

Indian Philosophy

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Lecture - 31

Self Assessment Questions & Possible Answers

1. Briefly explain about 'syātasti ca avyaktavyam'.

Ans.: The expression 'syātasti ca avyaktavyam' states that relatively speaking a thing is real and indescribable. A thing 'is' and 'is unpredictable' at the same time. For example, a pen can be described blue from a particular standpoint. But if the standpoint is not specifically mentioned, it becomes impossible to describe its colour. Thus, from a broader perspective, a pen is blue as well as indescribable.

2. What is gotra karma?

Ans.: According to Jainism, our past actions (karmas) determine the family in which we are born as well as the nature of our body- its shape, colour, longevity, nature of sense organs, etc. In this line, they said that gotra karma is the karma that determines the family in which one is born.

3. What is samvara liberation?

Ans.: Liberation for Jainism implies the complete dissociation of matter from the soul. There are two types of liberation pronounced by them; samvara and nirjara. Samvara liberation states about stopping the karmic influx, so that new matter won't enter into the soul and never aspire for worldly pleasures.

4. What is aparigraha on the account of Jaina thinkers?

Ans.: It is one among the other great vows prescribed by Jainism for stopping the karmic influx. The expression 'aprigraha' means abstinence from all desires. It enunciates that one should give up all sorts of attachments towards the worldly objects. One must consciously put efforts on their senses to detach from the worldly objects, e.g. pleasant sound, colour, touch, and smell.