


























In the fourth stage of its development, each half tanmātrā combines with 1/8th tanmātrā of all the other elements, constituting one unit of the gross element. Thus, in the accompanying chart, one-half of ether joins with four 1/8th bits borrowed from the other four elements (that is 1/2 ether + 1/8th air + 1/8th fire + 1/8th water + 1/8th earth), which then constitute one unit of the gross ākāśa (ether). Similarly, half of air plus 1/8th bits borrowed from ether, fire, water and earth, becomes one unit of gross air. Thus is the combination in each of the five elements.

PAÑCĪKARAṆA

The process of pentamerous self division and mutual combination

Stage	Space 1	Air 2	Fire 3	Water 4	Earth 5	Description
(i)						Tanmātrās; each in itself.
(ii)						Tendency to divide into two equal parts.
(iii)						The split is complete.
(iv)	 0000	 0000	 0000	 0000	 0000	One half remaining intact the other half splits into four equal parts.
(v)	 2 3 4 5	 1 3 4 5	 1 2 4 5	 1 2 3 5	 1 2 3 4	Each half combines with 4-bits borrowed from all others.

This process is called 'pañcīkaraṇa', the pentamerous self division and mutual combination process. Out of the gross elements, the physical body is formed. But the sense objects of sound, touch, form, taste and smell are constituted of nothing other than the subtle tanmātrās of the rudimentary elements. The gross elements provide the instrument, for the enjoyment of the subtle elements. All these arrangements are made so that the egocentre may experience a life of happiness or misery as directed by the storehouse of his vāsanās.