

**Law of the Twelve Causes**  
**(Twelve- Link Chain of Dependent Origination)**

1	Ignorance	Fundamental cause of suffering	Sexual intercourse of the parents	Past
2	Actions	Deed (karma) based on Ignorance		
3	Consciousness	Moment of Conception		Present
4	Name and form	Growth after conception		
5	Six Entrances (five sense organs and the mind)	Growth of mind and physical body in the womb		
6	Contact (of name, form and six entrances)	The development of "distinguishing"	Stage of 2-3 year old children	
7	Sensibility (Sensation)	Function of sensibility	Stage of 6-7 year old children	
8	Desire (feelings)	Psychological growth of youth, affection for the opposite sex	Stage of 17-18 year old youths	
9	Clinging	Psychological growth of youth, desire for love relationship	Mental state of adults	
10	Existence	The discriminating mind with its feelings, ideas and assertions that arise from clinging.	Coupling relationship	
11	Birth of Life	Birth of a child, idea, or appearance of matter		
12	Old Age and Death	Comes from a life of suffering	Grief, lamentation, suffering, and distress	

When we die we take with us the karma we accumulate over that lifetime. If we ended that life unenlightened, then we are born again into the first cycle of Ignorance. We can stop the cycle of karma by living an enlightened life of a bodhisattva.

## Law of the Twelve Causes (Twelve- Link Chain of Dependent Origination)

1	Ignorance (nothing is known or sensed)	Fundamental cause of suffering	Sexual intercourse of the parents	Past
2	Actions	Deed (karma) based on Ignorance		
3	Consciousness (=something living)	Moment of Conception (fetus is produced- incomplete form)		Present
4	Name and form	Growth after conception into Name = spirit Form= body		
5	Six Entrances (on the point of dividing into the five sense organs and the mind)	Growth of mind and physical body in the womb Eyes, ears, nose, tongue, body, mind – through which we perceive the existence of all things. We are born at this point not completed until age 2-3		
6	Contact (of name, form and six entrances)	The development of “distinguishing” able to tell colors, shapes, sounds, smells, tastes, physical sensations.	Stage of 2-3 year old children	
7	Sensibility (Sensation)	Function of sensibility develop likes and dislikes	Stage of 6-7 year old children	
8	Desire (feelings) desires arise spontaneously ATTACHMENT- Not love	Psychological growth of youth, affection for the opposite sex	Stage of 17-18 year old youths	
9	Clinging Rising from desire we hold onto what we want	Psychological growth of youth, desire for the opposite sex	Mental state of adults	
10	Existence Opposition and struggle occur among people , human life with it's pain and suffering begins	The discriminating mind with its feelings, ideas and assertions that arise from clinging.	Marriage	
11	Birth of Life	Birth of a child, idea, or appearance of matter		
12	Old Age and Death	Comes from a life of suffering	Grief, lamentation, suffering, and distress	

When we die we take with us the karma we accumulate over that lifetime. If we ended that life unenlightened, then we are born again into the first cycle of Ignorance. We can stop the cycle of karma by living an enlightened life of a bodhisattva.

If we eradicate our ignorance in the present world, the essential form of our life as it was meant to be, will be revealed in our future life. The future begins one moment from now. So if we abandon ignorance and set our minds in the direction of the Dharma, a bright and serene life is only a moment away.

In the Law of Appearance, the Buddha taught fully the formation of this world, what human's beings ought to be, the right way to live, and the ideal human relationships. Through this Law, we can learn the right way of life; to follow the truth permeating everything, that is, to realize the Seal of the Three Laws (1. All things are impermanent. 2. Nothing has and ego. 3. Nirvana is quiescence – we obtain peace when we realize the first 2). and the Law of the Twelve Causes, and based on these teachings, to practice the Four Noble Truths (1. Truth of Suffering, 2. Truth of Cause, 3. Truth of the Path, 4. Truth of Extinction), the Eightfold Path (Right view, Right Thinking, Right Speech, Right Action, Right Living, Right Endeavor, Right Memory, Right Meditation), and the Six Perfections ( Donation, Keeping the Precepts, Perseverance, Assiduity – effort, Meditation, Wisdom). This is the mental stage of faith by addition.

For those who have understood these doctrines, the Buddha revealed that all beings are caused to live by the universal truth, that is, by the Eternal Buddha as the beginning of non-beginning and non-end. Then the believer realizes, “If we are united with the Buddha, we will come naturally to live according to the truth. That state is our real salvation.”

Read from the Threefold Lotus Sutra pages 158-159.