

**Satsanga with Sri Swami Viditatmananda Saraswati**  
**Arsha Vidya Gurukulam**

**Indian Schools of Philosophy (3 of 3)**

*Question*

Will you please explain the standpoints of the Mīmāṃsakas, the Sāṅkhyas, and the Naiyāyikas?

*Answer*

The Mīmāṃsakas look upon *karma* as a primary means to *mokṣa*. The Sāṅkhya is another system of philosophy. The Sāṅkhyas accept two realities, namely, *puruṣa*, the spirit and *prakṛti*, matter. They claim that one gains liberation by knowing the difference between *puruṣa* and *prakṛti*. The Naiyāyikas, on the other hand, assert that the world is real; that *īśvara* is different from the world and you are a *jīva* who is a *kartā*, doer, and a *bhoktā*, enjoyer. The Naiyāyikas claim that one becomes liberated by knowing the different elements of which the world consists. Therefore, they analyze the world and provide the reasoning behind it. The Naiyāyikas are well known for giving us *nyāya*, logical reasoning. Their main contribution is '*pramāṇa-vicāra*', the analysis of the means of knowledge, e.g., perception, inference etc. They have analyzed the means of knowledge in great detail and their strength is their method of inference<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> 2005 Arsha Vidya Gurukulam Family Camp *satsanga*. Transcribed and edited by Chaya Rajaram and Jayshree Ramakrishnan.