

Indian Philosophy

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Lecture - 37

Self Assessment Questions & Possible Answers

1. What is 'anyonya abhāva'?

Ans.: Anyonya abhāva implies one thing is not another thing. It is expressed in a judgment form, i.e. S is not P. It underlies the difference of one thing from another thing. When one thing is different from another they mutually exclude with each other. Negating one from the other is called mutual non-existence. For example, a table is not a chair.

2. What do Vaisesikas mean by 'prāgbhāva'?

Ans.: It is the non-existence of a thing before its production. A jar was non-existent before it was produced. There might be other jars, but that particular jar did not exist before the potter produced it. This kind of non-existence or absence has no beginning but it has an end. Before the jar was produced its absence existed, but its absence ends when it is produced.

3. What is 'atyantābhāva'?

Ans.: It is the absolute non-existence between two things for all time. This absence is eternal. For example, hare's horn is the non-existent in the past, present, and will be in the future. This kind of absence has neither a beginning nor an end.

4. Write briefly about 'visesa-visesana-abāva'.

Ans.: According to Nyāyikas, non-existence is a matter of perception. Abhāva (non-existence) is a matter of qualified perception, which is known through specific sense object contact termed as 'visesa-visesana abhāva'.