

Indian Philosophy

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Lecture - 08

Self Assessment Questions & Possible Answers

1. Briefly explain Purusa in a few sentences.

Ans.: Purusa has neither beginning nor an end. It is pure-consciousness and ubiquitous. It is the self, subject, and knower. It is neither the body, nor the mind (mānas), neither ego (ahamkāra) nor intellect (buddhi). It is not the substance which has the quality of consciousness. It is the basis of all knowledge and is the supreme knower. It can't be the object of knowledge.

2. Can Purusa create the beings (lives) independent of Prakruti? Answer in five sentences.

Ans.: Purusa can't create any objects in this earth without the help of Prakruti. It is so because the nature of Purusa is supreme consciousness, eternal and ubiquitous. It can't produce the gross objects those don't have life in this earth. Thus, it depends on Prakruti, which is treated as the ultimate material cause for the creation of different objects.

3. List out the other names of Purusa.

Ans.: *Saccidānanda svarupa, nistraigunya, udāsina, ākarta, kevala, madhyastha, sāksi, drastā, sadā prakāshasvarupa, and jñāta.*

4. Write the Sāṅkhya's logical argument for the existence of Purusa.

Ans.: According to Sāṅkhya philosophy, substances are composed of three gunas. The purusa is the witness of three gunas and He is beyond from these gunas. This proof is logical.