

Indian Philosophy

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Lecture - 34

Self Assessment Questions & Possible Answers

1. Define the Vaisesika's concept of 'Dravya'.

Ans.: Dravya or substance exists independent of qualities and actions at the first moment and inheres qualities in the next moment of its production. According to the Vaisesikas, substance is self-existent, unique, and autonomous in character. There are nine kind of substance mentioned by Vaisesikas. Out of those a few are eternal and some are non-eternal.

2. Briefly explain what do Vaisesikas mean by 'substance is self-subsistent'.

Ans.: Substance exists independently in the first stage of its production and acquires perceivable qualities in the next stage. It exists prior to its qualities and action, although they inhere in it. It is the substrate of all other categories.

3. Write any five gunas mentioned by Vaisesika thinkers.

Ans.: There are twenty-four gunas mentioned by Vaisesika scholars. Among those the five gunas are; rasa, gandha, sparsa, sabda, and prayatna.