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Body, Mind and Sleepiness:
On the Abhidharma understanding
of styāna and middha

Rupert Gethin
Body, Mind and Sleepiness:  
On the Abhidharma understanding of *styāna* and *middha*

Rupert Gethin

1. **Listing dharmas**

Our modern textbooks of Buddhist thought inform us that the Theravāda tradition recognises seventy-two or eighty-two dharmas, the Sarvāstivāda tradition seventy-five, and the Yogācāra tradition one hundred.¹ In fact, at least if we confine ourselves to the Indian sources, it seems that only the Theravāda tradition ever actually gives a definite figure for the number of *svabhāva-dharmas*, that is irreducible qualities, it recognises, and then only in four relatively late texts: two works of Anuruddha, *Abhidhammatthasāṅgaha* and *Nāmarūpapariccheda* (tenth century?), Sumaṅgala’s commentary to the former (*Abhidhammatthavibhāvinītiṅkā*, twelfth century), and Kassapa of Coḷa’s *Mohavicchedani* (thirteenth century) all inform us that there are precisely seventy-two *sabhāva-dhammas*, leaving out of the reckoning the ten ‘unproduced’ (*anipphanna*) material dharmas, that are

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not strictly dharmas in their own right.²

So far as I know, in no Indian Sarvāstivāda work, nor in Vasubandhu’s Abhidharma kośa sabhāṣya, is there any specific mention of ‘seventy-five dharmas’; nor do we ever find a list that consists of exactly seventy-five dharmas. The notion that Vasubandhu’s Abhidharma kośa recognises just seventy-five seems to derive from a work of one of Xuanzang’s disciples, Puguang’s Fazongyuan 法宗原 (seventh century).³ And as for the Yogācāra, the list of one hundred dharmas derives from a short work that merely lists the dharmas, attributed in China to Vasubandhu but in Tibetan tradition to Dharmapāla: the Dasheng baifa mingmen lun or ‘Lucid Introduction to the One Hundred Dharmas’.⁴

To insist that the Abhidharma traditions tend to avoid final numbered lists of dharmas may seem of little consequence. Clearly by the time the Theravāda Mahāvihāra commentaries were being compiled in the fifth century, a final list of seventy-two dharmas was established: it is just a matter of doing the arithmetic.⁵ Yet the very fact that in doing the arithmetic we might hesitate to include or exclude the ten anipphanna material dharmas—which are, after all, in all the lists—is telling. Just what

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⁵ Vism 443–72: 4 + 24 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 36 + 6 + 1 + 1 + 4 + 2 = 81 (chapter XIV §§ 35, 36, 82, 126, 129, 133, 159, 166, 168, 170, 176); on distinguishing the ten anipphannarūpas see Vism 450 (XIV 73). The asamkhata-dhātu is omitted here as the list is based on the five skandhas.
is a *dharma*? While Ābhidharmikas of all schools went some way in defining what a *dharma* is supposed to be, it is apparent that they sometimes had difficulty in applying the category consistently to the lists and terms they inherited from the Nikāya-Āgama texts.

The earliest Abhidharma lists of dharmas found in such texts as the Theravāda *Dhammasaṅgani* and Sarvāstivāda *Pañcavastuka* are explicitly open, and since some of its *dhammas* are reducible, the *Dhammasaṅgani* clearly uses *dhamma* not only in the sense of an irreducible quality. This tradition of open lists is maintained in such texts as the *Path of Freedom*. Clearly the texts of all schools—the Theravāda, the Sarvāstivāda, and Yogācāra—bear witness to continued discussions and even uncertainty about what items should be included in the lists of dharmas. While certain items are always there, there remains a fuzziness around the edges. The debates and discussions about just what should be considered a dharma and what should not be are never finally resolved. Reflecting this, there remains a certain reluctance and hesitancy to say categorically that such and such is the definitive list of dharmas.

In the *Abhidharmakośa*, the dharmas are listed in chapter two. After a

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6 PañcaV 8: ye vā punar anye 'py evam-bhāgiyā dhammās cittena samprayuktā ucyante caitasikā dharmāḥ |. Dhs 9 ( § 1); ye vā pana tasmāt samaye annē pi atthi paticcasamuppānṇā arūpino dhammā. ime dhammā kusalā.

7 Having listed the fifty-six *dhammas* that constitute the first type of consciousness (Dhs 9, § 1), the *Dhammasaṅgani* provides definitions of each in the form of registers of terms (Dhs 9, §§ 2–57). Certain registers are used for several different *dhammas*, making it apparent that certain of the fifty-six *dhammas* are considered equivalents. On the basis of these definitions, we in fact have only thirty distinct qualities present in this first type of consciousness. Cf. As 134.

8 Following the English translation, see N. R. M. Ehara, Soma Thera and Kheminda Thera, *The Path of Freedom* Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society, 1977), p. 247. But the text perhaps should be read as simply stating that ‘apart from feeling and perception all mental-factor dharmas are the aggregate of formations’. T 1648: 32.447c13. 除受想一切心數法行陰. I am grateful to Lin Qian for this observation.
discussion of the twenty-two faculties, Vasubandhu tells us that dharmas are comprised by five basic categories (vastu): matter (rūpa), consciousness (citta), the associates of consciousness (caitasika), forces disassociated from consciousness (citta-viprayukta-samśkāra) and the unconditioned (asamskṛta). The understanding of citta as a single dharma and the list of the fourteen disassociated forces seem straightforward. Vasubandhu’s list of the caitasikas is perhaps less so. He concludes by noting that there are some further caitasikas that are ‘not fixed’ (aniyata), that is, that may or may not arise in connection with certain types of consciousness: thinking (vitarka), examining (vicāra), regret (kaukṛtya), sleepiness (middha), ‘and so on’ (ādi).9 Yaśomitra’s commentary quotes a mnemonic verse which indicates what is meant by ‘and so on’ here: aversion (pratigha), greed (rāga), conceit (māna), and doubt (vicikitsā), making a total of eight unfixed dharmas.10 And Vasubandhu speaks precisely of these additional four in his exposition of the association of caitasikas a few pages later.11 For the unconditioned and material dharmas we must look back to chapter one where the former are listed as three (I 4–5). A little further on at the beginning of verse nine Vasubandhu tells us that rūpa consists of the five

9 Abhidh-k-bh 57.8–9 (bāṣya to II 27); uktā ime pañca-prakārāḥ caittāḥ | anye ’pi cāniyataḥ sanit vitarkavicāra-kaukṛtyamiddhādayāḥ | Cf. Abhidh-dī 79.6–7: vyākhya-tā pañca-prakārāḥ caittāḥ | anye ’pi cāniyataḥ pathyante vitarkavicāra-kaukṛtyamiddhādayāḥ |

10 Abhidh-k-vy 132.20–22: atrācāryavasumitraḥ samgrahaślokam āha: vitarkacārakaukṛtyamiddhayapatrīgyasaktayāḥ | mānaṁ ca vicikitsā cety aśtāṁ anyaitāṁ smṛtā ||

senses, their respective objective fields, and the ‘non-informative’ (avijñap-
ti).\textsuperscript{12} This might suggest just eleven distinct dharmas, which is how
Puguang counted.\textsuperscript{13} But this is in the verse portion of the text, and when
Vasubandhu defines the sphere of touch in the next verse, he tells us that
this in turn comprises eleven distinct items (dravya-svabhāvam): the four
elements, plus smoothness, roughness, heaviness, lightness, cold, hunger,
and thirst.\textsuperscript{14} The use of the term dravya or ‘real entity’ here might suggest
that we should count a total of twenty-one material dharmas, but then for
consistency’s sake we should also perhaps count the sub-varieties of visible
form, sound, taste and smell.\textsuperscript{15} Yet not all these appear to be understood as
dravyas.\textsuperscript{16} In fact there seems little reason to think that Vasubandhu
intended to depart from the usual Sarvāstivāda practice of counting the
sphere of touch as five dharmas (the four elements, plus the additional
portion) and listing the material dharmas as in total fifteen.\textsuperscript{17} This would
give a list of seventy-nine dharmas. But perhaps the more important point
is that there remains some ambiguity about just what items are to be
counted as separate distinct dharmas, and it is not at all clear that there is
any definitive Sarvāstivāda list of dharmas. The way Skandhila lists
dharmas in his Abhidharmāvatāra might suggest adding two further
caitisakas, ‘gladness’ (prāmodya) and ‘disenchantment’ (nirveda).\textsuperscript{18}

\textsuperscript{12} Abhidh-k-bh I 9a-b (5.22): rūpam pañcendriyāny arthāh pañcāvijñaptir eva ca |
\textsuperscript{13} T 1821: 41.15b13–21; X 837: 53.106a11.
\textsuperscript{14} Abhidh-k-bh 7.9–10: spraṭstavyam ekādaśadravyasvabhāvam | catvāri mahābhū-
tāni śāksnātvam karkaśatvam gurutvam laghutvam śītaṃ jīghatsā piṇāsā ceti | |
\textsuperscript{15} Abhidh-k I 10.
\textsuperscript{16} This problem of the of use of dravya in the context of material dharmas is in fact
discussed at some length in the bhāṣya to Abhidh-k II 22 (Abhidh-k-bh 52.23–52.4).
\textsuperscript{17} See Abhidh-k-bh 23.19–23.20 (I 35): spraṭstavyam dvividham bhūtāni bhautikam ca | 
tatra bhūtāni catvāri | bhautikam śāksnātvādi saptavidham |. For the usual
Sarvāstivāda listing of material dharmas see, for example, the Prakaraṇapāda (T

— 250 —
Turning to the Yogācāra lists, alongside the *Dasheng baifa mingmen lun*’s one hundred dharmas, we have a list of eighty-five in Vasubandhu’s *Pañcaskandhaka*, and one of 108 in Asaṅga’s *Abhidharmasamuccaya*.\(^\text{19}\) The differences in number mostly concern the forces disassociated from consciousness and the unconditioned dharmas, but also, in the list of one hundred, the material dharmas. This issue of just how many dharmas the Yogācārins recognise is further complicated by the fact that their exegetical traditions indicate that a number of the dharmas in the lists—non-informative matter and the twenty secondary defilements—are anyway not distinct entities (*dravya*) but only nominal (*prajñapti*).\(^\text{20}\) All this suggests that the Yogācārin lists acknowledge the ambiguous status of a dharma and in fact abandon the attempt to provide an inventory of ultimately irreducible qualities. The approach is more pragmatic: here is a practical and useful listing of dharmas.

That determining the lists of dharmas of these schools is problematic illustrates something that becomes clearer as we begin to compare the lists across schools. It often appears that one school has completely omitted a

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\(^{18}\) Chinese 欽 (T. 1554: 28.982b15–17) and Tibetan *rab tu dga’ ba*. (sDe dGe 4098: 306v5–6); Chinese 欽 (T 1554: 28.982b18–20) and Tibetan *skyo ba* (sDe dGe 4098: 306v4–5). Imanishi, *Das Pañcavastukam*, p. 19 draws attention to this *Abhidharmāvatāra* list and suggests Sanskrit *prahāra* and *nirvid*. See also Kuala Lumpur Dhammajoti, *Entrance into the Supreme Doctrine: Skandhila’s Abhidharmavatāra* (Hong Kong: Centre of Buddhist Studies, University of Hong Kong, 2008), pp. 31–32, 150–51.

\(^{19}\) Pañcask 1–23; Abhidh-sam (P) 3–12.

dharma from its reckoning. On closer examination, the difference is not so much that the missing item is not acknowledged at all, but rather that it is not given the status of a dharma. This is not necessarily insignificant, but it is nonetheless often a point of some subtlety and in part reflects a tension between Abhidharma as an abstract system of thought and a practical tool informing the religious and contemplative life of Buddhist monks and nuns. In the remainder of this article I hope to illustrate some of these issues in general before turning to the specific problems of classifying sleepiness and what these reveal about the Abhidharma understanding of the relationship between mind and body.

2. The rūpa-dharmas

The lists of material dharmas of all schools are more or less based on the common inherited Nikāya-Āgama formula that the rūpaskandha consists of the four principal elements (mahābhūta) and matter that is dependent on those elements (upāda-rūpa). The understanding of the four elements of earth, water, fire and wind is in part phenomenological: the four elements are different dimensions of what we experience through the sense of touch (kāyendriya): the resistance, cohesion, temperature, and movement of material things. There is some discussion and difference of opinion between the schools on the question of whether we can directly feel ‘water’ (cohesion, fluidity). And as I have already mentioned, the Sarvastivādins, and the Yogācārins, argue that the sense of touch comprises additional qualities that cannot be directly reduced to the four elements: smoothness, roughness, heaviness, lightness, cold, hunger, and thirst.21 This explains

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21 Abhidh-k-bh 7.9-10: spraṣṭavyam ekādaśadravyasvabhāvam | catvāri mahābhūtāni ślakṣṇatvam karkaśatvam gurutvam laghutvam śītam jihghatsā pīpasā ceti. Abhidh-k-bh 23.19–23.20 (I 35); spraṣṭavyam dvividham bhūtāni bhattikām ca | tatra bhūtāni catvāri | bhattikām ślakṣṇatvādi saptavidham |
why the Sarvāstivādins list the sphere of touch (śrāvastavya) in addition to the four elements, while the Theravādins do not: for the Theravādins the sphere of touch is subsumed within just three of the four elements, namely, earth, fire and wind. The inclusion by the Sarvāstivādins of heaviness and lightness as dimensions of the sphere of touch also begins to explain their omission of at least one dharma found in the Theravāda list of material dharmas, precisely lightness. Once more, I think, we have a tension between the phenomenology of experience, which means these qualities need to be distinguished, and the more abstract notion of a dharma as an irreducible quality, which makes it uncertain how, or even whether, to distinguish such qualities as dharmas in their own right. There is also a tension here between accounting for a quality that inheres in external material things themselves (my body is heavy or light), and how we experience material things (my body feels heavy or light).

The Theravāda list of twenty-eight material dharmas includes ten items that are considered ‘not produced’ (anippanna) by the operation of causal conditions, in contrast to the other eighteen material dharmas, which are ‘produced’ (nippāna) dependent on real causal conditions. These ‘unproduced’ material dharmas are thus not true dharmas, things that occur dependent on the activity of other things that occur; they are not ‘conditioned’ (samkhata). On the other hand, they are not ‘unconditioned’ (asamkhata) in the technical Abhidharma sense of a true dharma that exists beyond the realm of causal conditions like nirvana, ‘the unconditioned element’ (asamkhata-dhātu). But significantly one of the ten, namely space (ākāśa), is considered unconditioned by the Sarvāstivādins. In short, the ten anippanna-rūpas are purely nominal or conceptual, though the Theravāda tradition chooses not to treat them under the category of

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paññatti.

Part of the motivation for including these items in the list of dharmas seems to be what might be loosely called the phenomenology of experience: an account of the phenomena of embodied existence without reference to these would in significant respects be lacking. The Theravādins’ ten anipphanna-rūpas are a way of accounting for certain significant dimensions of our experience of the physical world: for example that certain bodily gestures we see and certain sounds we hear communicate meaning (kāya-viññatti, vācī-vaññatti); that our bodies may feel light (lahutā), supple (mudutā), workable (kammaññatā). Of course, this is not a strict phenomenology based on an explicit philosophical position, and in attempting to articulate a coherent system the Abhidharma was confronted by and, to a greater or lesser extent, embraced abstract issues of ontology, epistemology, and logic as well as the traditions handed down in the Nikāyas and Āgamas.

The three qualities of lightness (lahutā), softness (mudutā), readiness (kammaññatā) included in the Theravāda list of ‘unproduced’ material dharmas have no simple counterpart in the Sarvāstivāda and Yogācāra lists, though as I have just remarked, lightness is included in their account of the sphere of touch. But these three Theravāda material qualities are further paralleled in the Theravāda list of mental qualities, where we find twelve caitasikas common to all skilful consciousness that form six pairs by virtue of the fact that one member is defined as related to the body (kāya) and the other as related to the mind (citta): tranquillity (passaddhi) of body and of mind, lightness (lahutā) of body and of mind, softness (mudutā) of body and of mind, workableness (kammaññatā) of body and of mind, adaptability (pāguññatā) of body and of mind, straightness (ujukatā) of body and of mind.

These six pairs of caitasikas are absent from the Sarvāstivāda and Yogācāra lists (although one pair is at least partially represented in the
single skilful quality of *praśrabdhi*) and seem to be an innovation of the *Dhammasaṅgani.*23 They thus appear to be a deliberate addition to the Theravāda listing of dharmas, yet one that becomes standard. One of each pair being bodily and the other being mental is explained in the *Dhammasaṅgani* itself with reference to the *skandhas:* bodily tranquillity, and so forth, is tranquillity of the *skandhas* of feeling, perception and mental forces; mental tranquillity, on the other hand, is tranquillity of consciousness itself. In giving this explanation, which might seem artificial and contrived, it is significant that the *Dhammasaṅgani* is not forced into it by having to accommodate pre-existing Nikāya-Āgama dharmas. As I will argue, it fits better with the overall Abhidharma scheme to see the *Dhammasaṅgani*’s inclusion and account of these terms as articulating an understanding of the way in which mind and body relate and interact. This becomes clearer when considered in the light of the way in which the Abhidharma deals with the dharmas of sluggishness (*styāna*) and sleepiness (*middha*), which I shall turn to presently.

3. *The Abhidharma model of the unskilful (akuśala) mind*

The way *caitasikas* are classified in the dharma lists of the Theravādins, Sarvāstivādins, and Yogācārins in part reflects one of the basic sets of three categories used to classify dharmas: *kuśala, akuśala* and *avyākṛta,* the skilful, unskilful and undetermined. That is, in the first place *caitasikas* are grouped depending on whether they are intrinsically unskilful (*akuśala*) or intrinsically skilful (*kuśala*). A further set is identified as comprising *caitasikas* that are in themselves neither *akuśala* nor *kuśala,* but potentially

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23 We do not find them in any other Pali canonical text. In the Nikāyas we find only mentions *kāyapassaddhi* and *cittapassaddhi* in the context of the *sambojjhaṅgas* (S V 66; cf. Vibh 228).
either, depending on circumstances: these become **akuśala** or **kuśala** by association. Within these three basic classes of **caitasikas** there are further subdivisions. Thus within the group of **caitasikas** that may be either **akuśala** or **kuśala** depending on circumstances, all three schools distinguish between those **caitasikas** which must necessarily occur in any process of consciousness and those that may occur but need not occur. That is, certain **caitasikas** are fundamental to the very process of being conscious or aware of an object; without them it is impossible to be conscious. Other **caitasikas** are connected with particular occurrences of consciousness. It is apparent that while there is some agreement about which **caitasikas** belong to these two groups, there are also significant differences.

Leaving that aside, within the sets of **caitasikas** that are intrinsically **akuśala** and **kuśala** it is also apparent that there are further subdivisions according to certain schools but the rationale for these is not immediately apparent. To begin with the Theravāda list of **akuśala caitasikas**, we find first four **caitasikas** that are universal to all types of **akuśala** mind; they in effect detail the four basic qualities of the **akuśala** mind: it is fundamentally and wilfully deluded (**moha**), it is shameless (**ahirika**) and reckless (**anottappa**)—that is, it has no regard for the harm it is doing to both oneself and others—and it is restless or ill at ease (**uddhacca**).\(^{24}\) It is apparent from the system of which this list is a kind of mnemonic abstraction that we have two further subdivisions in the remaining **akuśala** dharmas and that the whole list is based round three dharmas that from an early date in the development of Buddhist thought in India are called ‘roots’ (**mūla**): greed (**lobha**), hatred (**dosa**) and delusion (**moha**).

These three dharmas represent fundamental **akuśala** dispositions of the mind which nourish other related **akuśala** dispositions of the mind allowing

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\(^{24}\) Vism 468–71 (XIV 159–78). My brief characterization of the **akuśala** mind draws on the definitions of each dharma given here.
them to grow and flourish. As I have just noted, according to the Theravāda model, the basic unskilful mind consists in four qualities: it is deluded, shameless, reckless and restless. Such a mind may just remain in this fundamentally deluded state, yet it is also prone to react to the objects that are presented to it in one of two basic ways. In the first place it may like, become attached and cling to some objects; this is the flourishing of the mind rooted in greed. In the second place it may dislike, push away, and feel aversive to some objects; this is the flourishing of the mind rooted in hate. But, according to this model, it cannot do both at the same time: greed and hatred are mutually exclusive.

The full list of caitasikas indicates that this basic model of the mind can be refined by identifying certain specific varieties of both greed and hate. We may be attached to certain unhelpful views, and ways of seeing the world (diṭṭhi); we may be conceited by way of attachment to certain ideas we have about ourselves in relation to others (māna). We may not like others having what we do not have and so experience envy (issa); we may not like the idea of others having what we do have and so through stinginess (macchariya) resist sharing; we may not like some action we have performed in the past and experience regret (kukkucca). Finally we may not feel sure that we like or dislike something and be plagued by doubt (vicikicchā). This does not quite exhaust the possible varieties of the akuśala mind. The greedy mind may in addition feel sluggish and drowsy; the hateful mind too, but not, it seems, the simply deluded or doubtful mind. What this amounts to phenomenologically is the suggestion that we may feel sleepy in a way that is pleasurable or in a way that is not pleasurable: we may enjoy and indulge the feeling of drowsiness as we lie in bed in the morning or we may feel tired and grumpy as we drag ourselves out of bed. This basic Theravāda model of the unskilful mind may be set out in schematic form as follows:

— 243 —
The developed Theravāda model adds further refinements to this model but not in terms of basic caitasikas, and these further refinements need not concern us here. But why just these sub-varieties of greed and hate? This question becomes all the more acute when we consider the Sarvāstivāda and Yogācāra models of the akusala mind.

The Sarvāstivādin model of the akusala mind has much in common, although it is in some respects more complex, and in some respects simpler. What it has in common is that it too assumes a basic set of defilements associated with ignorance that characterise all unskilful states of mind. It is more complex in that instead of working with just the three fundamental root defilements of greed, hate and delusion (although these are still assumed), it adds three further primary defilements—conceit (māna), view (drṣṭi) and doubt (vīcikitsā)—giving a total of six. It is simpler because it suggests that only one additional defilement at a time can be added to this basic set, while the Theravādins allow more than one additional defilement.

To expand, the basic set of defilements that must always accompany ignorance, and hence characterises the basic akusala mind, includes the three found in the Theravāda list, but adds four more: negligence
(pramāda), apathy (kauśidya), faithlessness (aśraddhya), and sluggishness (styāna). The last of these dharmas (styāna) is included in the Theravāda list of unskilful dharmas (thīna), it is simply that it is considered particular or occasional (aniyata) rather than fixed. I will return to the significance of this below. The other three are apparently not included in the final Theravāda list of dharmas. Yet it turns out they are not entirely absent from the Theravāda system; they are listed and defined in the Vibhaṅga, the second work of the canonical Theravāda Abhidharma in the traditional order, but do not come to be distinguished as separate dharmas.25 The addition of pramāda as a universal of unskilful consciousness is perhaps not unconnected with the fact that in the Sarvāstivādin system smṛti (mindfulness) is taken as something common to all types of consciousness, while in the Theravāda system it is an exclusively skilful dharma. The Theravāda commentaries routinely explain pamāda and appamāda with reference to respectively the loss or presence of mindfulness.26 Given that the Sarvāstivāda system treats smṛti as a general and universal quality of mind, it is not surprising that an additional quality is used to highlight care and attention or its opposite, negligence. But in sum, the Sarvāstivādins effectively add to the account of the unskilful mind. Not only is it by default deluded, shameless, reckless, and restless, it is in addition inherently negligent, apathetic, faithless, and sluggish.

The Theravāda account of the unskilful mind is straightforwardly built

25 Vibh 348 has uddhaccam kosajjām pamādo and ahirikam anottappam pamādo as sets of three; Vibh 383 gives a set of seven asaddhammas (assaddho hoti, ahiriko hoti, anottappi hoti, appassuto hoti, kusito hoti, muṭṭhassati hoti, duppaṇño hoti); for definitions see Vibh 369–72.

around the three *akuśala* roots. While these three roots clearly also inform the basic structure of the Sarvāstivāda account, three further qualities are highlighted as basic unskilful dispositions (*anuśaya*) or defilements (*kleśa*): conceit (*māna*), views (*drṣṭī*), and doubt (*vicikitsā*). All three feature in the Theravāda account but there the first two are subordinated to greed, and the last to delusion. In the Sarvāstivāda account all three are effectively treated as cognitive as opposed to affective defilements: that is, they are in some sense elaborations of the ways in which a mind that has not eradicated the root defilement of ignorance may misunderstand the way the world truly is. Of particular note is the Sarvāstivādin understanding of ‘view’ (*drṣṭī*) not as a distinct dharma but as a particular manifestation of ‘understanding’ (*praṇāda*), one of the *caitasikas* that is considered universal to consciousness (*cittamahābhūmiśka*).

The Sarvāstivādins then classify the remaining defilements as secondary defilements (*upakleśa*) that are explicitly subordinated to these six primary defilements (ignorance, greed, aversion, conceit, view, doubt). This gives a total of nineteen *caitasikas* that are secondary defilements.

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27 For the six *anuśayas* or *kleśas* see Abhidh-k V 1 c-d (Abhidh-k-bh 277.10–12, 278.8–9); for their relationship to the three *akuśala-mūlas*, see Abhidh-k V 20 (Abhidh-k-bh 291.5–10). Cf. Abhidh-di 220.6–8.


29 Abhidh-k V 46 (Abhidh-k-bh 312.6–9).

30 To my knowledge they are never given in one single list. At Abhidh-k V 47 (Abhidh-k-bh 312.11–15) we find a list of ten *pariyavasthānas* (a term which should mean something like ‘obstacle’, but Tibetan and Chinese translations as well as explanations of Pali *pariyutthāna* suggest that these are qualities that envelop or possess the mind, q.v. BHSD): āhrikiya, anapataśpya, irṣyā, mātsarya, auddhatya,
These thus go beyond the explicit list of ten in the standard enumeration of caitasikas found in chapter two of the Kośa. In addition it includes two dharmas, regret (kaukṛtya) and sleepiness (middha), that in the Sarvāstivāda system are not always defilements, and seven that are found in all instances of akuśala consciousness. The Sarvāstivādin sources explicitly relate sixteen of these secondary defilements to the six fundamental defilements: that is, they explain that each secondary defilement is a product (nisyanda) of a specific primary defilement.\textsuperscript{31}

\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\caption{The relationship of primary and secondary defilements according to the Sarvāstivāda}
\begin{tabular}{lcccccccc}
\hline
Defilement & rāga & avidyā & pratigha & māna & drṣṭi & vicikitsā \\
\hline
āhrikya & • & & & & & \\
anapatrāpya & & • & & & & \\
ṣṭyāna & & & • & & & \\
kaukṛtya & & & & • & & \\
middha & & & & • & & \\
auddhātya & & • & & & & \\
māyā & & & • & & & \\
śāthya & & & & • & & \\
mātsarya & & & & • & & \\
mada & & & & • & & \\
vihimsā & & & & & • & \\
krodha & & & & & • & \\
upanāha & & & & & • & \\
pradāśa & & & & & & • \\
mrakṣa & • & • & & & & \\
īrṣyā & & & & & & • \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{table}

\textit{kaukṛtya, styāna, middha, krodha, mrakṣa.} Abhidh-k V 49 (Abhidh-k-bh 313.9–12) adds a list of six klesamalas: māyā, śāthya, mada, pradāśa, upanāha, vihimsā. There remain three akuśala-caittas that are upakleśas by implication: pramāda, kauśidyā, āśraddhya. See also Abhidh-di 306.6–309.6.
This parallels what is found in the Theravāda system, namely that view
(dīṭṭhi) and conceit (māna) are in some sense dimensions of greed (lobha),
while envy (issā), stinginess (macchariṇḍa) and regret (kukkucca) of hate
(dosa). The difference between the Theravāda and Sarvāstivāda system
here is that while in the Theravāda system a secondary defilement when it
arises will occur in addition to the fundamental root, in the Sarvāstivāda
system the secondary defilement takes the place of the fundamental root
defilement, thus greed (rāga) may be replaced by (or better, take the form
of) concealment, or aversion may take the form of anger.32 The
fundamental defilement of ignorance (avidyā), however, always remains
and is not cancelled out or transformed by the addition of a further
defilement. We can set out the Sarvāstivāda model of the akuśala mind in a
scheme that closely parallels the Theravāda model.33

31 Abhidh-k V 48b–50 (Abhidh-k-bh 312.21–213.19); see also Abhidh-di 309.6–311.
25. The term nīṣyandā/nāsyandika is defined as an effect that is similar to its cause
(Abhidh-k-bh 95.20–21: nīṣyando hetusadrśah | hetor yah sadṛśo dharmah sa
nīṣyandaphalam).

32 See Abhidh-k II 29 and bhāṣya (Abhidh-k-bh 58.3–14).

33 Cf. how Ghoṣaka’s Abhidharmāṁrtarasa (T 1553: 28.970c17–20) divides
defilements into three spheres (āyatana): the desirable sphere (iṣṭāyatana) of
kāmacchanda, mātsarya, abhidyā, samnīdhi, etc.; the undesirable sphere (aniṣṭāyatana)
of pratigha, kalaha, īrṣyā, etc.; neutral sphere (madhyāyatana) of moha, māna,
etc. See José van den Broeck, La Saveur de l’immortel (A-pī-t’an Kan Lu Wei Lun):
La version chinoise de l’Amṛtarasa (Louvain-la-Neuve: Université Catholique de
Table 3. The Sarvāstivāda model of the *akuśala* mind:

| avidyā 無明 | pramāda 放逸 | kauśidya 誹意 | āśraddhā 不信 | styāna 慈沈 | audhātya 擠舉 | āhrikya 無懲 | anapatrāpya 無愧 |
| + rāga 貪 / mrakṣa 覆 / mātsarya 樑 / māyā 訛 / mada 僮 |
| + māna 慢 |
| + drṣṭi / pradaśa 惮 / śāthya 諂 |
| + vicikītsā 猶豫 / kaukrtya 悪作 |
| + middha 眠 | + middha 眠 | + middha 眠 |

For the Sarvāstivādins, then, a fundamentally *akuśala* mind rooted in ignorance and consisting in seven further qualities is prone to respond to objects of consciousness with either greed or one of its closely related secondary defilements, or with aversion or one of its closely related secondary defilements. Alternatively some kind of additional cognitive dysfunction may occur not associated with either greed or aversion. We can note that in comparison with the Theravāda model, the Sarvāstivāda model gives a greater variety of closely related qualities for both greed and hate, and also that in two instances a secondary defilement is associated with a different primary defilement. Thus greed may manifest as concealing one's faults (*mrakṣa*), or deceit (*māyā*), or arrogance (*mada*), and hate as anger (*krodha*), or cruelty (*viḥimsā*), or enmity (*upanāha*), and views as obstinacy (*pradaśa*), or deviousness (*śāthya*); while stinginess (*mātsarya*) is considered to issue from greed (*rāga*), and regret (*kaukrtya*) from doubt (*vicikītsā*). It is worth noting that once again the Sarvāstivāda's additional secondary defilements are mentioned in a Theravāda canonical
Abhidharma text, yet are not distinguished as separate dharmas.  

While setting out the Sarvāstivāda model in this way seems to me a legitimate interpretation of what is presented in the sources, it does not in every detail fit with the manner in which the secondary defilements are explicitly said to issue from the fundamental defilements. Concealing one’s faults (m rakṣa) is in fact said to issues from both greed and ignorance.  

And despite the fact they occur in all defiled states of consciousness and can thus routinely occur disassociated from greed and associated with only ignorance, two of the secondary defilements—restlessness (auddhātya) and shamelessness (āhrikya)—are said to issue from greed rather than ignorance.  

Whether this apparent anomaly is discussed in any ancient source, I do not know, but it is worth briefly comparing this Sarvāstivāda account of the relationship between fundamental defilements and secondary defilements  

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34 Vibh 349, 357–58 (kodha, upanāha, makkha, pālāsa, māyā, sātheyya); 350 (mada), 369 (viheśa).

35 Vasubandhu notes that some say that m rakṣa issues from r āga, some from avidyā, some from both; he suggests it can be understood as issuing from r āga and avidyā for those of repute and no repute respectively. Abhidh-k V 48c (Abhidh-k -bh 313.1–3); m rakṣe vīvādah | trṣnāniḥsyanadā ity eke | avidyāniḥsyanda ity apare | ubhayaḥ ity anye | yathā kramam jñātajñātanām iti | Abhidh-k-vy 494: yathākramam jñātajñātanām iti | rājādibhir jñātanām m rakṣavatām pūdgalaṇām m rakṣas trṣnāniḥsyandah: mā me lābhastakāro na bhaviṣyatīti. ajñātanām avidyāniḥsyandah karmavakatām aśraddadhānāh tadbudayam praccādayati: na parasyāmtīke viṣuddhyartham deśayatīti | evam ubhayaniṣyando m rakṣa ity eke | “In the case of those of repute and of no repute respectively”: In the case of people of repute who conceal their faults, their concealment is the product of greed; princes and the like do not want to lose their fame and fortune. In the case of those of no repute, concealment that is the product of ignorance—not keeping faith in the ownership of deeds—hides their fault; they will not confess it for the sake of purification in the presence of another. In this way, concealment is the product of both greed and of ignorance.”
with what is said in Yogacāra sources on the topic. Yogacāra sources, such as Asaṅga’s *Abhidharmasamuccaya* and Sthiramati’s commentaries to Vasubandhu’s *Pañcaskandhaka* and *Trīṃśikā*, using a different terminology similarly relate the secondary defilements to the fundamental defilements, in a manner that is closer to the Theravāda scheme in so far as they refer to just three of the fundamental defilements: secondary defilements are understood as a part or portion (*aṃśa*) of greed, aversion or delusion (Table 4).36

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>rāgāṃśika</th>
<th>mohāṃśika</th>
<th>pratigha- / dveṣāṃśika</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>vikṣepa</td>
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<tr>
<td>āhārika</td>
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<tr>
<td>anapratāpya</td>
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<tr>
<td>pramāda</td>
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<tr>
<td>kauśīyā</td>
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<tr>
<td>āśraddhya</td>
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<tr>
<td>styāna</td>
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<td>kaukrtya</td>
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<td>mraka</td>
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<td>sāṭhya</td>
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<td>mātsarya</td>
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<td>mada</td>
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<td>vihiṃśā</td>
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<td>krodha</td>
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<td>upanāha</td>
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<td>pradaśa</td>
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<tr>
<td>īṛṣyā</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Yogācāra account goes some way to addressing the apparent anomaly in that it sees āhārikyā as a part of either greed, hatred and delusion, but it follows the Sarvāstivāda account in taking auddhatya as a portion of greed.

4. The Abhidharma account of sleepiness

I wish now to focus in more detail on the differences between the Theravāda, Sarvāstivāda, and Yogācāra accounts of dharmas with reference to specific caitasikas: styāna and middha. This example is interesting in its own right, but it also aptly illustrates the interplay between tradition, psychological introspection and more abstract reasoning in the classification of dharmas.

As we have seen, in the developed Theravāda Abhidharma system, sluggishness (thīna) and sleepiness (middha) are exclusively unskillful caitasikas. The implications of this are that to feel drowsy and sleepy is a sure indicator of an akuṣala mind state. That a dull and drowsy state of mind is regarded as something basically akuṣala or unskillful is hardly surprising. Western contemplative traditions too, going back to Evagrius of Pontus (346–399 CE) and his list of eight principal evil thoughts which included acedia, focus on sloth as one of ‘the seven deadly sins’.37 For the Buddhist tradition the pair of sloth and sleepiness is prominent in the sūtra literature as the third of five hindrances (nivarana/āvarana) that need to be overcome to attain dhyāna and develop the seven constituents of awakening.38 And that dullness and drowsiness are essentially mental

36 See Abhidh-sam (G) 17.14–18.15;Trimś-bh 90.13–98, 15; Pañcask-vbh 64.10–73.3.
phenomena is also born out by common experience. Reading through a seemingly endless paper on the intricacies of the Abhidharma classification of dharmanas we may well find our eyelids feeling heavy and our heads dropping for a moment. Yet if someone were to offer the prospect of something more entertaining our dullness and drowsiness might well vanish in an instant to be replaced by enthusiasm and alertness. Clearly dullness and drowsiness must be all in the mind. Even so, surely sometimes we feel dull and drowsy simply because we are tired—after a long walk, or a day spent doing hard physical work. Why should this be considered *akuśala*? Surely this is simply a natural consequence of the way the mind and body work.

This may in part have been precisely the point that certain broadly Theravāda Abhidarmikas wanted to make in insisting that in contrast to *thīna, middha* was not a *caitasika-dharma* but a *rūpa-dharma*: that is physical drowsiness. The Mahāvihāra Theravāda commentarial sources devote some space to trying to refute this notion of *middha-rūpa*, which they attribute to the Abhayagirivihāra traditions.³⁹ They point out that according to the scriptural sources *middha* is unambiguously a hindrance and something to be abandoned, and hence must be a mental defilement. In response to the Abhayagiri suggestion that since the Buddha himself slept he must have experienced sleepiness, the Mahāvihāravāsins claim that he slept not because of *middha*, but because of ‘exhaustion of the body’ (*sarīragilāna*) or ‘weakness of the physical body’ (*karajakāyassa dubbalabhāvo*). I shall return to this discussion later, but on common-sense grounds the Abhayagiri position seems not entirely unreasonable and the

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Mahāvihāra response in part a question of semantics (whether to call the reason a Buddha sleeps ‘material sleepiness’ or ‘weakness of the body’). There is also perhaps some ambiguity about the precise classification of middha in Theravāda canonical Abhidharma sources.

The canonical Dhammasaṅgani does not list thīna and middha as constituents of any kind of consciousness, whether skilful, unskilful, or undetermined. These dharmas are thus two of what the commentaries like to refer to as the ‘or-whatever-other’ (yevāpanaka) dharmas of the Dhammasaṅgani’s open ended and incomplete lists of dharmas. The omission is somewhat surprising given that thīna and middha feature in one of the basic lists of the Nikāya-Âgama literature: the five hindrances. The omission is in part made good in the division of the Dhammasaṅgani called ‘the section of summary definitions’ (nikkhepakanda).40 Here the Dhammasaṅgani defines thīna as sickness (akallatā) and unworkableness (akammanīñatā) of mind, adding a series of eight synonyms based on the roots lī (to lie, recline) and styai (to be collected into a mass), suggesting an understanding of thīna as a kind of mental stiffness and sluggishness. It defines middha on the other hand as sickness and unworkableness of the body, and then gives two synonyms based on the root nah (to bind, tie, fasten), suggesting figuratively tying down or enveloping, followed by ‘being closed in’ (antosamorodho), and ‘nodding off’ (pacalāyikā-soppam);41 the definition of middha finishes with three terms for sleep all from the root

40 Dhs 180–234 (§§ 981–1367). The nikkhepakanda works its way systematically through the twenty-two sets of three-dharma categories and 100 sets of two-dharma categories that form the mātikā set out at the beginning of the whole text. Frauwallner regards this as the original core of the Dhammasaṅgani. The hindrances are the basis for a group of five sets of two-dharma categories, the first of which is ‘dharmas that are hindrances and dharmas that are not hindrances’.

41 The term pacalāyikā (Sanskrit prcalāyati, prcalāyita) seems to connote the nodding of the head and its falling forward.
svap (soppam supanā supitattam). The terms use with reference to middha are thus more suggestive of the physical manifestation of sleepiness and drowsiness.\textsuperscript{42}

The commentary, however, explains that when the Dhammasaṅgani describes middha as sickness and unworkableness of the body, this does not mean that middha is physical, rather ‘body’ here stands for the three mental skandhas other than viññāna.\textsuperscript{43} This commentarial explanation follows the Dhammasaṅgani’s own method in dealing with the six pairs beginning cittapassaddhi and kāyapassaddhi that I have already mentioned. The Dhammasaṅgani itself explains kāyapassaddhi as tranquillity of the aggregates of feeling, perception, and formations; and cittapassaddhi as tranquillity of the aggregate of consciousness.\textsuperscript{44} In applying the same logic to the distinction between thīna and middha as unworkableness of the mind and body respectively, the commentary may well be reflecting a position already firmly established in the Dhammasaṅgani. But equally it seems possible that this issue may still have been undecided when the Dhammasaṅgani was finally fixed as a text. Counting against accepting the commentary’s interpretation as the correct one is the fact that if the Dhammasaṅgani had wanted to define thīna and middha in these terms it could have done so itself. Moreover in the case of all six pairs the Dhammasaṅgani defines both the ‘bodily’ variety and the ‘mental’ variety

\textsuperscript{42} Dhs 204–205: yā cittassa akallatā akammanāṅnātā oliyanā salliyanā linam liyanā liyitattam thinam thiyanā thiyitattam cittassa | idam vuccati thinam ... yā kāyassa akallatā akammanāṅnātā onāho pariyonāho antosamorodho middham soppam pacalāyikā-soppam supanā supitattam | idam vuccati middham ||

\textsuperscript{43} As 378: kāyassā ti khandhattayaānkhātassa nāmakāyassa.

\textsuperscript{44} As 14–15: yā tasnim samaye vedanākkhandhassa saññākkhandhassa sankhārakkhandhassa passaddhi paṭipassaddhi passambhanā paṭipassambhanā paṭipassambhitattam | ayam tasnim samaye kāyapassaddhi hoti ... yā tasnim samaye viññānakkhandhassa passaddhi paṭipassaddhi passambhanā paṭipassambhanā paṭipassambhitattam | ayam tasnim samaye cittapassaddhi hoti.
using exactly the same set of terms. In the case of *thina* and *middha*, as we have just seen, this is not so. In addition to sickness and unworkableness, a series of quite distinct terms is used for each, suggesting that here the *Dhammasaṅgani* understands that the distinction between *thina* and *middha* lies in something more than the former being unworkableness of ‘mind’ (the consciousness aggregate) and the latter unworkableness of ‘body’ (the aggregates of feeling, perception and formations).

We can add a further consideration in support of the idea that the *Dhammasaṅgani* might be regarded as at least open to treating *middha* as something separate from *thina*, and so as having a physical dimension. The canonical Theravāda Abhidharma texts, including the *Dhammasaṅgani*, *Vibhanga*, *Kathāvatthu* and *Paṭṭhāna*, frequently seem to assume and work with a list of just ten aṇuṣala dharmas, sometimes collectively referred to as the *kilesa-vatthu*. This list consists of *lobha*, *dosa*, *moha*, *māna*, *diṭṭhi*, *vicikicchā*, *thina*, *uddhacca*, *ahirika*, and *anottappa*.\(^{45}\) The list thus omits *middha*.\(^{46}\)

The *Treatise on the Path to Liberation* (T 1648 解脱道論 *Jietuo dao lun*) is well known as one of two texts translated into Chinese apparently from a Pali original. There are good reasons for regarding this as a text of the Abhayagiri vihāra.\(^{47}\) The text anyway clearly follows broadly Theravāda

\(^{45}\) See Dhs 214, 257; Vibh 341; Kv (with rāga for lobha) 80, 131–32, 156–57, 168–69, 206, 386–88, 405, 535. This lists also omits *kukkucca*, but that is not an argument for suggesting that it is physical, but it might be an argument for suggesting *kukkucca* (like *middha*) is not exclusively *akusala*, which is precisely the position we find with regard to *kaukṛtya* in the Sarvāstivāda Abhidharma.

\(^{46}\) The list of ten *kilesavatthu* may inform the *Dhammasaṅgani*’s listing of dharmas present in *akusala* consciousness; see Dhs 75, 78–79, 83–86 (§§ 365, 381, 387–90, 413, 418, 422, 425, 427, 429): *micchādiṭṭhi*, *ahirika*, *anottappa*, *lobha*, *moha*, *dosa*, *vicikicchā*, *uddhacca*. Of the ten *kilesavatthu*, *māna* and *thina* are missing.

\(^{47}\) The question has been discussed at length. An Abhayagiri affiliation cannot be strictly proved, but as Cousins has recently shown in reviewing the matter, we have
Abhidharma traditions. Yet it preserves a distinctive list of just sixty-six dharmas which includes among the material dharmas physical sleepiness (middha-rūpa). The list of akusala-dhamma-s appears to follow the list of ten items just mentioned (adding kukkucca). In sum, the Vimuttimagga may preserve an older list of akuśala-caitasikas, closer to the Dhammasāgaṇi and canonical Abhidharma traditions, and those traditions are somewhat vague about the nature of middha.

To sum up, according to the developed Theravāda Abhidharma of the Mahāvihāra, both thīna and middha are mental phenomena, caitasika-dharmas, that occur only in akuśala types of consciousness. The Abhayagiri Abhidharmikas on the other hand disputed this, arguing that while thīna was an unskilful mental dharma, middha was physical drowsiness, a rūpa-dharma, so neither skilful nor unskilful.

As we have seen above, the Sarvāstivādins held that styāṇa is a quality

some good reasons to think of The Path of Freedom as an Abhayagiri-vihāra work, and other than scepticism for scepticism’s sake no good reason not to; see Cousins, ‘Teachings of the Abhayagiri School’, p. 114.

48 It sets out the scheme of twelve unskilful consciousnesses (T 32.460c6–16) and so seems to assume the general scheme of eighty-nine types of consciousness; it knows the distinctive Theravāda theory of the consciousness process (citta-vithi) (449b6–c16); its list of material dharmas includes the physical basis of consciousness (445c25, 446a28, b8); it classifies priti as samskāraskandha rather than vedanāskanda (as the Sarvāstivādins and Yogācārins do) (447c10); it does not recognise the category of forces disassociated from consciousness. See Ehara, Path of Freedom, pp. 238, 240, 247, 255–57, 319–320.

49 T 32.445c17–446a29; 447c10–448a26; see Ehara, Path of Freedom, pp. 237–40, 246–51. For middha-rūpa 眠色, see T 32.445c25, 446a28, b11, 447a29.

50 T 32.447c12. 聾明 moha, 聾懶 ahirika, 聾愧 anottappa, 聾 uddhacca, 貪 lobha, 聾 diṭṭhi, 慢 māna, 聾患 dosa, 戲 kukkucca, 帽意 thīna, 單 bidjikicchā.

51 Of course, the strongest argument against this is the simple fact that the Dhammasangani fails to list middha as a rūpa-dharma in the manner of the Path of Freedom. On the other hand, as I have already noted, it does not list thīna and middha as constituents of any state of consciousness either.
of all instances and types of *akūśala* consciousness: the *akūśala* mind is inherently sluggish. The sluggish quality of the *akūśala* mind is underlined by the fact that it is said in all cases to possess a further quality, that of lethargy or apathy (*kauśīḍya*). In addition to these two qualities, the *akūśala* mind may on occasion be characterised by the quality of *middha*. But for the Sarvāstivādins *middha* is not exclusively a quality of the *akūśala* mind. Both the *kuśala* and the *avyākṛta* minds may on occasion possess this quality.⁵² That is, the Sarvāstivāda Abhidharma traditions allow that sleepiness or drowsiness may in certain circumstances not be *akūśala* at all, but just, as it were, natural qualities of the mind.

In this context it is worth noting that the canonical Sarvāstivādin Abhidharma also presents a list of ten *caitasikas* common to all types of defiled consciousness that does not, however, include *styāna*.⁵³ In addressing the question of why he presents only six in the *Kośa*, including *styāna*, Vasubandhu points out that five of the ten are redundant since they are *caitasikas* that are universal to all consciousness appearing in this list in their unskilful mode.⁵⁴ With regard to the omission of *styāna* he observes that some argue it is not included on the grounds that it has the property of being conducive to a desirable quality, concentration: a sluggish person achieves concentration quickly, while a restless person does not. Vasubandhu unequivocally rejects this reasoning, suggesting the two

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⁵⁴ Muddled mindfulness (*musita-smrti*) is just defiled mindfulness, distraction (*vikṣepa*) is just defiled concentration (*samādhi*), inappropriate attention (*ayoniśo manaskārah*) is just attention, wrong commitment (*mithyādhinokṣa*) is just commitment. See Abhidh-k-bh 56.11–19 (*bhāsya* to II 26a-c); cf. Abhidh-di 75.1–6.
qualities of sluggishness and restlessness anyway occur together.\textsuperscript{55} But the
significance in the present context is that we have a record of a further
hesitation to classify a \textit{caitasika} associated with sleepiness (in this case
\textit{styāna}) as simply unskilful.

Vasubandhu in the \textit{Abhidharmakośa} defines \textit{styāna} as heaviness of the
body and heaviness of the mind, unworkableness of the body and
unworkableness of the mind. He further explains that this mental dharma is
termed bodily in the same way that a feeling of pain or pleasure is called
bodily: although all feelings are strictly mental some are experienced
through the sense of touch.\textsuperscript{56} Turning to \textit{middha}, this is succinctly defined
as a feeling of \textit{mental} compression, oppression or weighing down
\textit{(abhīsamkṣepa)} that incapacitates the body: it renders one incapable of
holding together or supporting the body, presumably referring to one’s
posture, particularly in meditation. Its arising, it seems, manifests in the
feeling that one needs to lie-down.\textsuperscript{57} Thus, while \textit{middha} is something
mental, the nature of its physical manifestation, its effect on the body, is
emphasised; the author of the \textit{Abhidharmadīpa} tells us that it is this mental
feeling of weighing down that is called sleep.\textsuperscript{58} Certainly the understanding

\textsuperscript{55} Bhāṣya to Abhidh-k II 26 a-c (Abhidh-k 56.23–27): \textit{evam tvāhuh paṭhitavyaṁ
bhavet samādhyanugunatvāt tu na paṭhitam | kṣiprataram kīla styānacaritāṁ
samādhiṁ utpādayen nauddhayacarita itī | kah punah styānacarito yo nauddhayacaritaṁ
do vā auddhhatyacarito yo na styānacaritāṁ | na hy ete jātu sahacarīṇītāṁ
javatā | tathāpi yady asyādhimātram sa taccarito jñātavyaḥ | Cf. Mahāvibhāṣa at T
1545: 27.220a17–19.

\textsuperscript{56} Abhidh-k II 26b (Abhidh-k-bh 56.7–9): \textit{styānam katamat | yā kāyagurutā
cittagurutā kāyākarmayatā cittākarmayatā | kāyikam styānam caitasikam styānam
ity uktam abhidharme | katham caitasiko dharmah kāyika ity ucyate | yathā kāyikī
vedanā | |. Cf. Abhidh-di 74: \textit{styānam kāyacittākarmayatā} |

\textsuperscript{57} Abhidh-k V 47c (Abhidh-k-bh 312.17): \textit{kāyasamādhnānaśamarthaṁ cittābhīsamk-
ṣepo middham} |

\textsuperscript{58} Abhidh-di 308: \textit{cittābhīsamkṣepah svapnākhyāḥ}. 

\hspace{1cm} — 227 —
of the pair has much in common in the two traditions, yet the Sarvāstivādins do not define *stūyaṇa* as simply the mental counterpart of *middha* in the manner of the Theravāda Mahāvihāravāsins.

Thus the Sarvāstivāda tradition and Theravāda Mahāvihāra tradition agree on seeing *middha* as something essentially mental in opposition to the Abhayagiri wish to see it as something physical. Yet they disagree on whether *middha* must always be unskilful: for Mahāvihāravāsins this is so, but for the Sarvāstivādins *middha* may in certain circumstances be undetermined or even skilful. There is, however, a certain common ground between all three positions: they all emphasise the physical manifestation of *middha* and they all see *middha* as in some sense closer to the physical.

5. Body, mind and sleepiness

In defining *stūyaṇa/thīna* both the Theravāda and Sarvāstivāda traditions use the term *akarmanyatā*, unworkableness or unreadiness. I noted above that the positive counterpart, *kammaññatā*, workableness or readiness, features in the Theravāda listing of dhammas as three distinct items: (1) workableness of *rūpa*, (2) ‘workableness of body’ and (3) ‘workableness of mind’. The first is something material, though as a kind of matter classed as ‘not produced’ (*anipphanna*) it is not quite a dharma; along with lightness and softness, it characterises the manner in which *rūpa* manifests or is experienced in the bodies of living beings. The last two together constitute one of six pairs of caitasikas defined as ‘mental’ and which are present in all *kuśala* states of mind. Representing Sarvāstivāda tradition Vasubandhu glosses *stūyaṇa* as heaviness (*gurutā*) of both body and mind, which in turn resonates with a further positive counterpart that in the Theravāda list of dhammas is given as a kind of *rūpa* and also one of the six

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pairs, namely 'lightness' (lahutā). And finally we can note that Yaśomitra adds in his explanation of stāna that it is opposed to tranquillity (praśrabdhi), yet another of the dharmas given in the Theravāda list of the six pairs.

As I noted earlier, the conception of the six pairs appears to be an innovation of the Dhammasangani. Nonetheless the basic terminology of the pairs does have important Nikāya-Āgama precedents and resonances. Frequently in the Nikāya-Āgama literature the Buddha’s strategy in teaching is described as softening the minds of his audience with talk of generosity, the precepts, and the advantages of renunciation to the point that he knows their minds are ‘soft’ (muducitta), ‘healthy’ (kallacitta) and free of the hindrances (vinivaranacitta), that is, free of, among other things, thina and middha. But being free of the hindrances is in the Nikāya-Āgama literature precisely the prerequisite for the development of samādhi and dhyāna. In the Dīgha-nikāya the successive attainment of the four dhyānas is introduced in the following way:

When he sees that the five hindrances have been overcome in himself, gladness arises. When one is glad, joy arises. The body of one whose mind is joyful becomes tranquil. One whose body is tranquil experiences happiness. The mind of one who is happy becomes concentrated.

60 Abhidh-k-vy 130: kāyagurutā cittaguruteti praśrabdhipratipako dharmah |
62 The formula begins either tassa [...] pamojjaṃ jayati or labhati [...] pamojjaṃ and then proceeds pamuditassa piti jayati | pitimanassa kāyo passambhati | passaddhakāyo sukham vedeti | sukhino cittam samādiyati | (e.g. DN I 73.20–23 (tass’ ime pañca nivaraṇe pahine attani samanupassato pamojjam jayati), MN I 37.31–33, 283.21–25). It occurs some forty times in the Theravāda Nikāyas. For the
Although this formula is not used in other Nikāya-Āgama sources that have come down to us to introduce specifically the dhyānas, it is nevertheless widespread and clearly represents for the later tradition a standard way of describing the mind-body process of becoming concentrated in meditation. It is found in the Śrāvakabhūmi, and both Harivarman and Sthiramati refer to this formula as a standard formula of the Sūtras: ‘As it is said in the Sūtras.’ In fact Yaśomitra quotes the formula in full and refers to it again when commenting on Vasubandhu’s definition of tranquillity (prāsrabdhi). Significantly the formula moves from the mind to the body and back again: a joyful mind results in a tranquil body; a tranquil body results in a mind that is happy and concentrated. Further we can note that in the Nikāya-Āgama texts the mind that has achieved the fourth dhyāna is described as, amongst other things, a mind that has ‘become soft’ (mudubhūta) and ‘workable’ (kammaniya); or according to the Sāghabheda-vastu Sanskrit text ‘straight’ (rijubhūta) and ‘workable’ (karmanya).

This brief consideration of the Nikāya-Āgama sources that must have been at the forefront of Ābhidharmikas’ minds when drawing up and classifying their lists of dharmas, has provided us with some context for four of the six terms that are found in the Theravāda list of six pairs of caitasikas and for two of the three relevant terms in the list of anippannarūpa: passaddhi, mudutā, kammanātā, and ujukatā. It is clear that some of

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Śrāv-bh 59: avipratisārinah pramodyam pramuditacittasya prītir jāyate | pritamanasaḥ kāyah prāsrabhyyate | prāsrabhakāyaḥ sukham vedayate | sukhitasya cittam samādhiyate |. Trims-bh 80: pritamanasaḥ kāyah prāsrabhyyata iti sūtre vacanāt |. * Tatvasiddhi (T 1646: 32.248b17): 如經中說心歡喜身得猗（‘As is said in the Sūtras, “The body of one whose mind is joyful becomes tranquil.”

63 Abhidh-k-vy 54.128.
64 SBV II 246.14.
the same terminology permeates the Abhidharma discussions of styāna and middha. It is also apparent that these Nikāya-Āgama contexts raise precisely the same issue that the Abhidharma discussions of styāna and middha wrestle with: the relationship between certain mental states and the body. It also seems reasonable to assume that both the original Nikāya-Āgama contexts and the Abhidharma discussion of the issues raised are in part informed by contemplative practice, although this is not made explicit.

Finally we should note again Vasubandhu’s definition of praśrabdhi as readiness of mind (cittakarmanayatā), to which Yaśomitra adds the gloss ‘lightness of mind’ (cittalāghava).66 Vasubandhu also considers the question of whether a specifically physical kāya-praśrabdhi should be recognised alongside citta-praśrabdhi: the precedent for this is a Sūtra passage that mentions both with reference to praśrabdhisambodhyānga.67 The Sarvāstivāda position is that the designation kāya here is analogous to the manner in which feeling can be called bodily; it is something mental experienced through the sense of touch. The Sautrāntika position is that, indeed, praśrabdhi is also something physical. In effect, however, this discussion reveals that the Sarvāstivāda position is much closer to the Theravāda position than the mere list of dharmas might suggest. The Sarvāstivāda discussions reveal that in effect Sarvāstivāda tradition subsumes the Theravādins’ kāya-passaddhi, citta-passaddhi, kāya-lahutā, citta-lahutā, kāya-kammaññatā, citta-kammaññatā under a single dharma, namely praśrabdhi.

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66 Abhidh-k-bh 55.9; Abhidh-k-vy 128.
67 Abhidh-k-bh 55.9–18 (II 25), 438.21–439.18 (VIII 9b). For the Sūtra source, see T 99: 2.192c28, parallel to SN V 66.25.
6. Do buddhas sleep?

Clearly sleep was an issue for ancient Indian ascetics. The issue of delighting or indulging in sleep (nidrārāma) is frequently mentioned in the Nikāya-Āgama and later literature. A Nikāya-Āgama passage of particular importance in this regard is found in the Mahāsaccaka-sutta in the Theravāda tradition and the Kāyabhāvana-sūtra in the Sarvāstivāda tradition. This sūtra takes the form of dialogue between the Buddha and, significantly, the Jain Saccaka (Sātyaki). The Jain asks the Buddha if he ever sleeps during the day. The Buddha acknowledges that he recalls returning from collecting alms in the last month of the hot season, eating his meal and then spreading out his robe, lying down on his right side and, mindfully and fully aware, falling asleep. The Theravāda commentarial tradition, however, must explain that such sleep has nothing to do with what are for it the unwholesome mental qualities of thīna and middha:

The sluggishness and drowsiness that usually arise before and after sleep in the case of those in training and ordinary beings are cut off by the path of arhatship. However, on account of the weakness of the physical body those who have destroyed all defilements do enter into bhavanga. When this occurs unmixed

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68 MN I 249; for the Sarvāstivāda counterpart see Liu Zhen, ‘Versenkung und Askese: Eine neue sanskrit-Quelle zur Buddha-Legende’ (PhD dissertation, Munich, 2008), 133–34: yat tad agniveśyāyana samyagvadanto vadeyur | asammosadharmo satvo loka utpanna iti | satvasāraśreṣṭho ’paryādattacittāh sukhaduḥkhabhyām iti | mām tat samyagvadanto vadeyas | tat kasya hetor | aham asmy agniveśyāyana asammośadharman [sic] satvo loka utpannah satvasāraśreṣṭho ’paryādattacittam sukhaduḥkhabhyām iti | abhijānāti bhavān gautamo diviṣvapnam mūhurtam | abhijānāmy agniveśyāyana griśmānāṃ paścime māse mūhurtam klamam | idam atraike sammoham ity āhur | āgama taṃ agniveśyāyana tvayā na sukaram ājnātum yathā sammūḍho bhavaty asammūḍho vā || The sūtra is also quoted in the Da zhi du lun (T 1509: 25.699a7–15).
[with other types of consciousness], they sleep. This is what is termed 'sleep' in their case. Accordingly the Lord said, 'I do recall, Aggivessana, how in the last month of the hot season, having returned from my alms round and eaten my meal, I have spread out my robe folded in four, lain down on my right side and, mindfully and fully aware, gone to sleep.' This weakness of the physical body is not destroyed by the path, and applies to matter that both constitutes and does not constitute a sentient being. In the former case it applies at such times as when one who has destroyed all defilements had been on a long journey or is tired after doing some work. In the latter case it applies to leaves and flowers, for the leaves of some trees unfold because of the warmth of the sun, and fold at night; the flowers of lotuses open because of the heat of the sun, and close at night. But this sleepiness of those who have destroyed the defilements is not the result of anything unskilful.\textsuperscript{69}

This developed Theravāda theory of sleep builds on a passage in the \textit{Milindapañha} that distinguishes between three phases of sleep.\textsuperscript{70} The first is drowsiness, defined as the tying down, enveloping, weakness, sluggish-

\textsuperscript{69} As 378–79: \textit{idam} \textit{vuccati} \textit{thinamiddhanivarānan} \textit{ti idam} \textit{thinān ca middhaṁ ca ekato} \textit{katvā} \textit{āvaranāththena} \textit{thinamiddhanivarānan} \textit{ti} \textit{vuccati}. \textit{yaṁ} \textit{yebhuyyena} \textit{sekkhaputhujjanānam} \textit{niddāya} \textit{pubbabhāga-aparabhāgesu} \textit{uppajjati} \textit{tam} \textit{arahattamaggena} \textit{samucchijjati}. \textit{khināsavānam} \textit{pāṇa} \textit{karajakāyassa} \textit{dubbalabhāvena} \textit{bhavangotaram} \textit{hoti}, \textit{tasnim} \textit{asammissë vattamāne} \textit{te} \textit{supanti}, \textit{sān’} \textit{esam} \textit{niddā nāma} \textit{hoti}. ten’ \textit{āha} \textit{bhagavā}: \textit{abhijānāmi} \textit{kho} \textit{pāṇāham} \textit{aggivessana} \textit{gimhānam} \textit{pacchime} \textit{māse} \textit{[…]} \textit{catuggunam} \textit{saṅghātim} \textit{paññapetvā} \textit{dakkhinena} \textit{passeṇa} \textit{sato} \textit{sampajjano} \textit{niddam okkamitā’} \textit{ti}. \textit{evarūpō} \textit{panāyam} \textit{karajakāyassa} \textit{dubbalabhāvo} \textit{na} \textit{maggavañcho}, \textit{upādinnake} \textit{pi} \textit{anupādinnake} \textit{pi} \textit{labbhati}. \textit{upādinnake} \textit{labbhamāno} \textit{yadā} \textit{khināsavo dighamaggam} \textit{gato} \textit{hoti}, \textit{aṇṇatarāṃ} \textit{va} \textit{pāṇa} \textit{kammam} \textit{katvā} \textit{kilanto}, \textit{evarūpe} \textit{kāle} \textit{labbhati}. \textit{anupādinnake} \textit{labbhamāno} \textit{pannapupphesu} \textit{labbhati}. \textit{ekaccānañhi} \textit{rukkhānam} \textit{paññāni} \textit{sūriyātaṭpena} \textit{pasāriyanti} \textit{rattim} \textit{paṭikutanti}, \textit{padumapupphadhīni} \textit{sūriyāṭpena} \textit{pupphanti}, \textit{rattim} \textit{puna} \textit{paṭikutantī} \textit{idam} \textit{pāṇa} \textit{middham} \textit{akusalattā khināsavānam na} \textit{hotī} \textit{ti}. \textit{CF. Sv} \textit{II} \textit{528–29}; \textit{Ps} \textit{II} \textit{292–293}; \textit{Mp} \textit{14} \textit{22–3}; \textit{It-a} \textit{II} \textit{68}.

\textsuperscript{70} \textit{Mil} \textit{300}. Cf. \textit{Vibh-a} \textit{408}.
ness of the body; its unworkableness (kāyassa onāho pariyoṇāho dubbalyam mandatā akammaññatā kāyassa). The second is the state of one who is half awake, overwhelmed by ‘monkey sleep’ (kapiṇiddāpareto vokinnakam jaggati). The final phase is the entering into ‘the existence-continuum’ (bhavaṅgagati). It is during ‘monkey sleep’ that one dreams (kapiṇiddāpareto supinam passati), while deep dreamless sleep is characterised by the continuous and uninterrupted flow of bhavaṅga.\(^{71}\) The point the Atthasālinī and other Theravāda commentaries are at pains to make is that, while ordinary human beings reach deep dreamless sleep via unskilful drowsiness and dream sleep, buddhas and arhats do not; they enter directly into deep dreamless sleep. And deep dreamless sleep is characterised by the uninterrupted flow of bhavaṅga, a mode of consciousness that is neither skilful nor unskilful, but undetermined. In the case of ordinary human beings it will be one of nine classes of consciousness that is the karmic result (vipāka) of good or skilful consciousness.\(^{72}\)

In all this there is a tension between on the one hand an understanding of the Buddha’s mind as intrinsically bright and alert and thus unable to display signs of sluggishness and fatigue when, say, yet another of his

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\(^{71}\) Vism XIV 114 states that when no other citta arises interrupting its flow, such as when one has fallen into dreamless sleep, and so on, bhavaṅga occurs endlessly, like a flowing stream (asati santāna-vinivattake aṇāsmīm cittuppāde nadiṣotam viya supinam apassato niddokkamanakālādīsu aparimāṇasamkham āpavattati yevā ti).

\(^{72}\) Of the total of eighty-nine classes of consciousness distinguished in the Theravāda system, nineteen among the thirty-six vipākas are said to be able to perform the function of bhavaṅga: investigating consciousness resulting from the unskilful, investigating consciousness resulting from the skilful, the eight sense-sphere resultants with motivations, the five form-sphere resultants and the four formless-sphere resultants (Vism XIV 113–14). For further details see R. Gethin, ‘Bhavaṅga and Rebirth According to the Abhidhamma’, in The Buddhist Forum, Vol. III, ed. by Tadeusz Skorupski and Ulrich Pagel (London: School of Oriental and African Studies, 1994), pp. 11–35 (18–19).
followers makes demands on him, and on the other hand a sense that, given
the physiological need for sleep, it does not seem right to suggest that all
sleepiness is simply unskilful. To resolve this tension the Abhayagiri
Theravādins suggested that there was a kind of sleepiness called middha
that was straightforwardly physical. The Sarvāstivādins suggested simply
that not every case of middha or sleepiness was akuśala. The Mahāvihāra
Theravādins suggested that there is a 'weakness of the physical body'
(karajakāyassa dubbalabhāvo) that is not exactly sleepiness but neverthe-
less means that even buddhas and arhats must 'sleep', or at least allow their
minds to enter into the dreamless state of bhavanga for a period to time
each day.\textsuperscript{73} But the Abhidharma discussion remains informed by an
awareness of the subtle interplay of mind and body.

\textsuperscript{73} As Bareau has noted, according to Vasumitra the Mahāsāṃghikas held the
position that buddhas neither sleep nor dream (T 2031: 49.15c2: 仏無睡夢), and
according to the Mahāvibhāṣā the Vibhajyavādins held the position that buddhas do
not sleep (T 1545: 27.410b26–29); André Bareau, \textit{Les sectes bouddhiques du petit
véhicule} (Saigon: École Française d’Extrême-Orient, 1955), 59–60, 173
### Abbreviations

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Abhidh-dî</td>
<td>Abhidharmadîpa, ed. by Padmanabh S. Jaini (Patna: 1977)</td>
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<td>Abhidh-av-nṭ</td>
<td>Abhidhâmmavatâra-navatîka, B°, 2 vols (Rangoon: 1962)</td>
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<td>Abhidh-sam (P)</td>
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<td>As</td>
<td>Atthasālini, ed. by Edward Müller, (London: 1897, rev. edn 1979)</td>
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<td>B°</td>
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X
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