

The Beginning of Human Conception

Abhidhamma



Tapussa and Bhallika (two merchant brothers) who offered their provision, received eight strands of hair from the Buddha as sacred object of veneration.

The Buddhist canon said, there are infinite numbers of worlds in the Universe and no world is permanent. Our own earth will end one day like the star in the galaxy. The world we live in will be destroyed by **fire, water or wind**. When it is destroyed by fire, **the entire world up to the Brahma plane** (3 first-*jhàna* planes) will be burnt completely. The destruction by fire will come in seven consecutive and our world will be destroyed then on the eighth time, the water will destroy it to complete the destruction. The final destruction will be by wind up to 64th times.

Before the destruction begins, the Devas of the four kings, Lokapala Devas, will inform the world about the coming of the end of the world. **People who heard the news, out of fright, perform good deeds and undertake *samatha* (tranquility) meditation (not Vipassana meditation)** to attain the higher *jhànas* in order to be reborn in higher celestial planes to escape the calamity.

The world we live in, we human being, do not have a fixed life span; our life span started ten years and slowly increasing to an infinite life span; and from there it decreasing down to ten years life span. This one complete cycle is in Pali Canon as one world cycle. At this time, we are supposedly in the 100 years life span; but some say we are in the 75 years life span; when this life span comes down to ten years, which is approximately the end of our Gotama Buddha's dispensation, some 2,400 years from now, and the world will end. (see Anagatavamsa Desana). Again, we ask the question: when will Ari Metreyya Buddha appear in the new world so we could meet him and listen to his Dhamma to attain Nibbana? Metreyya Buddha will appear some 10,000,000 years from now.

So then, where in which plane out of the 31 planes of existence, will you like to take rebirth in after this life? The entire world from the bottom most to the 3rd jhanas planes will be destroyed. Therefore, even if you have attained stream-winner (Sotapanna) or once-returner (Sakadagami), we all have no place to take rebirth, except in the Brahma planes..

Mode of Conception:

So, then the new world will form with nothing here on earth except dust and moisture. The Pali Canon said the early part of human conception started with Brahma taking rebirth on earth. This early human conception process is a spontaneous process, fully grown human. In fact, they will be beings from Brahma world, those beings living above the 3rd jhanas plane. These Brahma tasted the dust on earth and soon the process of conception turns to – womb conception and some to moisture conception.

The moisture conception means, human are born from the tree trunk, fruits and flowers. This is an incredible statement; but it is true. Remember the builder of our **Shwedagon San Daw Shin Cedi**, the **King Okkalapa** of Mon Dynasty. Yes, his mother **Mae la Mu** was born from the fruit called La Mu Fruit.

Let me relate this legend briefly, how Mae La Mu came to be born from the La Mu fruit. There once, lived in the Mon kingdom in the lower delta region of Myanmar, an ascetic YaTe. One day on his return from collecting alms, came across a miraculous La Mu fruit. He took the fruit with him to his tent. Days later, out of the fruit was born a beautiful baby, he named her Mae La Mu = one born from the La Mu fruit. She grew up to a beautiful woman worthy of a Queen.

Our king of Deva, **Sakka**, living in **Tavatimsa** plane surveyed the future of Buddha sasana and found that she the Mae La Mu will bear a son who will build the Shwedagon San Daw Shin Cedi. That baby must be endowed with psychic power and worthy to be the king of the Mon kingdom. So Sakka, manifested himself as a young man and came to see the Ascetic Ya Te to ask for her hand –so he could father a son with Mae La Mu, who will be known as – Okkalapa King.

When that little boy grown up and became the king, at that time, his two nephews, **Saputta** and **Balikka**, who met Gotama Buddha on their tour of trading in India, brought back with them eight Buddha hair relics. Buddha instructed them that the hair relics are to be enshrined in a Cetiya at a place where his dispensation (sasana) will flourish some time in the future at the time when the dispensation will disappeared in the land of Buddha, India.

Four Modes of Conceiving

Let us look at the four modes of conception within the 31 planes of existence.

1 – conceiving in egg shell - *Andaja-Patisandhi*

2 - conceiving in the womb - *Jalàbuja-Patisandhi* –

3 - conceiving in the hollow or a tree trunk, in a fruit, in a flower, in marsh, in stagnant water, in corpses and carcasses, etc., like flies and mosquitoes - *Samsedaja-Patisandhi*.

4 - rebirth in a fully-grown person - *Opapàtika-Patisandhi*

Therefore, when you heard people relate you about the legend of Mae la Mu, the mother of king Okkalapa, the builder of Shwedagon San Daw Shin Cedi, go read the Buddha's Abhidhamma, the higher learning that some said it is the ultimate Science.

Sources:

1. Abhidhamma in Daily Life by Shin Zanakabhivamsa
2. Abhidhamma – the Ultimate Science – by Prof. Mehm Tin Mon
3. Anagatavamsa Desana – Mula Kyan Sar.
4. The Legend of Shwedagon Pagoda – Burmese version