

Indian Philosophy

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Lecture - 30

Self Assessment Questions & Possible Answers

1. Briefly explain about 'nayavāda'.

Ans.: Partial knowledge of one of the innumerable aspects of a thing is called 'naya'. It expresses the partial reality of the object. Each individual judgment expresses about the object partially. Naya is a partial viewpoint of a cogniser, which does not rule out the possibility of others' viewpoints. It states the analytic view of reality.

2. What is vyavahāranaya?

Ans.: It is the outlook of common people based on their empirical knowledge. Here things are taken as particular and their specific features are emphasized. It becomes fallacious when particulars alone are viewed as real and universals are rejected as unreal.

3. Briefly explain about 'syādvāda'.

Ans.: It expresses that knowledge on an object is relative and conditional in character. This doctrine enunciates the synthetic view of reality. Here, it is emphasized that our judgments on an object are relative in character because they are based on partial knowledge. Thus, instead of saying 'the grass is green', we should say, "Relatively speaking the grass is green".

4. What is samgrahanaya?

Ans.: In case of 'sangrahanaya' we emphasize the universal qualities and ignore the particular qualities of an object. It becomes fallacious when universals alone are treated as absolutely real and particulars are rejected as unreal.