

# Fundamental Knowledge of Abhidhamma

## Lesson – 25 – Unwholesome Mental Factors

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Collected By Ven. *Paññādhikāṇī kāra*



## (2) *Akusala-cetasika* – Unwholesome factors – 14

<p><i>Moha-catukka</i> (Delusion quartet)– 4</p>	<p>1. <b>Moha</b> – Delusion 2. <i>Ahirika</i> – Shamelessness of wrong doing 3. <i>Anottappa</i> – Fearlessness of wrong doing 4. <i>Uddhacca</i> – Restlessness / agitation</p>	<p>Four factors occur in <b>all</b> twelve unwholesome consciousness</p>
<p><i>Lobha-tri</i> (Greed triad)– 3</p>	<p>5. <b>Lobha</b> – Greed 6. <i>Diṭṭhi</i> – Wrong view 7. <i>Māna</i> – Conceit</p>	<p>Three factors occur only in <b>Lobhamūla</b>.</p>
<p><i>Dosa-catukka</i> (Hatred quartet)– 4</p>	<p>8. <b>Dosa</b> – Hatred 9. <i>Issā</i> – Envy 10. <i>Macchhariya</i> – Avarice / Stinginess 11. <i>Kukkucca</i> – Worry / Remorse</p>	<p>Four factors occur only in <b>Dosamūla</b>.</p>
<p><i>Other</i> – 3 (Sloth dyad and Doubt alone)</p>	<p>12. <i>Thina</i> – Sloth 13. <i>Middha</i> – Torpor 14. <i>Vicikicchā</i> – Doubt</p>	<p>Two factors are related to the prompted cittas of <b>Lobhamūla</b> and <b>Dosamūla</b>. <i>Vicikicchā</i> is related to only Mohamūla.</p>

*Akusala-sādhāraṇa* –

## (Four Universal Unwholesome Factors)

The Four factors led by *Moha*

➤ These four factors occur in all twelve unwholesome cittas,  
for every unwholesome *citta* involves

- a mental blindness to the danger in evil (i.e. delusion),
- a lack of moral shame,
- a lack of moral dread, and
- an underlying current of agitation (i.e. restlessness).

{p.95}

**(*Akusala-sādhāraṇa* – Four Universal Unwholesome Factors)**

**The Four factors lead by *Moha***

<b><i>Moha</i></b> – Delusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A synonym for <i>Avijjā</i>, ignorance (as a root of all unwholesome )</li> <li>- (It) Hides the true nature of things</li> <li>- The opposite of <i>Amoha</i> (non-delusion), <i>Ñāṇa</i> (knowledge), <b><i>Paññindriya</i> or <i>Paññā</i></b> (wisdom) (the characteristic of <b>Mental blindness or unknowing</b>, <i>Aññāṇa</i>) { - compared to <u>darkness</u>)</li> </ul>
<b><i>Ahirika</i></b> – Shamelessness of wrong doing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of respect for <b>oneself</b> is the cause. (the characteristic of <b>the absence of disgust</b> at bodily and verbal misconduct) {- compared to <u>village pig</u> which is not disgusted with eating excrement)</li> </ul>
<b><i>Anottappa</i></b> – Fearlessness of wrong doing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not being afraid of the consequences</li> <li>- Lack of respect for <b>other</b> is the cause. (the characteristic of <b>the absence of dread</b> on bodily and verbal misconduct) {-compared to <u>moth</u> which is not afraid of the flame)</li> </ul>
<b><i>Uddhacca</i></b> – Restlessness / agitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mental restlessness, not still, distraction (being not firmly on the object)</li> <li>- {it makes the mind not to be stuck to the object} (the characteristic of <b>disquietude</b>) – like <u>water</u> whipped up by the wind</li> </ul>

***Lobha-tri* (Greed triad)– 3**  
**The three factors lead by *Lobha***

<b><i>Lobha</i> – Greed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First unwholesome root, covers all degrees of selfish desire, longing, attachment, and clinging.</li> <li>- Craving (<i>Taṇhā</i>) (the characteristic = <b>grasping an object</b>) {compared to a <u>sticky substance</u>, monkey-glue}</li> </ul>
<b><i>Diṭṭhi</i> – Wrong view</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b><i>Diṭṭhi</i></b> – just view or seeing (<i>Micchā</i> – wrong &amp; <i>Sammā</i> – right )</li> <li>- (when it is used alone, it mostly means wrong view)</li> <li>- Seeing wrongly. (things to be permanent, to be satisfactory, to be an atman, etc. ) (the characteristic = <b>unwise (unjustified) interpretation of things</b>)</li> </ul>
<b><i>Māna</i> – Conceit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A kind of mental madness , wants to be on the top of other people</li> <li>- Sometimes it may be overestimation of oneself (the characteristic = <b>haughtiness</b>) {-compared to a <u>flag</u> up in the air}</li> </ul>

## ***Dosa-catukka* (Hatred quartet)– 4 , The Four factors lead by *Dosa***

<b><i>Dosa</i></b> – Hatred	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Second unwholesome root, comprises all kinds and degrees of aversion, ill-will, anger, irritation, annoyance, and animosity</li> <li>- Depression and sorrow are also the modes of <b><i>Dosa</i></b>. (the characteristic = <b>Ferocity</b>) {-compared to <u>a snake</u> (a cobra) hit by the stick</li> </ul>
<b><i>Issā</i></b> – Envy	<p>(the characteristic = <b>being jealous</b> )  <i>(proximate cause is others' success – wealth, appearance, beauty, etc...)</i></p>
<b><i>Macchhariya</i></b> – Avarice / Stinginess	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not being able to bear sharing one's own properties with others</li> <li>- Always arises with Dosamūla citta, never arises with Lobhamūla citta.</li> </ul> <p>(the characteristic = <b>concealing one's own success</b>  when it has been or can be obtained.)  <i>(proximate cause is one's won success)</i></p>
<b><i>Kukkucca</i></b> – Worry / Remorse	<p>-worry or remorse after having wrong done wrong.  (the characteristic = <b>subsequent regret</b>)  <i>(proximate cause is what has and what has not been done</i>  (i.e. wrongs of <b>commission</b> and <b>omission</b>)</p>

The three factors (Others)	
<b>Thina</b> – Sloth	- Sluggishness or dullness of mind ( <i>citta</i> ) (the characteristic = lack of driving power)
<b>Middha</b> – Torpor	- The morbid state of the mental factors (the characteristic = unwildness)
<b>Vicikicchā</b> – Doubt	- (spiritual) Doubt – the inability to place confidence in the Buddha, the Dhamma, the Sangha and the training, One of the mental hindrances. - Not every doubt is <i>Vicikicchā</i> ❖ <i>Vi</i> – (no) + <i>cikicchā</i> (remedy or curing) ❖ <i>Vici</i> – (investigating) + <i>kicchā</i> (getting tired) (the characteristic = doubting)

Sloth and torpor always occur in conjunction, and are opposed to energy (**Vīriya**).

**Sloth** is identified as sickness of consciousness (**Citta-gelaṇṇa**),

**Torpor** as sickness of the mental factors (**Kāya-gelaṇṇa**). (**Kāya** = **Ñāmakāya**)

As a pair they constitute one of the five hindrances, which is overcome by initial application (**Vitakka**).

➤ **Argument** about **Middha** to be included under Materiality or Mentality –