

Art & Culture Class 10

21st March, 2024 at 9:00 AM

PHILOSOPHY (09:12 AM):

Orthodox

Astika (Belief in Vedas)

Samkhya + Yoga (Yugma), Nyaya +
Vaisheshika (Yugma), Mimansa (Purva
Mimansa) + Vedanata (Uttara Mimansa)
(Yugma).
All these philosophies believe in rebirth.

Heterodox

Nastika (Refutation of the authority of the
Vedas)

Buddhism + Jainism (believe in rebirth),
Charvaka + Ajivika (do not believe in
rebirth).

- **Samkhya (09:20 am):**
- **Kapil Muni** is regarded as the initial founder of this philosophy.
- This philosophy developed in phases.
- The early Samkhya view holds that the universe was created on the principles of nature (Prakriti).
- But the main Samkhya view developed by the **4th century AD**.
- It says the universe owes its origin to not only **Prakriti** but also **Purusha** (Consciousness).
- Since they believe in two realities, this philosophy is referred as **Dvaitvada** (Dualism).
- As per Samkhya philosophy, salvation can be attained through real knowledge.
- Recognition of Purusha and Prakriti is real knowledge.
- Real knowledge can be obtained through **three Pramanas** ie **Pratyaksha** (Perception), **Anumana** (Inference), and **Shabda** (Testimony).

- **Yoga (09:43 am):**
- Yoga philosophy was founded by **Patanjali**.
- This philosophy is mainly concerned with the discipline of body and mind.
- Patanjali prescribes **Ashtanga Yoga** to discipline body and mind.
- The components are as follows;
- **Yama** - Don't's.
- **Niyama** - Do's.
- **Asana** - Physical postures.
- **Pranayama** - Breathing exercises.
- **Pratyahara** - Restraints.
- **Dharana** - Selecting an object to concentrate.
- **Dhyan** - Concentrating on the object.
- **Samadhi** - Entering into deep meditation.
- **Kundalini jagaran** is a stage of higher realization in the Samadhi stage.
- It happens due to the activation of **Muladhar Chakra** situated near the navel point.
- It further leads to the activation of all the energy points in the body and body energy becomes synonymous to that of the immediate surroundings.
- It prepares the person to receive the higher realities.
- **Nyaya (09:59 am):**
- **Akshapada Gautam** is the initial founder and this philosophy is based on logic and reasoning.
- It says salvation can be attained through valid knowledge.
- Valid knowledge is based in logic and reasoning.
- They prescribe four **Pramanas**/sources of knowledge:
- **Pratyaksha** (Perception).
- **Anumana** (Inference).
- **Upamana** (Comparative knowledge).
- **Shabda** (Testimony).
- He gave a famous proposition '**Where there is smoke, there is fire**'.
- (It is logical but it has to be confirmed with comparative knowledge that what is perceived as smoke is not a look-alike of smoke).
- **Vaiseshika (10:09 am):**
- It was founded by the **Kanad** whose original name was **Aulukya**.
- From his childhood he was interested in the study of the smallest particle '**Kana**' that's why he came to be known as Kanad.
- Vaiseshika philosophy is regarded as the formal beginning of thoughts of Physics in India.
- This philosophy says the universe is atomic in nature.
- It further adds that all the substances in the universe are made from different combinations of atoms.
- Atom is the smallest indivisible and indestructible part of the universe.
- Though they are inactive in themselves, they are put into motion due to god's will.
- It says atomic recognition of the universe is the highest realization which leads to the attainment of salvation.

- **Mimansa (Purva Mimansa) (10:18 am):**
- The founder was **Jaimini**.
- It is regarded as an early reflection on the Vedas.
- This philosophy emphasizes of performance of Vedic rituals to get salvation.
- In this way, it also emphasized on the importance of priestly class.
- It also talked about temporary bliss ie heaven.
- Heaven is a resulted due to the accumulation of good deeds.
- **Note:** This philosophy does not mention god.
- **Vedanta (Uttara Mimansa) (10:28 am):**
- **Vedanta** - End of the Vedic discussion.
- **Uttara Mimansa** - Later reflections on the Veda.
- **Badrayana** is considered as the initial founder of this philosophy.
- But many streams emerged within Vedanta philosophy.
- Important ones are as follows:
- **Advaitvada (Non-dualism):**
- It was propounded by **Adi Shankaracharya** who was born in the **8th century AD** in Kerala.
- His philosophy is popularly known as **Advaitvada**.
- He says there is no difference between creator and created, the difference that we perceive is because of our ignorance.
- This ignorance can be eliminated by embarking on the path of knowledge.
- The path of knowledge also leads to salvation.
- He also emphasized one of the Mahavakya from the Upanishad ie '**Aham Brahmasmi!**' (I'm the one in god and god is the one me).
- **Vishistadvaitvada (Qualified non-dualism):**
- It was propounded by **Sri Ramanujacharya** in the **11th century AD** at **Srirangam**.
- According to him, god has some special attributes which can be recognized by embarking on the path of devotion/bhakti.
- He further prescribes '**Bhaktimarga**' to get salvation.
- **Heterodox Philosophy (11:17 am):**
- **Charvaka (Lokayata philosophy):**
- **Lokayata** - Popular among the masses.
- It is also one of the oldest philosophies.
- It is the materialistic school of philosophy which rejects the divine authority of Veda, god, concept of soul, rebirth, and salvation.
- It says Pratyaksha/Perception is the only means of knowledge.
- **(Pratyaksham Kim Pramanam).**
- This philosophy emphasizes on the maximization of pleasure which is best captured in their proposition:
- " यावत् जीवेत् सुखम् जीवेत्।
ऋणं कृत्वा घृतं पिबेत्।
भस्मिभूतस्य देहस्य पुनरागमनं कुतः। "
- "Yavat Jivite Sukham Jivite.
Rhinam Kritva Ghritam Pibet.
Bhasmibhutasya Dehasya Punragmanm Kutah" !!
- "Till the time one is alive must maximize one's pleasure even if it requires taking a loan, after all, who knows there would be any returning back once the body is cremated after death".

- **Ajivika/Niyativada (Theory of Destiny) (11:28 am):**
- It was propounded by **Makhaliputta Gosala**.
- He was a contemporary of Mahavira and he had an ideological fight with Mahavira due to which he parted his ways with Mahavira.
- **Niyativada** philosophy is a negative philosophy which talks about destiny.
- It says there is no free will and whatever that has happened is happening and will happen, one can not change it.
- They rejected the theory of salvation and maintained that it was a fallacy.

ZOROASTRIANISM (11:35 AM):

- The Parsi religion was founded by **Prophet Zoroaster**.
- It is one of the oldest religions in the world and it is contemporary to the Vedic Sanatana Dharma.
- It believes in **cosmic dualism** ie two realities: the **Spirit of Good - Spenta Mainyu** and the **Spirit of Evil - Angra Mainyu**.
- As per their beliefs, the universe operates smoothly due to the balanced function of the two spirits but Angra Mainyu has a tendency to dominate which leads to increased death and destruction.
- In this situation, Zoroaster god **Ahura Mazda** (fire god) balances the situation and curbs the excessive activities of Angra Mainyu.
- **Ahura Mazda**, a fire god is worshipped inside fire temples known as **Atash Behram**.
- Parsis are the most unique religious community.
- They maintain purity of blood and no one becomes Parsi by conversion.
- Another unusual practice is their after-death rituals.
- Orthodox Parsis do not cremate/bury their dead instead dead bodies are left fallow at open space called **Silence Tower** and the dead body is fed by the vultures and scavengers.
- **Zend Avesta** is the Holy text of the Parsi religion.

TOPIC FOR THE NEXT CLASS: Classical Dances.