Indian Philosophy

Author: Dr. Satya Sundar Sethy, HSS, IIT Madras, Chennai-600036

Lecture - 07

Self Assessment Questions & Possible Answers

1. Explain Prakruti in a few sentences.

Ans.: *Prakruti* is derived from the word 'Kru' together with the prefix 'pra'. It means 'making or placing' at first. Thus, everything except *prakruti* has a cause. Mind, body, senses, intellect (both gross and subtle elements) are produced from *prakruti*. It exists beyond causality. It is the first cause and prime principle of the universe. It is called 'Pradhāna'. It is eternal, ever dynamic, unconscious, and ubiquitous.

2. What is Tamas?

Ans.: Tamas is a guna of Prakruti. It is the principle of passivity and negativity. It's colour is black. It's nature characterized as heaviness, laziness, drowsiness, etc. It creates ignorance, darkness, and leads to confusion.

3. Briefly explain about 'Virupa'.

Ans.: Virupa expresses the state of heterogeneous change that found among gunas of Prakruti. In this case, each guna tries to dominate others. As a result we find the production of different objects in the cosmos.

4. Explain svarupa in five sentences.

Ans.: Svarupa implies the state of homogeneous change that found among gunas of Prakruti. In this case each guna tries to energies itself without disturbing others. In this case, the guna can't assist to produce any objects for the earthly enjoyment.