

Indian Philosophy

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Lecture - 09

Self Assessment Questions & Possible Answers

1. What is virupa?

Ans.: Virupa is a state of heterogeneous change among gunas of prakruti. In this state each guna tries to dominate others. The transformation of the guna is known as 'virupa transformation'. It is the starting point of the objects of the world's creation.

2. Briefly explain about ahamkāra.

Ans.: It is understood as 'ego' in English. 'Ego' is identified as 'I' or 'mine' feelings of an individual. Every individual has buddhi. Ahamāra is a practical element of buddhi. Hence, it is found in all human beings. Because of ego the Purusa looks upon himself as an active agent, desires and strives for ends, and possesses characteristics.

3. List out the tanmantras on the account of Sāṅkhya philosophy.

Ans.: There are five tanmatras mentioned by Sāṅkhya philosophy. These are; sabda or sound, sparsa or touch, rupa or form, rasa or taste, and gandha or smell. All are very subtle because they are the elements of the objects. Hence, they can't be perceived but inferred.

4. Name the mahābhutas mentioned by Sāṅkhya philosophy.

Ans.: There are five mahābhutas found in the cosmos mentioned by Sāṅkhya philosophy namely;

- a) Air or Vāyu
- b) Fire or Agni
- c) Akāsa or Ether
- d) Water or Jala
- e) Prathivi or Earth

Their respective qualities are; touch, colour, sound, taste, and smell.