

Indian Philosophy

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Lecture - 40

Self Assessment Questions & Possible Answers

1. Briefly explain Nyāyikas views on prāmānyavāda.

Ans.: Nyāyikas subscribe two views on prāmānyavāda; paratah prāmānya and paratah apamānya. According to them, both validity and invalidity are constituted and determined by external conditions.

2. What is 'illusion'?

Ans.: Determinate knowledge and illusion are contradicted with each other, yet they are inalienably related with each other. Knowledge is self-illuminated and eternally real whereas, illusion is the understanding of one thing as another. For example, identifying a rope as a snake is an illusion. It happens due to the failure of discriminating a knowledge from another by the cognizer. Thus, it is stated that all illusions are subjective.

3. Briefly explain the concept 'asatkhyātivāda'.

Ans.: Asatkhyātivāda is proposed by Mādhyamika school of Buddhism. This school is known for its theory sunyavāda. According to sunyavādins, neither the mind nor the phenomenal world is real. Everything is unreal. Further, they enunciate that error lies in the cognition of non-existence as existence, e.g. we cognise shell as silver.