

Four Imponderables: *Acintita Sutta*

Four unconjecturables exist:

- Range of powers of a Buddha
- Range of powers obtained while absorbed in *jhana*
- Precise working out of the results of karma
- Speculation about the origin (the first moment, purpose, etc.) of the cosmos

"There are these four unconjecturables that are not to be conjectured about, that would bring madness and vexation to anyone who conjectured about them. Which four?

"The Buddha-range of the Buddhas (that is, the range of powers a Buddha develops as a result of becoming a Buddha) is an unconjecturable that is not to be conjectured about, that would bring madness and vexation to anyone who conjectured about it.

"The *jhana*-range of a person in *jhana* (that is, the range of powers that one may obtain while absorbed in *jhana*) . . .

"The [precise working out of the] results of kamma . . .

"Conjecture about [the origin, etc., of] the world is an unconjecturable that is not to be conjectured about, that would bring madness and vexation to anyone who conjectured about it.

"These are the four unconjecturables that are not to be conjectured about, that would bring madness and vexation to anyone who conjectured about them."

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