

## Note on 26Sep2023 discussion

Avinash Jha (03 Oct 2023)

It is good we are continuing the discussion this Tuesday and we start with Sunil ji's interrupted comments. I have put down some comments on last Tuesday's discussion:

One major point that came up in both Gandhi's and Sunil ji's comment is whether ordinary experience is the experience of an individual or of a collective/ensemble. It seems irrefutable that it is the latter. Therefore, we can call it lokavidya - knowledge in society. This experience is a shared body of knowledge, accumulated and cultivated over generations.

What about individual experience then? Of course, as individuals we share in the shared experiences as well. Still, there are new experiences. There is a component of experience which is irreducibly individual. I think Dignaga's nirvikalpa pratyaksa (nonconceptual experience) points to this aspect of experience. Without this the dynamics of experience will be lost. This is noncommunicable.

As regards pramana, we should remember that we respond to any doubtful knowledge with the question: what is the pramana? Pandit's response as Sunil ji told us to the question about Ganesh ji drinking milk that 'There is no example or drstanta' is a response to that question. Inference or anumana is not valid because there is no example. What about an entirely new phenomenon without examples, as someone raised the question?

Sunil ji also spoke that lokavidya is the benchmark, and not ordinary experience and something about the system being constant before he lost the connection. We will talk about it tomorrow.