DRAVYA IN VAISESIKA PHILOSOPHY

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INTRODUCTION

- Founder of Vaisheshika philosophy is Kanada
- First systematic work is Vaisheshika-sutra of Kanada
- Nyaya and Vaisheshika are allied systems of philosophy
- Vaiasheshika admits seven categories or padarthas as reality
- Seven categories are (1) *Dravya* or substance, (2) *Guna* or quality, (3) *Karma* or action,
 (4) *Samanya* or generality, (5) *Vishesha* or particularity, (6) *Samavaya* or relation of inherence, (7) *Abhava* or non-existence
- Among these, six are bhava or positive and one is a-bhava or negative

KINDS OF DRAVYA OR SUBSTANCE

 Substance is the substratum of qualities and actions and the material cause of composite things

Nine kinds of substances are admitted, namely (1) earth or prithvi, (2) water or jala, (3) light or tejas, (4) air or vayu, (5) ether or akasha, (6) time or kala, (7) space or dik, (8) soul or atma, and (9) mind or manas.

PANCA-BHUTAS

- Among the 9 dravyas, the first five are called physical elements or Pancabhutas.
- Each of them possesses a peculiar quality which is sensed by an external sense organ.
- Smell is the peculiar quality of earth, taste is of water, colour of light, touch of air, and sound of akasha or ether.
- The atoms of earth, water, light and air are eternal.
- The compounds made of earth, water, light and air are non-eternal.
- The existence of atoms is proved by inference.
- Akasha is one, eternal and all-pervading physical imperceptible substance.

NON-PHYSICAL DRAVYAS

• Space and Time are imperceptible substances.

• Soul is an eternal, all-pervading substance and is the substratum of consciousness.

• Manas is an atomic imperceptible substance which is the internal sense for the perception of the individual soul and its qualities, like pleasure and pain.

• Though not perceptible, there are proofs for the existence of the mind.

