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The Nyaya-Vaisesika Philosophy of Categories

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Nyāya-Vaiśeṣika Philosophy

Hinduism

- Brahman
- Over 1 billion adherents

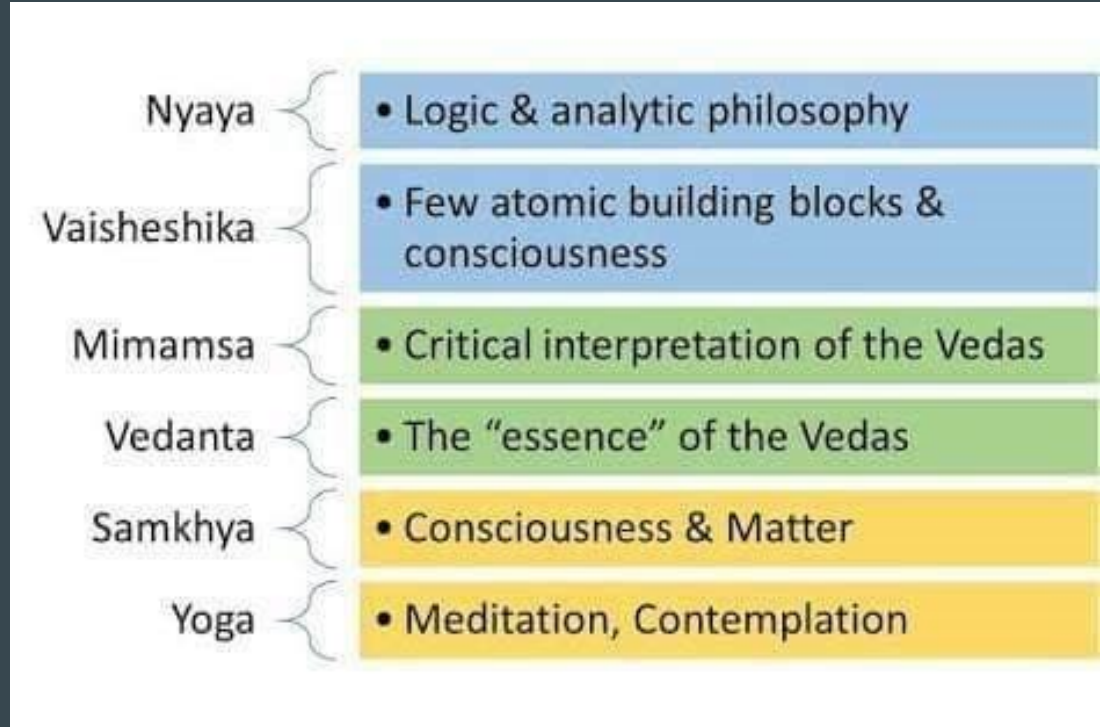
Human Problem:

- Karma
- Reincarnation
- Ignorance



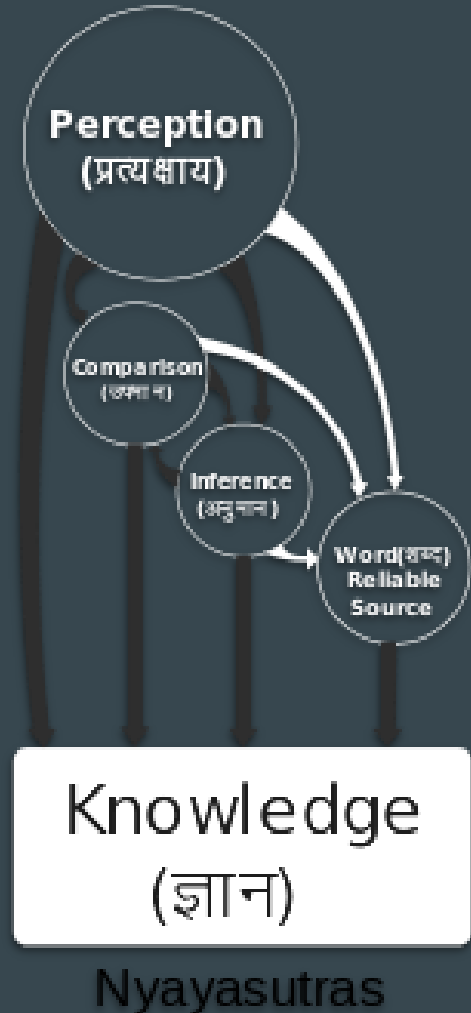
Hindu Philosophy

- 6 schoolsNyāya, Vaiśeṣika, Sāṅkhya, Yoga, Mīmāṃsā, and Vedānta
- Accept Vedas as authoritative
- Hindu philosophy is intricate and difficult to group to a specific doctrine
- Oldest philosophy dates back to 600 B.C.



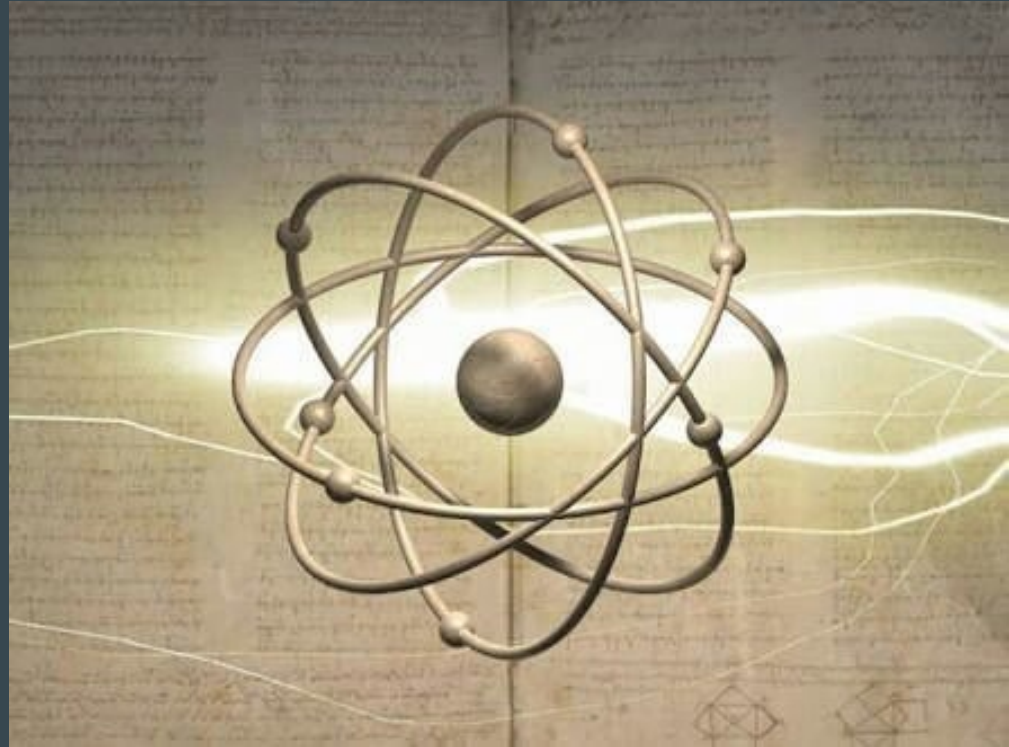
Nyāya Philosophy

- Founded in 100 A.D. by sage Gautama
- Predominantly concerned with argumentation



Vaiśeṣika Philosophy

- Founded in 100 B.C. by the ascetic Kaṇāḍa
- Predominantly concerned with ontology and metaphysics
- Atomism



Nyāya-Vaiśeṣika Philosophy

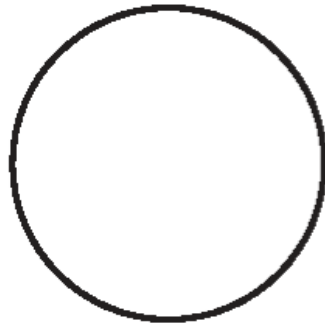
- The Nyāya and Vaiśeṣika philosophies developed in parallel
- Merged in the 11th or 12th century
- This philosophy is incredibly complex covering many different disciplines
metaphysics, philosophical psychology, the human and divine self, causation,
knowledge, perception, concepts, sense-object relations, logical theory, testimony,
and semantics

Nyāya-Vaiśeṣika System of Categories

1. Substance
2. Quality
3. Motion
4. Universal
5. Differentium
6. Inherence
7. Absence

Modern Ontology

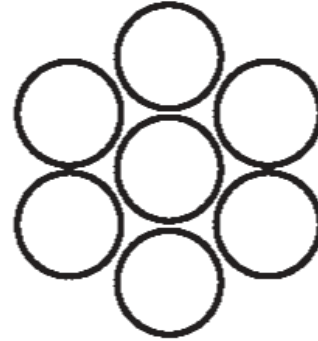
(Positivism)



Singularity
(One)

Postmodern Ontology

(Relativism)

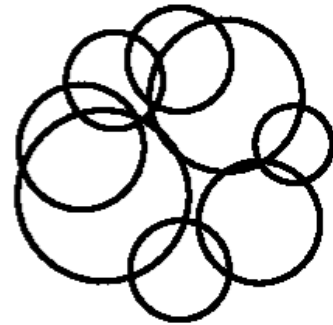


b.

Discontinuity
(Many)

Integral Ontology

(Pluralism)



c.

Multiplicity
(One and Many)

Substance

- The “stuff” that makes up the universe
- 9 substances total: 5 physical and 4 non-physical
- Substances are inhered in by universals, qualities, motions, and differentium

Physical Substances:

- Earth
- Water
- Fire
- Air
- Ether



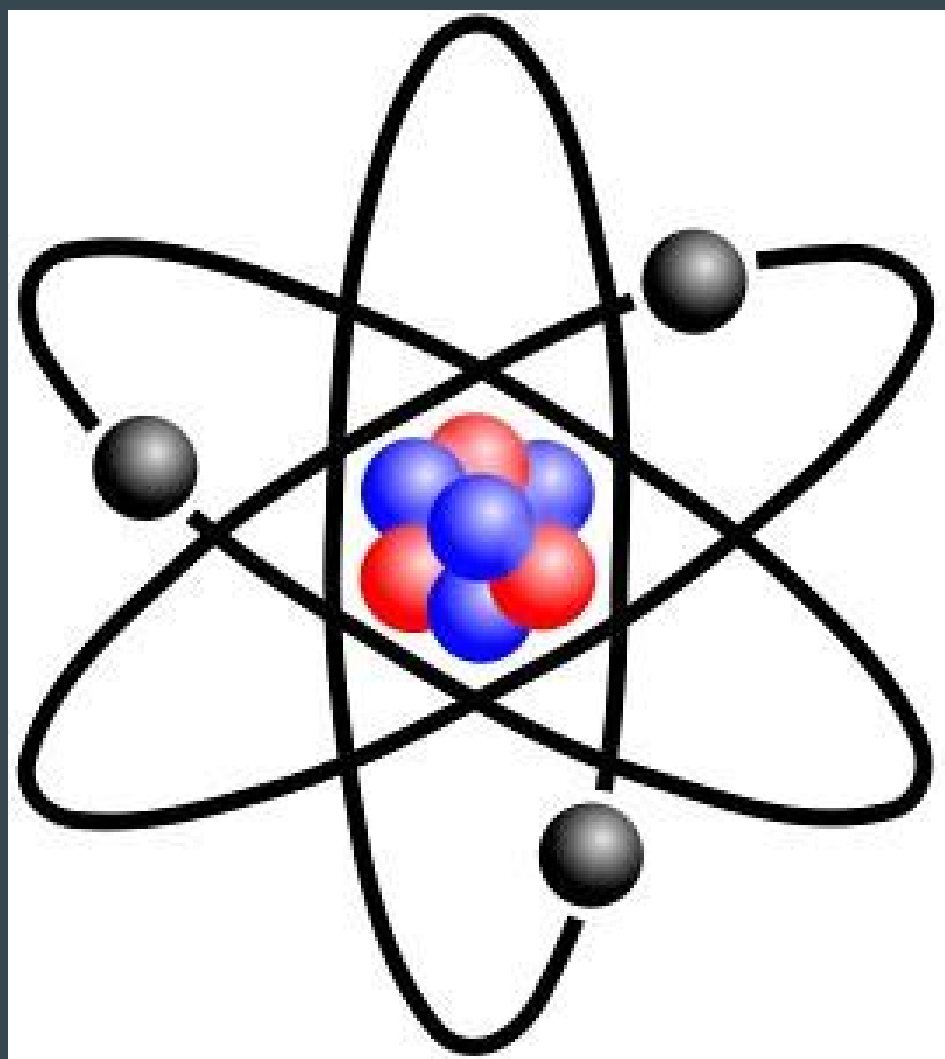
Non-physical Substances:

- Time
- Space
- Self
- Mind



Substance

- Physical substances can be reduced to individual atoms
- Atoms are indivisible and imperceivable
- Though atoms are the smallest units of substance, every atom is unique
- Division argument for atoms

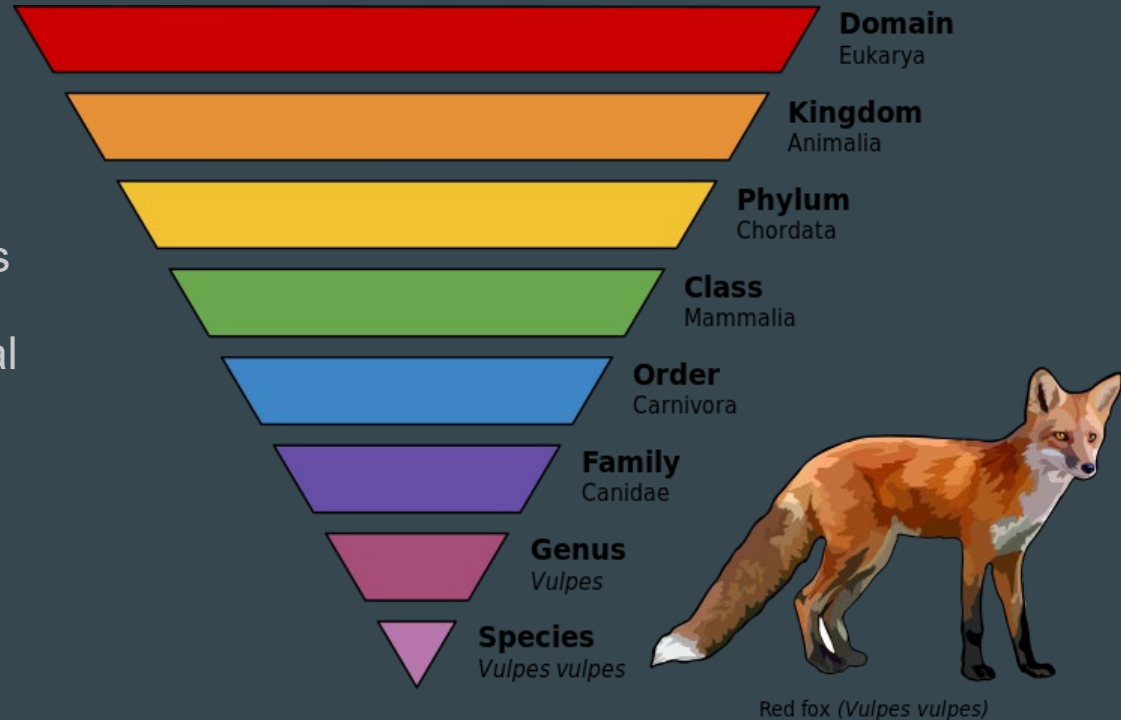






Universals

- Distinguish between classes/groups, eg. horses vs cows
- Believe that universals such as “horseness” are objectively real
- Arranged Hierarchically
- Wholly present in multiple places





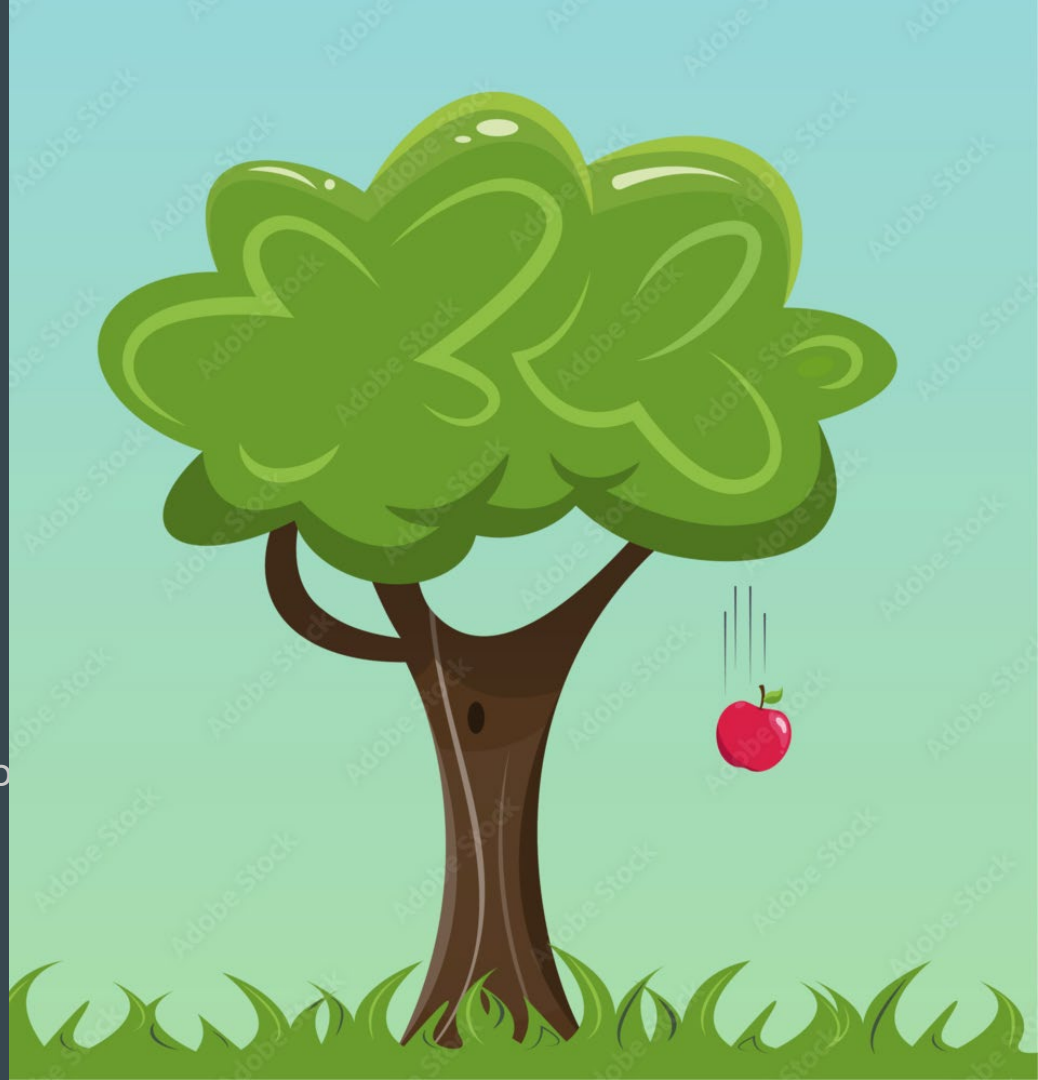


Qualities

- Distinguish between members of a class. ex. red in a fire hydrant
- Non-repeatable
- 24 qualities: color, taste, smell, touch, number, quantity, separateness, contact, disjoining, distance, nearness, knowledge, pleasure, pain, will, aversion, effort, heaviness, liquidity, oiliness, impression, merit, demerit, and sound
- Can be inherited by universals

Motion

- Have capacity to cause movement in space
- Non-repeatable
- Interact with each other
- Initiation of motion occurs due to possession of a quality such as weight or fluidity



Differentium

- Uniqueness that differentiates between indivisible parts

Absence

- Non-existent-ness
- Absence of an object
- Objectively real
- Allow for statements such as “the cup is not on the table” to be objectively true or false

Nonexistence

Existence

Universals

Absence

Qualities

Motion

Substances

Differentia

