
| Viññāṇañcāyatana (Infinite Consciousness)  | Meditation on the base of infinite consciousness |
| Ākāsānañcāyatana (Infinite Space)  | Meditation on the base of infinite space |
| The Fine-Material World (rūpa-loka) |
| Akaniṭṭha (Highest) | Attainment of the State of Non-Returning (the third stage of enlightenment) which is always supported by the Fourth Jhāna |
| Sudassi (Clear-Sighted)  |
| Sudassa (Beautiful)  |
| Atappa (Untroubled)  |
| Aviha (Not Falling Away)  |
| Asaññasatta (Unconscious)  | Attainment of the Fourth Jhāna |
| Vehapphala (Great Fruit) |
| Subhakiṇṇa (Refulgent Beauty) | Attainment of the Third Jhāna |
| Appamāṇasubha (Unbounded Beauty) |
| Parittasubha (Limited Beauty)  |
| Ābhassara (Streaming Radiance)  | Attainment of the Second Jhāna |
| Appamāṇābha (Unbounded Radiance)  |
| Parittabha (Limited Radiance) |
| Mahā Brahmā (Great Brahma) | Attainment of the First Jhāna |
| Brahmā-Purohita (Ministers Of Brahma) |
| Brahmā-Parisajja (Retinue Of Brahma ) |
| The Sensuous World (kama-loka) Happy Destinations (sugati) |
| Paranimmita-Vasavatti (Wielding power over the creation of others)  | Ten kinds of wholesome action.Generosity, morality, and wisdom. |
| Nimmānarati (Delighting in creation)  |
| Tusita (Contented)  |
| Yāma (Yāma)  |
| Tāvatiṃsa (The Thirty-Three)  |
| Cātummahārājika (The Four Great Kings)  |
| Manussa (Human) |
| The Sensuous World (kama-loka) States Of Deprivation (apaya) |
| Asura (Asuras) | Ten kinds of unwholesome action |
| Peta (Ghosts) | Ten kinds of unwholesome action, stinginess |
| Tiracchāna (Animals)  | Ten kinds of unwholesome action.Behaving like an animal. Attachment to food. |
| Niraya (Hell)  | Ten kinds of unwholesome action. Behaving like an animal. Killing one’s parents, killing an arahant, injuring the Buddha, creating a schism in the Saṅgha |

ReadingFaithfully.org

**Potential Length of Rebirth in Various Realms**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Realm  | Translation  | Life-Span  |
| The Immaterial World (arupa-loka) |
| nevasaññānāsaññāy-atana  | Neither perception nor non- perception  | 84,000 kalpas  |
| ākiñcaññāyatana  | Nothingness  | 60,000 kalpas  |
| viññāṇañcāyatana  | Infinite consciousness  | 40,000 kalpas  |
| ākāsānañcāyatana  | Infinite space  | 20,000 kalpas  |
| The Fine-Material World (rupa-loka) |
| akaniṭṭha \* | Highest  | 16,000 kalpas  |
| sudassi \* | Clear-Sighted  | 8,000 kalpas  |
| sudassa \* | Beautiful  | 4,000 kalpas  |
| atappa \* | Untroubled  | 2,000 kalpas  |
| aviha \* | Not Falling Away  | 1,000 kalpas  |
| asaññasatta  | Unconscious  | 500 kalpas  |
| vehapphala  | Great Fruit | 500 kalpas  |
| subhakiṇṇa  | Refulgent Beauty | 64 kalpas  |
| appamāṇasubha  | Unbounded Beauty | 32 kalpas  |
| parittasubha  | Limited Beauty  | 16 kalpas  |
| ābhassara  | Streaming Radiance  | 8 kalpas  |
| appamāṇābha  | Unbounded Radiance  | 4 kalpas  |
| parittabha  | Limited Radiance  | 2 kalpas  |
| mahā brahmā  | Great Brahma  | 1 kalpa |
| brahmā-purohita  | Ministers Of Brahma  | 1/2 kalpa  |
| brahmā-parisajja  | Retinue Of Brahma  | 1/3 kalpa  |
| The Sensuous World (kama-loka) Happy Destinations (sugati) |
| paranimmita-vasavatti  | Wielding power over the creation of others  | 9.216 billion years  |
| nimmānarati  | Delighting in creation  | 2.304 billion years  |
| tusita  | Contented  | 576 million years  |
| yāma  | Yāma  | 144 million years  |
| tāvatiṃsa  | The thirty-three  | 36 million years  |
| cātummahārājika  | The four great kings  | 9 million years \*\* |
| manussa  | Human  | Varries |
| The Sensuous World (kama-loka) States of Deprivation (apaya) |
| asura  | Asuras | 9 million years  |
| peta  | Ghosts  | Varries  |
| tiracchāna  | Animals  | Varries |
| niraya  | Hell  | 7 days to 512 billion kalpas |

\* Only Non-Returners (beings who have attained the third stage of enlightenment) born here.

\*\* One night and day in the realm of the Four Great Kings is equal to 50 human years.

\*\*\* For the length of a kalpa, see SN 15:5 & 6

ReadingFaithfully.org