

Cosmology in India Before Einstein

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ABSTRACT

The Characteristics of all that can be conceptualized and hence named and defined in the world through comparison and contrast is the Science of Vaisheshika (1) [2]. This includes a conceptual representation of space and gross visible matter, which is taken to be constructed out of the varying motions of atoms. The most fundamental particle of matter. Vaisheshika approaches basic concepts in the characteristic manner. Vaisheshika is observer centric but acknowledges that certain entities are necessary within the conceptual framework though there is no direct way of experimental verification of these entities.

In this paper our emphasis is to examine vaisheshikatriya the sutras of Kanada though the important commentary by the fifteenth century scholars [3] and Sankar Mishra [4] will also be used for clarification, whenever necessary.

Keywords: Dravya, Dik, Kala, Space homogeneity, Directions, Nityan.

2. Dravya – The building block

पृथिकापस्तेजो वायुराकाशं कालो दिगात्मा मन इति द्रव्याणि [1] [1] [5]

Earth, water, fire, Air, Akasa, time, space, atma, mind are only nine dravyas ! 1.5.

Space is one among these nine and Kanada recognizes it as an independent positive entity which is neither absence of matter nor an abstract concept. Every dravya has an identifier these nine dravyas have specific gunas/ attributes associated with them like the dravya earth has smell associated as the primary guna/attribute to it. An understanding of dravyas can be arrived at by analysing their attributes and their interaction with the rest of the world. The dravyas shall not be analysed in this paper but it is important to understand the division of the dravyas.

The first four dravyas earth, water, fire and air are associated with a sense organ each as sense of smell, taste, sight and touch respectively. Although sound is mentioned as the identifier of akasa- the five dravyas which is not translated here as either specific reasons that shall be dealt with separately.

Time, space, atma and mind are the internal or nityadravyas and none of them perceivable by any of the sense organs is a basic definition in Vaisheshika. Time, space and akasa are in a state of motion (by sutra 5.2.21) and are only the first four dravyas and mind which are capable of motion. The mind is also not visible because it is by nature of atoms like fundamental particles, which is not visible by sutra 7.1.23.

3. Definition of Dik (space) and Kala (Time)

इत इदमिति यत्स्त्वन लियाम

That which given rise to such (cognition and usage) as this (is remote etc) from this (the same is) the make of space 2.2.10

Space is identified through the fact that it can provide the context to describe objects as being separated spatially spatial separation can only apply to matter since eternal dravyas which are in capable of motion can neither be separated nor brought together. Although mind can move, it is invisible, therefore all that remains in Kanada's classification of dravyas is matter. The separation is an identifier and identification is with reference to the observing mind – it is also significant that the displacement of matter is observed relative to another piece of matter in Sankar Mishra's commentary of this sutra an argument is built about the similarity of space and time in terms of their gunal attribution and a question is raised about the requirement of new entity called space to be recognized. Both space and time are characterized by gunal attributes of partuapartval being together – separated in Kanada's definition the dravyas are understood and defined by their gunal attributes and each of these dravyas is non-repetitive and unique. Therefore space can be recognized as a separate entity if their difference is established. In yoga varestion [s] which discuss Indian cosmological perspective corrected with many other words a similar concept of varying time with different universe is mentioned space for Kanada is devoid of motion and therefore it is only the matter in motion which the cosmos is mentioned and space is still this fits with the idea of Indian cosmological model in which time is said to collapse in the rest period between the cosmic creation and dissolution and that must be true if time is a function of state of motion or the cosmos which come to a rest in this period between creation and dissolution [7-13]

4.1 space as dravyas

द्रव्यत्वमित्ये वायुना व्याख्याते [(2)(2)(11)]

Being a dravya and space are explained by Air (2, 2.11)

Space is eternal. It is concluded to be a dravya and that encompasses. Hypothesis like space is an independent entity. It is existent. It is unique. It is padartha. It is homogeneous

4.2 Space homogeneity

तत्त्वभावेन [(2) (2) (12)]

The unity by existence. 2,2,12

Sankaran Mishra's defines it as that which differentiates one from two or it is that kind of a gunal attributes which gives a sense of discreteness about the state of dravya discussed.

4.3 Directions in space

कार्यविशेषण नानात्वम् ||(2)(2)(13)||

The diversity (of space) is due to the difference of effects 2.2.13

This means amount of work under consideration and because space motion, work in question can only refer to the work done by matter in space.

4.4 Space time as the fundamental matrix.

आदित्यसंयोगाद्गतपूर्वाद्भविष्यतोभूताच्चप्राची ||(2)(2)(14)||

The direction comes to be regarded as the east, from the past, future or present conjunction of the sun 2-2-14.

In this sutra space and time are connected by the motion of sun which observation is also found in many commentaries.

In commentaries of sutra 2.1;5

त आकाशो न विध्यन्ते [(2) (1) (5)]

SankraMisrawhildeting the attributes of akasa states that not only in akasa absolutely colourless but based on the same argument even time and space are devoid of the attributes of rupa, rasa, gandha and sparsh. Time and space have the same attributes associated with them. He concludes the commentary of this sutra stating that it follows that time and space are the fundamental entities of everything “ सर्वधातैय दिक्कालयो :” in absence of either space or time indicates absence of motion and as is later established in this paper no gunalattributes can exist in absolute rest or when time collapse to zero. space and time has to be the fundamental matrix of the matter world and the observing mind can never escape either space or time during the process of observing the universe in the kanadasiddhartaehandrika of Gangadhurisastris. [14]

परापख्य व्यवहारा साधारण कारणे परत्वा परत्वे !

ते च द्विविधे दिक्कृतेकालकृते चेती !!

This division of time is said to be caused by the intelligence and in space it results from conjunction and disjunction of real matter and so the intelligence of the observation plays a secondary role.

In the foot note of udayvirshastris book [15, page 103] it is mentioned that Chandrakant Bhattacharya is of the opinion that space, time and even akasa are the same. Which are seen as different entities because of nature of effects as observed by mind in the interaction with matter

4.3 Direction

तथा दक्षिणा प्रतीची उदीची चा (2) (2) (15)

South west and north also are similarly (22.15)

एतेन दिगन्तरालानि व्याख्यातानि (2) (2) (16)

By this, the intervals of the directions in space are explained 2.216. in there two sutras the four main directions east, west, north, south beside when four more directions between there four directions are account for as relative to the position of the observer as concept which arise and became of the nature of motion of matter in space hence space itself is homogeneous and has no division of directions on herent in it

5.1 नित्य –Eternality

The nature of both space and anu the most fundamental fartrde sutra 7.18 in vaisheshika are said to be explained in the chapter. That disudsednitjaletennal

सदकारणवन्नीत्यं (4) (1) (1)

The eternal is that which is existent and uncaused 4.1.1

5.2 Anu in real time

तस्य कार्यय लिंगां (4) (1) (2)

The effect is the mark of the ultimate anu 4.12 initial motion of anu.

अग्नेरुधर्वजन्म वाज्योसित्थ क्वप्यन्मन

मन्स्चाध्यम कमाक्श्करितं (5) (2) (3)

The initial upward flaming of five , the initial side ward blowing of air and the initial action of anu and mind are caused by adristam 5.2.13

6. Matter and motion

कारण भावात् कार्यभावः (4) (1) (3)

The existence (of color etc) in the effect from existence in the cause 4.1.3.

7.1 म्हत्यनेकद्रव्यन्त रूपयन्चोप्लिब्ध (4) (1) (6)

Possession of what is composed of more than one kind of matter

Is annuspherical

नित्यम परिभंदलम (7) (1) (20)

The eternal is parimandala 7.1.20.

अन्कसंयोमस्त्वप्रतिशिदं (4) (1) (4)

Conjunction of anu is most restricted 4.2.4

Anu is concluded to be a partiede

अतोविप्रित्नु (7) (1) (10)

The contrary of the isanu 7.1.10.

Conclusion

The examination of the various section of the vaisheshika sutra reveals that Kanada used in this framework of define

Observable though the effect of motion in a very consistent manner when the universe comes to be at the end of the cosmic cycle .matter is not annihilated rather, the collection of anu reaches a quiescent state where they do not undergo any motion and thus become invisible to observation , the anu in itself is not observable and is thus an abstraction which is why we have not used the term atom for it. Kanada's framework defies the usual categories of realist versus idealist since for him matter in itself is a result of motion. In this framework time and space arise out of the motion that anu obtains due to its interactions to this extent the observer is central to Kanada's scheme

Kanada's emphasis on analysis of categories is also found in the complementary tradition of logic (22-25) and the application question (26-27) .

The order of tanmatre in the consolidation of samkhya , which viewed as a kind of potential out of which materiality emerges has features similar to that of anu in the vaisheshika system

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