

TABLE 16.5
Characteristic, Function, Manifestation and Proximate Cause
of Twelve Factors of Dependent Arising

Key:

C = characteristic

F = function

M = manifestation

P = proximate cause

1. Ignorance—*avijjā*
 - C: unknowing the ultimate, nonconventional reality of things
 - F: to confuse
 - M: as concealing the ultimate reality of things
 - P: the four taints (*āsavas*) of sensual desire, desire for existence, ignorance, and wrong view

2. Volitional formations—*saṅkhārā*
 - C: forming
 - F: to accumulate kamma, or to endeavor
 - M: as volition
 - P: ignorance

3. Consciousness—*viññāṇa*
 - C: cognizing an object
 - F: to go before
 - M: as rebirth-linking
 - P: volitional formations; or the physical base and object

4. Mentality and Materiality—*nāma rūpa*
 - Mentality—*nāma*
 - C: bending toward the object
 - F: to associate with other mental factors
 - M: as the inseparability of the three mental aggregates that compose mentality (feeling, perception, and mental formations)
 - P: consciousness

 - Materiality—*rūpa*
 - C: being molested by change
 - F: to be dispersed and subject to decay and change
 - M: as indeterminate, that is, neither intrinsically wholesome nor unwholesome
 - P: consciousness

5. Six-fold sense base—*saḷāyatana*
 - C: actuating, enlarging, extending
 - F: to see, hear, smell, taste, touch, and think
 - M: as the state of physical base and door
 - P: mentality and materiality
6. Contact—*phassa*
 - C: touching
 - F: impinging, to cause the object and consciousness to impinge
 - M: as the coincidence of sense base, sense object and sense-consciousness
 - P: the six sense bases
7. Feeling—*vedanā*
 - C: experiencing
 - F: to exploit the stimulus of the object
 - M: as mental or bodily pleasure, and mental or bodily pain
 - P: contact
8. Craving—*taṇhā*
 - C: being a cause of suffering
 - F: to delight
 - M: as insatiability
 - P: feeling
9. Clinging—*upādāna*
 - C: seizing, attachment, or grasping
 - F: not to release
 - M: as a strong form of craving and as false view
 - P: craving
10. Becoming—*bhava*
 - C: being kamma and kamma-result
 - F: by causing to exist; existence
 - M: as wholesome, unwholesome and indeterminate
 - P: clinging
11. Birth—*jāti*
 - C: the first genesis in any sphere of becoming
 - F: to consign to a sphere of becoming
 - M: as an emerging in this existence from a past existence
 - P: kamma-process becoming (*kamma-bhava*)

12. Aging and death—*jarāmaraṇa*

Aging—*jarā*

C: the maturing of the aggregates

F: leading on to death

M: as the vanishing and destruction of youth

P: birth

Death—*marāṇa*

C: a fall, shifting, perishing, or passing

F: to disjoin

M: as absence from the destiny in which there was birth

P: birth