

Indian Philosophy

Author: Dr. Satya Sundar Sethy, HSS, IIT Madras, Chennai-600036

Lecture - 17

Self Assessment Questions & Possible Answers

1. What is 'yathārtha' in reference to valid cognition?

Ans.: Yathārtha stands for the truthfulness. The knowledge will be true when it is not contradicted in the later period. Knowledge about an object is true only when we know its characteristics and these characteristics are characterized to that object.

2. Briefly explain the types of causes.

Ans.: According to Nyāya philosophy, there are three types of causes; samavāyi, asamavāyi, and nimitta. Samavāyi is the material or inherent cause which is the substratum in which the effect inheres. Asamavāyi is the non-inherent cause but associated with the cause. It determines the effect when it stands as an inherent attribute of the constituent cause. Nimitta is neither the constituent nor the non-constituent cause of an effect. It is not a passive substratum in which the effect inheres. But it is the agency that acts on both constituent as well as non-constituent causes and make them produce the effects.

3. Explain 'prameya' on the account of Nyāya philosophy?

Ans.: The word 'prameya' stands for 'object'. To have a valid knowledge, we need prameya as an essential factor among others. Thus, whenever we have knowledge, it refers to the object of the world.

4. Name the essential factors found in pramā?

Ans.: There are three essential factors found in pramā. These are; pramātā, prameya, and pramāna.