Synopsis of the chapter-III

The Concept of Mind in Nyaya-Vaisesika

Mind which is atomic in magnitude, one in number has got a prominent role in Nyāya epistemology. Mind which is uncompious is regarded as a sense-organ. The role of mind can not be ignored in the case of invalid cognitions like dream etc.

Chapter-III

The Concept of Mind in Nyaya-Vaisesika

It has been discussed in the previous chapter that the Naiyayikas and Vaisesikas accepted mind as an internal sense-organ. It is, according to them, an instrument of knowing pleasure, pain etc. directly. So they conceived mind as an unconscious substance like other sense-organs.

But a question may be raised here. If mind is accepted as a sense-organ then why it has not been included into others i.e., eye, ear etc. 1.

^{1. &}quot;Nanu manas indriyatvattadvarga eva pathanam yuktam kimartho'yam prtham nirdesah"

Nyayamañjarī - Ed. with notes by pt. Surya Narayana Sukla (part II), P. 67 (Chowkhamba Sanskrit series - 1971).

The Naiyayikas, in this regard, opine that though mind is a sense-organ yet there are some differential elements in mind than other sense-organs. The dharma or the quality of mind is not the same with other sense-organs. All the external sense-organs are constituted by any of the physical elements of earth, water etc. So they are called physical or bhautika. But mind is not constituted by any such physical element. As mind, according to them, is not a produced object so the question of constitution does not arise here. Hence, mind is a non-physical (abhautika). Again an external sense-organ is constituted with any specific attribute of the physical elements. As for example, eye is constituted with a particular physical element like teja and it possesses a particular class of object called rupa. Eye is not able to receive any sound other than rupa. Again, ear is related to sound only but not to rupa. But there is no any such particular object to which mind is related. Mind may be related to any external sense-organ whether it is visual or auditory or any other than these two. Sense-organs like eye etc. can

produce knowledge of their particular objects only when mind is endowed with them. In other words, if mind is related to external organ then only the organ can perceive object. For this reason, it seems that a sense-organ cannot perceive object in a state when mind is absent. Again, mind can give us knowledge of mental state like pleasure, pain etc. without taking help of external sense-organs².

According to Jayanta Bhatta, mind is not allpervasive. Because due to the absence of mind sometimes
we do not see an object which is under the purview of
our vision. If mind be all-pervasive then there is no
possibility of such experience.

^{1. &}quot;Bhautikanindriyani niyatavisayani, Sagunanam caisamindriyabhavah manastu na bhautikam na niyatavisayam na casya sagunasyendriyabhava iti, tacca na bhautikamakaryatvadata eva na tadgunayogi na ca niyatavisayam ...". Ibid.

^{2. &}quot;Sarvavisayatvam tasya sakalavahyendriyanamadhisthanatvattadadhigamyasukhadivisayagrahitvacca ..."

According to Jayanta Bhatta, if the external sense-organs are associated with mind, they can grasp the objects. In otherwords, the sense organs like eye can grasp the object like colour etc. if they are endowed with mind. There is no other measure for the connection of the sense-organs with the object. Why is it possible? This connection of sense-organ with object through mind is known with the help of the fact of the nonsimultaneous cognition. As empsimultaneity of knowledge of two objects is not possible, the operation of mind is to be admitted. Moreover, when some object is recollected afterwords, it is possible without the functioning of external sense-organ due to having existence of mind. Hence, the function of mind is highly essential for the grasp of something.

^{1. &}quot;... vähyendriyäni hi mano'dhisthitani svavisaye pravarttitumutsahante caksuradini nanyatha, kasmadevamiti cedyugapajjnananupapatteh, uttarakalam ca vähyendriyavyaparavirahe'pi tadarthavamarsat".

Mind has got a particular form though it has no part. Because formless entity is not capable of performing any action. Mind is permanent though it has a form, since there is no rule that a permanent thing must be formless. Jayanta Bhatta opines that due to its swiftness it can also grasp things of remote place within a moment.

According to the Naiyayikas, mind is atomic in magnitude. It is one in each body. In order to support this view Vatsyayana says that if mind were not atomic, there would have been simultaneity in it. Because all sense-organs may come in contact with their objects at the same moment, but, in fact, it is not possible for one to get more than one cognition

Nyaya Sutra - 3/2/56.

2. "Yathoktahetutvaccanu"

Nyaya Sutra - 3/2/59.

^{1.} Jnanayaugapadyadekam manah

at a time1.

moment different objects of cognition can come in contact with the mind through sense-organs. Hence simultaneous cognition is possible and so mind cannot be regarded as atomic². As for example, it is possible for the same preceptor to read, to walk, to hold a water pot, to look at the path, to hear sounds of animals and to try to determinate the mark of the animals and to recollect his destination at a same moment. It is not observed that these actions occur; one after another. So it can be said that the same preceptor has come in contact with different cognitions at the same time by different

Vatsyayenabhasya on Nyaya Sutra 3/2/56

Nyaya Sutra - No. 3/2/57.

^{1. &}quot;Yattu khalvidamindriyantaranam visayantaresu jmanayaugapadyamititallingam. Kasmat? Sambhavati khalu vai vahusu manahsvindriyamanahsamyogayaugapadyamiti jmanayaugapadyam syat, natu bhavati, tasmadvisaye pratyayaparyyayadekam manah"

^{2. &}quot;Na yugapadanekakriyopaladdheh"

minds. As simultaneous cognition in respect of different actions is possible by different mind, so mind is not atomic. Again, when we take food like cake etc.it seems to us that we get the knowledge of its colour, smell, taste etc simultaneously. Hence, the nature of mind is not atomic.

In response to the above objection Naiyayikas argue that just as in the case of fire-circle (alatocakra) what we perceive, we perceive due to the rapid succession of the fire-circle. Similarly in the case of simultaneous

Vatsyeyena Bhasya on Nyava Sutra No. 3/2/57

^{1. &}quot;Ayam khalvadhyapako dhite, brajati kamandalum dharayati, panthanam pasyati, srnotyaranyajan sabdan,
vibhyad vyalalingani vubhutsate, smarati ca gantavyam
sthaniyamiti kramasyagrahanadyugapadatah kriya iti
praptam manaso bahutvamiti"

^{2. &}quot;Sugandhim sitalam dirghamsnantahpupasaskulim. Kapilabrahmanassanti yugapatpanca buddhayah"

Nyayamanjari (Part II), Surya Narayana Sukla edition, P. 68 (Chowkhamba Sanskrit series - 1971)

perception (in respect of different actions) it is due to rapid movement of the same mind¹. In this regard Vātsyāyana tries to give an explanation. He says that we wrongly ascertain the fire brand to be round as a wheel. Though the succession of movement is present yet it is not apprehended, because of its rapid movement. It comes to us as a whole due to the non-apprehension of its succession. Similarly, in the case of previous example (i.e., the simultaneous cognition in respect of different actions) it is non-apprehension of succession by which we wrongly ascertain that the actions have been done at the same time. From this it can be said that the rapidity of succession is the cause of such illusory experience of simultaneity. Hence, the view of admitting more than one mind in a human body is not justified².

Vatsyayanabhasya on Nyaya Sutra - 3/2/58.

^{1. &}quot;Alatacakradarsanavattadupalabdhirasusancarat" Nyaya Sutra No. 3/2/58

^{2. &}quot;Asusancaradalatasya bhramato vidyamanah kramo na grhyate, kramasyagrahanadavicchedabuddhya cakravadbuddhirbhavati, tatha buddhinam kriyanancasuvrttitvadvidyamanah kramo na grhyate, kramasyagrahanadyugapat kriya bhavantityabhimano bhavati".

Only the self is all-pervading. But mind is atomic and it can move anywhere rapidly like air. This characteristic feature of mind finds support in the Bhagavadgītā where it is said -"cañcalam hi manah kṛṣña pramāthi valavaddṛdham" (Bhagavadgītā - 6/34). But if mind is taken as all-pervading, the question of its rapid movement does not arise.

Though there may exist the contact of our external sense-organs with their corresponding objects, no perception will be produced until mind comes in contact with them. If mind is endowed with its infinite extension or with proportionate extension, it could have come into union with all the five external sense-organs at once giving rise to five types of perception simultangously.

^{1. &}quot;Jnatakaranajanyah sukhadyanubhavah indriyajanyah janya-pratyaksatvat rupapratyaksavat, janyasaksatkarasyendriyajanyatvaditi tatrapi tallaksanasattvat. Sparsadyavisayatvena tvagadina narthantaram, gandharasa-rupasparsesvekaikamamatrasaksatkarajanakatvena prihivyadivedasiddhau nihsparsa lagavanniravayavanca manah"

Tattva-cintamani, Pratyaksa Khanda, P. 763 (Matilal, 1974).

It is a wellknown fact that it is not possible for a man to have more than one kind of perception at a time. From this, it follows that mind can come into the contact with only one sense-organ at a time and hence, it is atomic in extension.

Some scholars deny the atomic dimension of mind on the ground that sometimes as in the case of eating bread soaked in milk and sugar the mind is found united with several objects like milk, sugar and bread simultaniously. This view is not correct, because the operation of mind, though apparently seems to be simultanious, takes place in succession just as the hundred leaves of a lotus are pricked one after another with the help of a needle.

^{1. &}quot;Evam manahsańkoca-vikasayorbubhutsadikam heturiti cet, tarhi pańcabubhutsayam pranidhane ca sarvvada sarvvesam pańca jňanani jayeran pańcavadhanajńane krama eva ... anuvyavasayah pańcaiva samayasauksmyattesam kramo na grhyate".

Ibid - PP. 780-781.

Gangesa has explained it in another way. At the time of such perception we have the recollection of the knowledge of five objects due to having impression existing in successive apperception and hence this knowledge seems to be simultaneous. In other words, an individual has got a knowledge which is apparently simultaneous due to imposition of the awareness in the form of anubhava on the memory of the five objects of knowledge arising out of impressions inhering in the successive anuvyavasaya. From this it follows that the simultaneous cognition of this is not correct but apparent. If it (mind) is considered as all pervasive then we would not have the awareness of pleasure etc. due to not having the cause i.e., the connection between mind and self.

^{1. &}quot;Vyasangadasayamindriyanam svasvavisayasambandhe'pyekasmat jñanam nanysmadityanubhavasiddhamato yasyasambandhanna yugapajjñanani tadindriyasahakarikramena tadadhistayakam manastadeva sukhadigrahakamiti tasya dharmmigrahakamanabadhitam vibhutvam".

Ibid, P. 771.

It may be argued by the opponents that, if there is impossibility of simultaneous cognitions, the art-object in the form of dance which consists of various simultaneous actions arising out of different parts of the body like eye-brow, eyes, hands, legs etc.would not be perceived. If there is impossibility of the simultaneity of actions, another problem would crop up. If it is so, there would not be the awareness of the particular happiness which is different from the happiness arising from other actions. In other words, there would be the impossibility of the awareness of a particular type of happiness which is originated through the happiness of each and every action as in the case of dance².

The view, according to Gangesa, is not true.

Just as someone wants to have sandal-wood due to having

Ibid - P. 782

^{1. &}quot;Kramotpāde ca bhru-nayana-karacaranādisakalasarīrāvayavanām yugapadvicitranānākarmasamuharūpam nrtyam na pratyaksam syāt."

^{2. &}quot;Tathaca pratyekakarmajanyasukhadilaksanasukhaviseso nanubhuyeteti".

the desire of having it, cikirsa (desire for doing) becomes the main factor in some action which can give us happiness. This action always comes from the effort originated through that particular desire (cikirsa). Here the physical activity also comes from the effort existing in a place of atomic dimension originated from that particular desire. Effort is originated through the limitation of the desire of action. The physical movement is again originated through the effort limiting the particular body. In this way, twenty types of action may be originated simultaneously from the effort existing in an object of atomic dimension, the locus of the cikirsa. In the same way, twenty types of action of fingers as in the case of dance arise out of the effort of twenty types due to having the same type of cikirsa. The effort and action is to be understood according to particular desire1.

^{1. &}quot;Sukhe candanadivat cikirsaiva niyamika yatkriyayam cikirsa sa kriya taccikirsajanyat prayatnadbhavati.
Tatra śarirakriyapi taccikirsajanyadanumatradeśadapi prayatnadbhavati. Athava yasya kriyayam cikirsa tadavacchedena prayatna utpadyate tena śariravacche-

The spirit of such argument is as follows. Each and every bodily activity is arising from a particular effort which is connected with a particular cikirsa or desire. This desire or cikirsa always comes from a place having atomic dimension and that which gives rise to a particular effort which again in return, gives rise to a particular physical activity is called mind. Though twenty types of action are originated simultaneously from a place having atomic dimension i.e., mind where there is desire of twenty types. One mind having atomic magnitude cannot contain twenty types of desire simultaneously and hence, it contains successively the said quantity of desire giving rise to the said quantity of action. Hence, from the various types of activity as in the case of dance, the simultaneity of knowledge in mind cannot be proved and hence it is

denotpannaprayatnadeva śarīrakriyā. Ayam vimśatikriyā cikīrsājanyādanumātradeśādapi prayatnādvimśatikriyā yugapadutpadyante.

of atomic nature1.

According to the Vaisesikas, mind which is one of the nine substances, possesses the qualities like number (samkhya), dimension (parimana) separateness (prthaktva), conjunction (samyoga), disjuction (vibhaga), priority (paratva), posteriority (aparatva) and trace or impression (samskar)².

Regarding the question whether mind is one or many to each body, the Vaisesikas are of the opinion that due to the non-simultaneity of effort and knowledge mind

Ibid - PP. 782-783.

^{1. &}quot;Athavā angulīvimsatikriyāyām cikīrseti vimsatyavacchedena vimsati prayatnādvimsatikriyāhetava utpadyante, evam nrtyādāvapi. Etaccikīrsānuvidhānāt
kriyāprayatnayoradhyavaseyam. Tadevamanu-manah siddhau...".

^{2. &}quot;Tasya gunah samkhyaparimanaprthaktvasamyogavibhagaparatvaparatva-samskarah"

Prasastapadabhasyam - (Varanas1-1963), P. 221.

is one in one body. From this fact the quality like separateness is followed. If there were many minds, there would be a multiplicity of contact between self and mind and then the same person would have many cognitions and would achieve many actions at the same time².

But it is a wellknown fact that the different cognitions and actions appear one after another but not simultaneously. That is to say, when a person is engaged in one cognition of one thing, he is desisted from other thing and when he is desisted from the former only then

^{1. &}quot;Pratisarīramākam mana ahosvidanekamiti samsaye sati

sutrakrtoktam - 'prayatnāyaugapadyājjnānāyaugapadyācca pratisarīramekam manah'iti. Tena pratisarīramekatvam siddhýamiti".

Prasastapadabhasyam with Nyayakandali. PP. 221-222 (Varanasi - 1963).

^{2. &}quot;Manobahutve hyatmamanahsamyoganam bahutvadyugapajjmanani prayatmasca bhaveyuh".

he gets cognition of the latter. In the same way, when a person achieves an effort in one direction, he is not able to act with another effort. He can do another action only when the former is over. From this single cognition and a single effort at a time the oneness of mind is proved.

In some cases simultaneous cognition seems to be possible. Just as in the case of revolving of a fire-brand, the circle of fire is appeared to us, but it is actually a single flaming point which is rapidly revolving and through it such notion of simultaneous cognition is generated. In such cases, as a matter of fact, we

^{1. &}quot;Drsyate ca kramo jnananamekopalambhavyasaktena visayantaranupalambhad nivrttavyasangena copalambhadityuktam. Evam prayatnanamapi kramotpada eva, ekatra prayatamanasyanyatra vyaparabhavat, samaptakriyasya ca bhavat, tasmadekam manah. Tasyaikatve khamalvaka evaikada samyoga ityekameva jnanamakah prayatna ityupapadyate".

perceive a gradual succession of efforts1.

The opponents may argue, in this regard, that how the cognitions like 'the trees are in flower' would be explained. Because in this case simultaneous cognition of two objects appear to us. Again how would the simultaneous actions of acceptance and transmission of one's body be explained².

In response to the above, the Valsesikas opine that in the above case we have a single cognition comprising of a number of objects, which is technically

1. "Yastu kvacidyugapadabhimanastadalatacakravadasubhavat, na tu tattvikam yaugapadyamakatra drstena karyykramananytrapi karanasya tasyaiva samarthanumanat".

Ibid.

2. Nanvevam tarhi dvavimavarthau puspitastarava ityanekarthapratibhasah kutah ? Kutasca svasarīrasya
saha preranadharane*.

called <u>samuha-lamvanajnana</u> i.e., cognition in which the totality of some individual objects is revealed at a time. But when the cognition made distinct viz, the cognition of the flower and the tree, we do not have the cognition in the above form. Due to the separation of object cognition is also separated. In other words, when we look into the cognition of a particular individual object from the totality, the cognition of it becomes distinct from that of other objects. By applying the same logic the simultaneous efforts (i.e., the acceptance and transmission of an individual body) can be explained.

^{1. &}quot;Arthasamuhālamvanasyaikajñānasyāpratisedhād buddhibheda eva na tu tathā pratibhasah, sarvasamekaikārthaniyatatvāt. Evam sarīrasya preranadhāraņe ca prayatnavisesādekasmādeva bhavatah".

It has already been discussed that the knowledge generally arises in self when it is associated with mind which is, again, associated with sense-organ and sense-organ is, again, associated with an object. (1) But there are some other cognitions with are produced by mind without being associated with sense-organs.

Dream-cognition is one of such cognitions. In other words, no external sense-organ can be an instrument of the knowledge of mental phenomenon like dream (svapna). Mind alone acts as an instrument to produce such cognition. Let us discuss how does dream occur and what role does the mind play in its occurrence.

According to Vaisesikas, when our mind becomes free from the association of soul and enters into a special state of heart which is known as puritat, we become asleep (Susupti)². But sometimes our sleep

^{1. &}quot;Atma manasa samyujyate, mana indriyana, indriyamarthena".

Tarkasamgrahadīpikā, P. 231, Satkārišarmā Edition.

^{2. &}quot;Yada Manah puritat pravisati tada susuptih".

Ibid. P. 201.

being disturbed by some bodily factors mind remains associated with that special state of heart as well as self. At this stage though the mind is completely free from the association of the external sense-organs, yet a kind of cognition, though invalid, arises from the mind which is described as dream . Dream is occured due to the special type of contact between self and mind and latent impression (samkara) through the help of mind, the internal sense-organ. Knowledge of colour etc. cannot come under the purview of dream as at this stage mind is not associated with sense-organs like eye etc. 2. Hence. the knowledge in the form of dream is produced in a nonexistent object. The Vaisesikas make a distinction between illusion and dream though both of them are invalid cognitions. They opine that in the case of illusion (viparyaya) the external sense-organs serve as a promoter (proyojaka).

^{1.} Prasastapadabhasya, PP. 437-38, Edited by Ganganath Jhā.

^{2. &}quot;Jnanam svapna ityukte rupadijnane tivyaptih, tannirasartham nidreti".

Jinabardhani Commentary on Sutra no. 252 of Saptapadarthi, P. 76, Edited by Dr. J. S. Jetly.

But in the case of dream these external sense-organs have no function at all.

According to the Vaisesikas, there are three factors which cause the dream. The factors are: i) latent impression (samskara), ii) defect of a humour of affection of the body (dhatudosa), and iii) unseen factor (adrsta) i.e., merit and demerit. When sleep is disturbed by above three factors, cognition in the form of dream is produced. As for example, due to the latent impression an angry person sees that he is killing his enemy or a lustful person sees in a dream that he is embracing his lady-love². The Vaisesikas are of the opinion that dream is a determinable mental phenomenon with physiological

^{1. &}quot;Tattu tribidham - samskarapatavat, dhatudosadadrstacca".
Prasastapadabhasya, P. 439, Edited by Ganganatha Jha.

^{2. &}quot;Samskarapatavat tavat kami kruddho va yada yamartham priyatamam Satrum vadrto-numanyamanascintayan svapiti, tada saiva cintasantatih smrtisantatih samskaratisayat pratyaksakara saksadarthavibhasini samjayate".

Nyayakandali on Prasastapadabhasya, P. 439, Edited by Ganganatha Jha.

determinants. That is to say, a particular dream is produced from a particular type of cause. Dream is also caused by the defect of a humour or affection of the body. The term 'humour' or 'affection' means wind (Vata), bile (pitta) and phlegm (slesmā). By the term 'dhātu' seven objects viz., brain, blood, flesh, fat, marrow of bones, bones and semen are to be understood. These objects preserve our body. The existence of wind, bile and phlegm in a limited dimension is also essential for our body. But these (wind, bile and phlegm) existing in our body become vitiated due to the vitiation of the seven objects (i.e., dhātu) like brain, blood etc. When the existence of wind becomes excessive in one's body, one sees that he is flying on the sky or he is afraid of tiger etc.².

^{1. &}quot;Sarīradhāraņād dhātavo vasārnamāmsamedomajjāsthisukrātmanah tesām dosād vātādidusitatvād viparyayo bhavatītyā na".

Nyayakandali on Prasastapadabhasya, P. 439, Same Edition.

^{2. &}quot;Kinciddhatunam vatapittaslesmanam dosat. Tatra vatadosadakasagamanavasun - dharaparyatanavyaghradhayapalayanadini pasyati".

Upaskara commentary on Vaisesika Sutra 9/2/7, P. 414. Chowkhamba Edition.

Again, someone perceives the flash of lightening or a golden mountain etc., when the existence of bile becomes excessive in his body¹. Similarly, when the existence of phlegm becomes excessive in someone's body, he perceives the mountain like the Himalayas, heavy rain, crossing the river or mountain covered by silver etc.²

According to the Vaisesikas, every produced object must have some cause. As Dream is a produced phenomenon, the causal explanation of dream has been given by the Vaisesikas. They opine that the unseen factor (adrsta) is the cause of dream. By unseen factor or 'adrsta' they mean to say the merit (dharma) or demerit (adharma).

Due to the impression caused by merit (dharma) one sees the auspicious incidents like obtaining royal umbrella, ascending on elephant's back etc. Again, due to the impression caused by demerit (adharma) one sees the inauspicious incidents like ascending on the back of a ass,

 [&]quot;Pittopacayadosamahimnā vahnipraveśa-jvēļālinganakanakaparvata - vidyullatāvisphuraņa - digdahādikam paśayati" - <u>Upaskāra</u> commentary on sama sūtra;
 (Also Praśastapādabhāsya, P. 440).

^{2. &}quot;Slesmādosapravalyāttu samudra-santaraņa-nadimajjana-dhārāsāravarsana-rajataparvatādi pasayati". <u>Ibid</u>.

falling in a dark well etc. I The unseen factors (i.e. merit and demerit) have got an important role in building one's character and personality. Hence, by explaining the particulars of dream (which is caused by unseen factors) of an individual, the character and the personality of the individual can be known. These unseen factors are preserved in mind. After analysing the dream which is caused through mind along with other factors like Adrsta, physiological disorder etc. one can know the physical and psychological conditions of an individual. If someone wants to know the historical background of an individual like what sort of person he is etc., it can be known from the analysis of dream an individual experiences. What type of Samkara he possesses is known from what type of dream he sees. Moreover, the physiological disorder like excess of bile etc. is known or rather inferred from the analysis of dream. Hence, the

^{1. &}quot;Yat svayamanubhūtesvananubhūtesu va prasiddhārthesvaprasiddhārthesu va yacchubhāvedakam gajārohaņachatralābhādi tatsarvamsamskāradharmābhyām bhavati".

Prasastapadabhasya, P. 440 (Same Edition).

therapegutic value of dream cannot be ignored. Hence, the dream - experience which is centred with mind.

Like dream all other forms of invalid cognition are also generated through the operation of mind. The Samsaya which is in the form: 'It is a man or trunk of a tree' may be produced through the help of many causes of which the mind is one. In the same way, (illusory knowledge is also produced through mind. From this it appears that whatever cognition is attained it is due to the existence of mind. Hence, there is hardly any time when our mind is not operated.