

Indian Philosophy

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Lecture - 18

Self Assessment Questions & Possible Answers

1. Define 'perception' on the account of early Naiyāyikas.

Ans.: According to Gautam, perception is that knowledge which generates from the contact of the sense organs with its object and which is unnamable, non-erroneous, and well defined.

2. What is samyoga?

Ans.: It is a perceptual sense object contact through which the cogniser acquires the knowledge about the object. Here, the cogniser has a direct contact which consists in the conjunction between the sense and its object. For example, the visual perception of a substance like the water bottle.

3. What is samavāya?

Ans.: It is an indirect sense object contact through which we acquire the knowledge about the object. Here, the senses contact with the object so far the object inheres a quality in the sense itself. For example, the auditory perception of sound. The ear's contact with the sound is due to the latter inherence as a quality in its own substance ākāśa, which constitutes the auditory sense.

4. What is viśeṣānata?

Ans.: In this case, the sense contacts with the object so far as the object is the qualification of another term connected with sense. The Naiyāyikas explain this type of sense object contact is due to the perceptions of non-existence and the relation of inherence.