

Handout 6: Realms of Existence

Name of realm			Cause of rebirth into this realm	Life-continuum Thought Moment	Lifespan	Destination in next life	
						Non-saint	Saint
31	Neither perception nor non-perception		Thought Moment 73	77	84,000 Great aeons	5-11, 31	31
30	Nothingness		Thought Moment 72	76	60,000 Great aeons	5-11, 30, 31	30, 31
29	Infinite consciousness		Thought Moment 71	75	40,000 Great aeons	5-11, 29-31	29-31
28	Infinite space		Thought Moment 70	74	20,000 Great aeons	5-11, 28-31	28-31
27	Pure Abodes	Highest Pure Abode	Understanding Concentration Mindfulness Energy Faith Dispassion toward perception 5 th Jhāna (Thought Moment 59)	64	16,000 Great aeons	-	None
26		Clear-sighted Abode			8,000 Great aeons	-	27
25		Beautiful Abode			4,000 Great aeons	-	26, 27
24		Serene Abode			2,000 Great aeons	-	25-27
23		Durable Abode			1,000 Great aeons	-	24-27
22		Gods without consciousness			500 Great aeons	5-11	-
21	Gods of great reward				500 Great aeons	5-22, 28-31	21, 23-31
20	Gods of steady aura		4 th Jhāna (58)	63	64 Great aeons	5-22, 28-31	20-21, 23-31
19	Gods of infinite aura				32 Great aeons	5-22, 28-31	19-21, 23-31
18	Gods of minor aura				16 Great aeons	5-22, 28-31	18-21, 23-31
17	Gods of radiant luster		2 nd or 3 rd Jhāna (56 or 57)	3 rd Jhāna 62 2 nd Jhāna 61	8 Great aeons	5-22, 28-31	17-21, 23-31
16	Gods of infinite luster				4 Great aeons	5-22, 28-31	16-21, 23-31
15	Gods of minor luster				2 Great aeons	5-22, 28-31	15-21, 23-31
14	Great Brahmās		1 st Jhāna (55)	60	1 Incalculable aeon	5-22, 28-31	14-21, 23-31
13	Ministers of Brahmā				½ Incalculable aeon	5-22, 28-31	13-21, 23-31
12	Retinue of Brahmā				⅓ Incalculable aeon	5-22, 28-31	12-21, 23-31
11	Deva Realms	Gods wielding power over creation of others	3-rooted superior kamma → being with life-continuum of 39, 40, 43, 44 (3 roots) 3-rooted inferior kamma or 2-rooted superior kamma → being with life-continuum of 41, 42, 45, 46 (2 roots) 2-rooted inferior kamma → being with life-continuum of 27 (0 roots)	39, 40, 43, 44	9216 million years	<u>39, 40, 43, 44</u> 1-22, 28-31 <u>41, 42, 45, 46</u> 1-11 <u>27</u> 1-11	5-21, 23-31
10		Gods delighting in creation			2304 million years		
9		Heaven of the contented Gods			576 million years		
8		Heaven of the Yāma Gods			144 million years		
7		Heaven of the 33 Gods			36 million years		
6		Heaven of the Four Great Kings		9 million years / Indefinite			
5	Human			27, 39-46	Indefinite		
4	Asura		“Completed” Unwholesome Kamma Behaving like an animal Five heinous deeds	19	Indefinite	1-11	-
3	Peta (Hungry Ghosts)						
2	Animal						
1	Hell						