

The Difference Between the Mental Factor of Wrong Views and the Karmic Path of Wrong Views

- The mental factor of wrong views is an afflictive intelligence that denies the existence of something that exists (e.g. karma) or believes in something that doesn't exist (e.g. a creator of the world).
- The karmic path of wrong views is a more intense form of this mental factor.
- “The mental factor of wrong views becomes the karmic path of wrong views when it strongly holds an incorrect view, such as believing [that] the Three Jewels, the four truths, and the law of karma and its effects do not exist....” *The Foundation of Buddhist Practice*, p. 241.

The Great Treatise on the Stages of the Path says:

Although each of the ten can be initiated with any of the three poisons,

- killing, harsh speech, and harmful intent are brought to completion with animosity;
- stealing, sexual misconduct, and covetousness are brought to completion with attachment;
- wrong views is brought to completion with confusion (ignorance of karma);
- lying, divisive speech, and idle talk may be completed with any of the three poisons.

Actions (Karma) and Paths of Action (Karmic Paths)

- Karma/action is intention, an ever-present mental factor.
- A karmic path is either the *cause* of an intention (e.g. harmful intent), or the *actualization* of an intention (e.g. killing).
- The seven nonvirtues of body and speech are both karma/actions and karmic paths.
- The three nonvirtues of mind are karmic paths but not karma (because they are not the mental factor of intention; instead, they are afflictions).

a. Nonvirtuous Actions and Their Effects (from p. 123)

- i. The actual nonvirtuous paths of action
(p. 123 - 130)
- ii. Differentiating heavy and light karma
- iii. A presentation of their effects

ii. Differentiating Heavy & Light Karma

Six ways in which the ten paths of karma are heavy:

1. Conditioning
2. Habituation
3. Nature
4. Basis
5. Singularly adhering to the discordant side
6. Clearing away the discordant side

Four Ways that Karma is Strong

1. Great strength by way of the field
2. Great strength by way of the support
3. Great strength by way of the thing
4. Great strength by way of attitude