

19 OCT 2001
Car can't produce another event. To produce means to exert a power. But as no such power is perceived as existing in objects the reality of productive power is inadmissible. It can not also be established by perception that there is any invariable and un-conditional relation between two events. The Carvaka thinks that whatever happens in the world happens accidentally. There is no existence of conscious purpose behind the world. The Carvaka theory is thus known as mechanism (Yadrachā-Nādi)

CARVĀKĀ ETHICS

* Ethics is the science of morality. It discusses the problems like - what is the highest goal of human life? What can be achieved? What should be the end of human conduct? What is the standard of moral judgement? The Carvakas discuss these ethical problems in conformity with their metaphysical theories.

Some Indian philosophers like the Mimāṃsākas believe that the highest goal of human life is ~~heaven~~ heaven (Svarga). The Carvakas reject this view because it is based on the unproved existence of a life after death. 'Heaven' and 'Hell' are the inventions of the Priests whose professional interest lies in coaxing the credulous and weak people to perform the rituals. Enlightened men will always refuse to be duped by them.

of pleasure and a bad action is
one which brings about more
pain than pleasure. This carvaka ethics
may be called, therefore, the hedonism or the theory
that pleasure is the highest goal.

Some of the Indian thinkers speak of the four
ends of human activity - (Puruṣārtha), namely
Wealth, (artha) enjoyment (Kāma) Virtue (Dharma)
and liberation (mokṣha) of these four the carvaka
rejects the last two. Liberation in the sense
of destruction of all sufferings can be obtained
only by death and no wise man would willingly
work for that end. Virtue and vice are
distinctions are made by the scriptures, whose
authority can not be rationally accepted.
Therefore neither liberation nor virtue should
be our end. Wealth and enjoyment are the
only rational ends. But enjoyment is the
ultimate end. Wealth is not an end in itself; if
it is good only as a means to enjoyment.

Religion is thus reduced to morality and
morality to the search of pleasure. The ethics
of the carvaka is only the logical outcome
of this materialistic metaphysics.