

EIGHT KARMA

Our soul is eternal and can never be destroyed. It has eight qualities (Guna) but these are hidden by eight types of karma and hence the atma is caught in this cycle of birth and rebirth and experiences much unhappiness.

The eight types of karma which hinder the progress of the atma towards moksha are:

1. Gyanavaraniya or Knowledge Obscuring Karma

The atma has infinite capacity of knowing anything and everything. However the operation of this Karma hampers the capability of the atma to know everything and sometimes also gives wrong knowledge.

2. Darshanavaraniya or Perception Obscuring Karma

Perceiving property of atma gets obscured by the operation of this Karma. This can cause blindness, also can be the cause of excessive sleepiness.

3. Vedaniya or situation conferring Karma

By operation of this Karma the inherent happiness of the atma is obscured and a living being is endowed with comfortable or uncomfortable worldly situations, which do not lead to ultimate happiness

4. Mohaniya or Deluding Karma

The operation of this Karma obscures the ability of the atma to understand reality, and leads the atma to the wrong path. That which is good and beautiful appears to be bad and that which is bad for the soul appears to be good. Due to this Karma, the soul identifies with the worldly things and strives for the comforts of the body rather than of the soul.

5. Aayushya or life span determining Karma

As the name suggests, this Karma determines the life span of any particular being. It is not normally possible for any being to live longer or shorter than the period fixed by this Karma. So the operation of this Karma causes the cycle of birth and death for the atma and prevents it from reaching Moksha.

6. Naam Karma

Atma in the pure state does not have a physique. But by the operation of this Karma it is decided what type of body, mind, intellect etc. a living being will have. Our Gati or state eg dev, manav etc is also decided by this Karma.

7. Gotra or status determining Karma

All the atmas in its pure state are equal.

But a living being is born in a particular type of family ie high status like a king or a low status or medium status etc by the operation of this Karma

8. Antaraya or obstructing Karma

By the operation of this Karma we experience obstacles or obstructions in our effort of Self-realization or in our intention to do something good, and the atma is unable to reach its potential.

Of these eight karmas, there are four ghati karmas ie Gyanavarniya, Darshanavarniya, mohaniya and antaraya. These directly attack the atma and prevent the manifestation of its true nature.

The Aayushya, Naam, Gotra and Vedniya Karmas are called Aghati Karmas as they don't directly attack the atma but they aid the four ghati karmas in their attack on the atma..

FOUR WAYS IN WHICH KARMA IS AQUIRED

Mithyatva : Due to infatuation, believe that wrong is right and that right is wrong. To believe anything other than that which has been said by Jineshwars.

Avrat: A life where no limits are set

Kashay: Raag –Dwesh (all kinds of attachment and malice, hatred) resulting in Anger, Pride, Deceit, Greed.

Yoga: Wrongful activity of Mind, Speech and Body leading to bad Karma. Also good activity of Mind, Speech and Body leading to good karma