

Dependent Origination

See Radhakrishnan and Moore, *A Sourcebook in Indian Philosophy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1989), p. 278.

1. On ignorance depends *karma*;
(The actions one performs in ignorance lead to particular karmic formations.)
 2. On *karma* depends consciousness;
(The karmic formations determine that one will possess consciousness.)
1. and 2. apply to the past life.
3. On consciousness depends name and form;
(For “name and form” read “mind and body”.)
 4. On name and form depend the six organs of sense;
(The six organs of sense are: eyes, ears, tongue, nose, skin, mind. These depend on the body.)
 5. On the six organs of sense depend contact;
(Without the sense organs there could be no contact with, and knowledge of, objects in the world.)
 6. On contact depends sensation;
(Our sense organs would have no objects to sense, and thus no sensations, if they could not come into contact with objects in the world.)
 7. On sensation depends desire;
(We cannot desire objects that we have neither experienced nor known.)
 8. On desire depends attachment;
(We do not become attached, that is, cling, to things that we do not desire.)

3. through to 8. apply to the present life.

9. On attachment depends existence;
(It is our attachment to things—including ideas—in the present life that leads us to be reborn.)
10. On existence depends birth;
11. On birth depend old age and death, sorrow, lamentation, misery, grief, and despair. Thus does this entire aggregation of misery arise.

9. through to 11. apply to the next life.

Note that this scheme must be interpreted cyclically, not linearly. Thus, 1. is also 12.