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which bring about the propelled result. The term “propelled result” has the indication that the result is subject to conditions, i.e. is subject to the establishing branch of craving, grasping and existence.

In other words, after the karmic seed is implanted in consciousness by ignorance, whether or not it yields its result depends upon the conditions of craving, grasping and existence. Once nourished by craving and then grasping, by the time it becomes the link of existence the result is inevitable. So then the resultant links of birth, old age and death are the established branches.

### **How Many Lifetimes are Required to Complete a Set Of Twelve Links?**

We can see how twelve links are completed in two lifetimes by considering the example of creating the karma to be born as a god in a god realm. The initial cause which motivates us to create that karma is the first link of ignorance concerning the nature of ultimate reality. Then, soon after its creation and in that same lifetime, the karma is implanted in the consciousness. With this karma planted in the consciousness, it can later on be nourished by the eighth link of craving. Just before we finish this life we may generate the wish “How good if in the next life I were born in the god realms!” This is the eighth link of craving. As this craving becomes stronger, one might want to make some effort to achieve this wish, and this is the indication of grasping, (which is a further increase of craving). This craving and grasping, it is said, will fully nourish the karma to be reborn in god realms. The link of existence is when this karma will definitely produce its result.

Six of the twelve links including the three of the propelling branch and the three of the establishing branch are all completed in the same lifetime. Then, on being born in the god realms in the immediate next life, the rest of the twelve links are completed. They are the branches of propelled result (name and form, source, contact and feeling) and of established result (birth, ageing and death), which are the six resultant links.

So in terms of two lives: the six causal links finish in the one life and the six resultant links finish in the next life.

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**Headings with outline numbering are derived from the Text. Headings without outline numbering are derived from Geshe Doga’s commentary.**

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#### ***Edit methodology***

*The initial transcript is prepared from Alan Molloy’s notes. These are checked with Damien Busby’s notes by Alan Molloy and any differences noted.*

*Adair Bunnnett then compares her notes against the typed transcript and prepares this edited version.*

*Edited version checked by Alan Molloy*

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