



# The Concept of God in Nyaya Philosophy

E-CONTENT FOR B.A. PHILOSOPHY (HONS. & SUBS.)

**Part—II Paper—IV**

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# INTRODUCTION

- ▶ The Nyāya School is founded by the sage Gotama, who is not confused as Gautama Buddha. He is familiarized as 'Aksapāda'. Nyāya means correct thinking with proper arguments and valid reasoning.

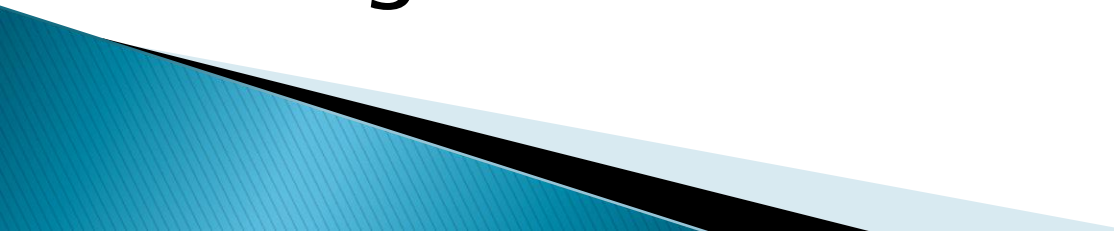
# INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Thus, Nyāya philosophy is known as tarkashāstra (the science of reasoning); pramānashāstra (the science of logic and epistemology); hetuvidyā (the science of causes); vādaśāstra (the science of debate); and anvikṣiki (the science of critical study). The Nyāya philosopher as a practitioner and believer of realism seeks for acquiring knowledge of reality.

# THE CONCEPT OF GOD

- ▶ According to the Nyāya Philosophy God is the creator, sustainer and destroyer of the universe.
- ▶ He is **the efficient**, but **not the material cause** of the universe. The material cause of this universe is the eternal atoms of earth, water, fire, and air.

# THE CONCEPT OF GOD

- ▶ He who desires the universe remains in the state of stability and tranquility. He has the real knowledge of all objects and occurrences. Thus, he is treated as an omnipresent and omniscient being.
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# THE CONCEPT OF GOD

- ▶ God regulates the earth, solar systems and the movements of planets and becomes identified as an omnipresent and omniscience being in the cosmos.
- ▶ According to Nyayikas, the world is created out of the four eternal atoms as its material cause. These are- space, time, mind and soul. God is being the efficient cause of universe is responsible for its maintenance, and destruction. Thus God, as the first efficient cause of the universal forces, is the creator of the world.

# THE CONCEPT OF GOD

- ▶ God is one, infinite, eternal, and the universe of space and time, of mind and soul, does not limit him.
- ▶ God is said to possess **six** **perfections**: **infinite glory**, **absolute sovereignty**, **unqualified virtue**, **supreme beauty**, **perfect knowledge**, and **complete detachment**.

# THE CONCEPT OF GOD

- ▶ *The Nyaya philosophy offers an argument to establish the existence of God* known as **Causal Argument**. On the line of this argument, it is stated that **the entire universe is constituted of enumerable elements both subtle and gross.**



# THE CONCEPT OF GOD

- ▶ A human being by possessing limited knowledge cannot be the creator of the vast universe. This implies the **creator is one who is beyond space and time, must be eternal and devoid of all limitations.** And, all these features are therein Supreme Being or God. Hence, God is the creator or designer of the universe.

# READINGS AND REFERENCES

- ▶ Chatterjee, S.C. *The Nyaya Theory of Knowledge. Calcutta: University of Calcutta Press, 1950.*
- ▶ Vidyabhusana, S.C. *A History of Indian Logic. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publication, 1971.*

**Thank you**

