**YMBA SENIOR PART (2) COURSE-ABHIDHAMMA CHAPTER (3): COMPENDIUM OF BASES**

**VATTHU SANGHAHA**

**LESSON PLAN SP2-AB-03**

**[Any suggestions to improve the plan or to make corrections will be gratefully received by Rahubadde Sarath-Chandra and Tanuja Sarath-Chandra]**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Pali word Vatthu means the place where something is established, a site or ground for example. Vatthu in our context means the physical support base on which Cittas and Cetasikas are established for the time being.

**THE SIX BASES**

Bases are six in number:

1 Eye base **Cakkhu** Vatthu

2 Ear base **Sota** Vatthu

3 Nose base **Ghana** Vatthu

4 Tongue base **Jivha** Vatthu

5 Body base **Kaya** Vatthu

6 Heart base **Hadaya** Vatthu

The first five look similar to the first five sense doors or sensitivities (dvara) but there is *an important difference.* A sense door provides a channel for the arising of many cittas in a thought process. A base provides physical support for the arising of the particular Citta corresponding to that base. For example the eye base supports the arising of the 2 units of eye consciousness and similarly the ear base etc. There are 10 such cittas for the first 5 physical bases. (Refer back to the second table adding to 46, in Lesson Plan 02).

The mind element and the mind consciousness element mentioned below arise using the heart base. You would remember the 89 types of cittas (page 79 of YMBA book (1)). Of the 89 when you leave out the above mentioned 10, all other 79 arise with the support of the heart base. See detail below.

**HOW MANY BASES EXIST IN EACH PLANE OF EXISTENCE?**

SENSUOUS PLANE (KAMA LOKA)

All six bases are obtainable in sensuous planes. Some beings may not have a few of these due to their past (unwholesome) kamma.

FINE MATERIAL PLANE (RUPA BHUMI BRAHMA LOKA)

Nose, Tongue and Body (gross material body as we know it) are missing. Rupa Loka material is called ‘fine material’. The above 3 bases are intended for sense pleasures which Brahmas do not seek. As human beings they would have discarded sensuous pleasures, and meditated to attain material Absorptions (Rupa Jhanas). After death they may have been born in these Rupa Lokas as a result.

These beings still have the eye and the ear senses, so that for example they can see a Buddha and hear the teachings. Those 2 bases may help them to attain Nibbana.

One exception is that in the ASANNA SATTA BRAHMA WORLD, even these two bases are absent. There is no mental activity there. (For details please refer to page 99 of YMBA book 1).

IMMATERIAL PLANE (ARUPA BHUMI BRAHMA LOKA)

There are no bases and no material body. For these beings there is Citta only. They had also meditated and had obtained immaterial (Arupa) Jhanas.

**THE SEVEN CONSCIOUSNESS ELEMENTS**

ELEMENT here is a technical term. The 89 Cittas are obviously related to one or other of seven elements given below derived from the six bases. It is only the heart base that is defined to have two elements. The elements (Dhatu) corresponding to the bases are defined as follows:

SEVEN ELEMENTS EIGHTY NINE (89) CITTAS

1 Eye consciousness element Eye consciousness 02

2 Ear consciousness element Ear consciousness 02

3 Nose consciousness element Nose consciousness 02

4 Tongue consciousness element Tongue consciousness 02

5 Body consciousness element Body consciousness 02

6 Mind element Mind element (Citta) Triad 03

7 Mind consciousness element All remaining cittas 76

The bases on which the first 10 cittas (elements 1 to 5) above arise are the five physical bases.

For element 6, a set of three cittas (triad) arises solely dependent on the Heart Base. The description of the Triad cittas is given below:

1. One of the five door adverting consciousness 01
2. Rootless Unwholesome Receiving Consciousness 01
3. Rootless Wholesome Receiving Consciousness 01

For element 7, the 76 cittas generally are again attributed to the Heart Base in the sensuous sphere. There are exceptions relating to beings with higher minds. These exceptions are discussed below.

**THE SEVENTY SIX CITTAS RELATED TO THE MIND CONSCIOUSNESS ELEMENT**

Now we shall go into details of the cittas connected to element 7 above. For these we take two sub-groups of 30 and 42 cittas to make it comprehensible.

SUB-GROUP OF 30 [From page 81 of YMBA book 1]

1 Unwholesome Investigating Resultant consciousness of the Rootless Group 01

2 Wholesome Investigating Resultant consciousness of the Rootless Group 02

3 The great Resultants of the *Kamavacara* Group 08

4 Cittas rooted in Hatred 02

5 Smile producing consciousness 01

6 Fine material sphere consciousness 15

7 The first Path (Sotapatti Magga) consciousness 01

**Sub-total 30**

These 30 are not found in the immaterial plane for the following reasons:

*Items 1 to 3 are absent as there are no sense doors.*

*Item 4 does not arise in Brhma worlds.*

*Item 5 and item 6 do not arise in the immaterial world.*

*Item 7 cannor occur as beings cannot hear the Dhamma.*

SUB-GROUP OF 42 [From page 81 of YMBA book 1]

1 Wholesome beautiful consciousness of the sense sphere 08

2 Wholesome consciousness of the Immaterial sphere 04

3 Unwholesome consciousness rooted in greed and delusion 10

4 Mind door adverting consciousness 01

5 Sense sphere functional consciousness with roots 08

6 Immaterial sphere functional consciousness 04

7 Supra mundane consciousness other than Sotapatti Magga Citta 07

**Sub-total 42**

N.B. These are not supported by the heart base in the immaterial plane. The four cittas in item 6 do not arise in the fine material or sense sphere.

**PLANES OF EXISTENCE CLASSIFIED BY THE FIVE AGGREGATES**

It would be recalled that these are the five aggregates (khandas) that together make a being in general:

*Matter* Rupa

*Sensations or Feelings* Vedana

*Perceptions* Sanna

*Mental formations* Sankhara

*Consciousness* Vinnana

PLANE OF ONE AGGREGATE (EKA VOKARA BHAVA)

Asanna Satta Brahma world where there is only materiality therefore has only one aggregate.

PLANES OF FOUR AGGREGATES (CATU VOKARA BHAVA)

The four immaterial brahma worlds

PLANES OF FIVE AGGREGATES (PANCA VOKARA BHAVA)

15 fine material planes except the asanna satta world

11 sensuous planes (4 hells, human plane and 6 sensuous heavans)

*[At this point the five questions on page 145 must be answered.]*