

TABLE 2. *The thirty-one realms of existence according to the Pali sources*

WORLD ( <i>dhātu</i> )	COSMOLOGY		LIFE SPAN	PSYCHOLOGY		
	REALM ( <i>bhūmi</i> )			KARMA (leading to rebirth in corresponding realm)		
FORMLESS WORLD ( <i>arūpa-dhātu</i> )		Neither Consciousness nor Unconsciousness ( <i>nevasaññānāsaññāyatana</i> )	84,000 aeons	Formless attainments ( <i>arūpa-samāpatti</i> )	FORMLESS- SPHERE MIND ( <i>arūpāvacara</i> )	
		Nothingness ( <i>akiñcaññāyatana</i> )	60,000 aeons			
		Infinite Consciousness ( <i>viññāṇañcāyatana</i> )	40,000 aeons			
		Infinite Space ( <i>ākāsānañcāyatana</i> )	20,000 aeons			
WORLD OF PURE FORM ( <i>rūpa-dhātu</i> )	↑ destruction by wind	The Supreme ( <i>akaniṭṭha</i> )	16,000 aeons	Path of non-return ( <i>anāgāmi-magga</i> ) or transcendent 4th <i>jhāna</i>	Fourth <i>jhāna</i>	
		The Clear-sighted ( <i>sudassin</i> )	8,000 aeons			
		The Lovely ( <i>sudassa</i> )	4,000 aeons			
		The Serene ( <i>atappa</i> )	2,000 aeons			
		The Durable ( <i>aviha</i> )	1,000 aeons			
		Unconscious Beings ( <i>asañña-satta</i> )	500 aeons			
		Great Reward ( <i>vehapphala</i> )	500 aeons			
		PURE ABODES ( <i>suddhāvāsa</i> )				
		Complete Beauty ( <i>subha-kiṇha</i> )	64 aeons	Third <i>jhāna</i>	FORM- SPHERE MIND ( <i>rūpāvacara</i> )	
		Boundless Beauty ( <i>appamāṇa-subha</i> )	32 aeons			
	Limited Beauty ( <i>paritta-subha</i> )	16 aeons				
WORLD OF THE FIVE SENSES ( <i>kāma-dhātu</i> )	↑ destruction by water	Streaming Radiance ( <i>ābhassara</i> )	8 aeons	Second <i>jhāna</i>	10 courses of wholesome karma motivated by non-attachment, friendliness and wisdom	
		Boundless Radiance ( <i>appamāṇābha</i> )	4 aeons			
		Limited Radiance ( <i>paritābha</i> )	2 aeons			
	↑ destruction by fire	Great Brahmā ( <i>mahābrahmā</i> )	1 aeon	First <i>jhāna</i>		
		Brahmā's Ministers ( <i>brahma-purohita</i> )	1/2 aeon			
		Brahmā's Retinue ( <i>brahma-pārisajja</i> )	1/3 aeon			
		The Masters of the Creations of Others ( <i>paranimmita-vasavattin</i> )	128,000 divine years	HAPPY DESTINIES ( <i>sugati</i> )		SENSE- SPHERE MIND ( <i>kāmāvacara</i> )
		Those who Delight in Creation ( <i>nimmāṇa-ratin</i> )	64,000 divine years			
		The Contented ( <i>tusita</i> )	16,000 divine years			
		The Yama Gods ( <i>yāma</i> )	8,000 divine years			
	The Thirty-Three Gods ( <i>tāvatiṃsa</i> )	2,000 divine years				
	The Gods of the Four Kings ( <i>cātummahārājika</i> )	500 divine years				
	Human Beings ( <i>manussa</i> )	variable				
	Jealous Gods ( <i>asura</i> )	unspecified	DESCENTS ( <i>apāya</i> )	10 courses of unwholesome karma motivated by attachment, aversion and delusion		
	Hungry Ghosts ( <i>petti-visaya</i> )	unspecified				
	Animals ( <i>tiracchānayani</i> )	unspecified				
	Hell Beings ( <i>niraya</i> )	unspecified				

Note: Table 2 is based on Vibhaṅga 422-6, Visuddhimagga vii. 40-4, xiii. 29-65; Abhidhammattha-saṅgaha 22-4.