

Indian Philosophy

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Lecture - 05

Self Assessment Questions & Possible Answers

1. Briefly explain why Sāṅkhya system is regarded as 'dualistic realism'?

Ans.: It is dualistic because it accepts the two ultimate principles known as Purusa and Prakruti. Subscribers of realism by dint of its endorsement to the fact that both matter and spirit are equally real.

2. Explain in three sentences the concept 'satkāryavāda'.

Ans.: Satkāryavāda is a doctrine proposed by Sāṅkhya system. It expresses that the effect pre-exists in the material cause prior to its production. Example, the curd existed in the milk prior to its existence.

3. Illustrate 'prakruti' in four sentences.

Ans.: Prakruti is the ultimate cause responsible for the creation of various objects in the universe. Being the ultimate cause, it is uncaused, eternal, all pervading, and unperceived. It can only be inferred through its effects. It is jada or unconscious. It is the primal cause of all physical existence.

4. Write down the gunas of prakruti and their respective colours.

Ans.: There are three gunas found with Prakruti; sattva, rajas, and tamas. Their respective colours are white, red, and black.