

Indian Philosophy

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Lecture - 29

Self Assessment Questions & Possible Answers

1. Who are to be called as svetāmbara?

Ans.: Svetāmbaras are those who do not go out with naked body. They wear white colour clothes and believe in non-killing and non-hatredness. They belong to Buddhism. Another important feature of svetāmbara is they are accommodative in all contexts.

2. What is anekāntavāda?

Ans.: It is a metaphysical doctrine of Jainism. It states that there are innumerable numbers of material substances exist and each substance has innumerable aspects. Each substance is endowed with both positive and negative characters.

3. Explain briefly the concept 'realistic pluralism'.

Ans.: 'Realistic pluralism' advocates the existence of innumerable material atoms and individual souls. All matters and souls have their own existence. Further, there are not only innumerable matters subsisting but also each matter has innumerable characteristics. It is pluralistic by dint of the fact that the reality is not only multiple but also manifold. Each substance has both positive and negative characteristics.

4. Explain briefly the relation between substance and its characters.

Ans.: Jaina thinkers expressed that every 'substance' possesses innumerable characters (dharma). Thus, it is called as 'dharmi'. Each substance has two kinds of characters.

i) Essential character (guna)

ii) Accidental character (Mode/paryaya)

The essential characters of a substance remain as long as the substance remains and these characters can't be eliminated from the substance. On the other hand, accidental characters vary from substance to substance.