

## THE 12-LINK CHAIN OF CAUSATION or DEPENDENT ORIGATION

All these links occur both moment to moment and lifetime to lifetime.

IGNORANCE (avidya) - ignorance of the nature of the self and reality, ignorance of the Dharma  
*a blind person groping with a cane*

VOLITIONAL ACTION (sankhara) - impulse or motivation, creating actions without knowledge of consequences; the creation of karma; *a potter shaping a vase*

CONSCIOUSNESS (vinnana) - consciousness of all the organs of perception  
*a monkey swinging from a tree*

NAME AND FORM (nama-rupa) – the psychological and physical skandhas that create a self  
*two people in a boat*

SIX SENSES (salayatana) - eye, ear, nose, tongue, body, mind  
*a house with six windows*

SENSE IMPRESSIONS (phassa) – contact between the senses and the environment  
*lovers entwined*

FEELINGS (vedana) – experience of sensual contact (pleasant, unpleasant, or neutral)  
*a person with an arrow through the eye*

DESIRE or CRAVING (tanha or trishna) – the arising of attachment related to experience  
*a person drinking*

ATTACHED MIND (upadana) – the conditioning of a self through desires and craving  
*a person picking fruit*

BECOMING (bhava) – the force influencing the formation of a self  
*a couple engaged in intercourse*

BIRTH (jati) - birth into a specific matrix of skandhas in a particular moment  
*the act of childbirth*

OLD AGE AND DEATH (jaramarana) - the inevitable result of birth  
*a corpse*