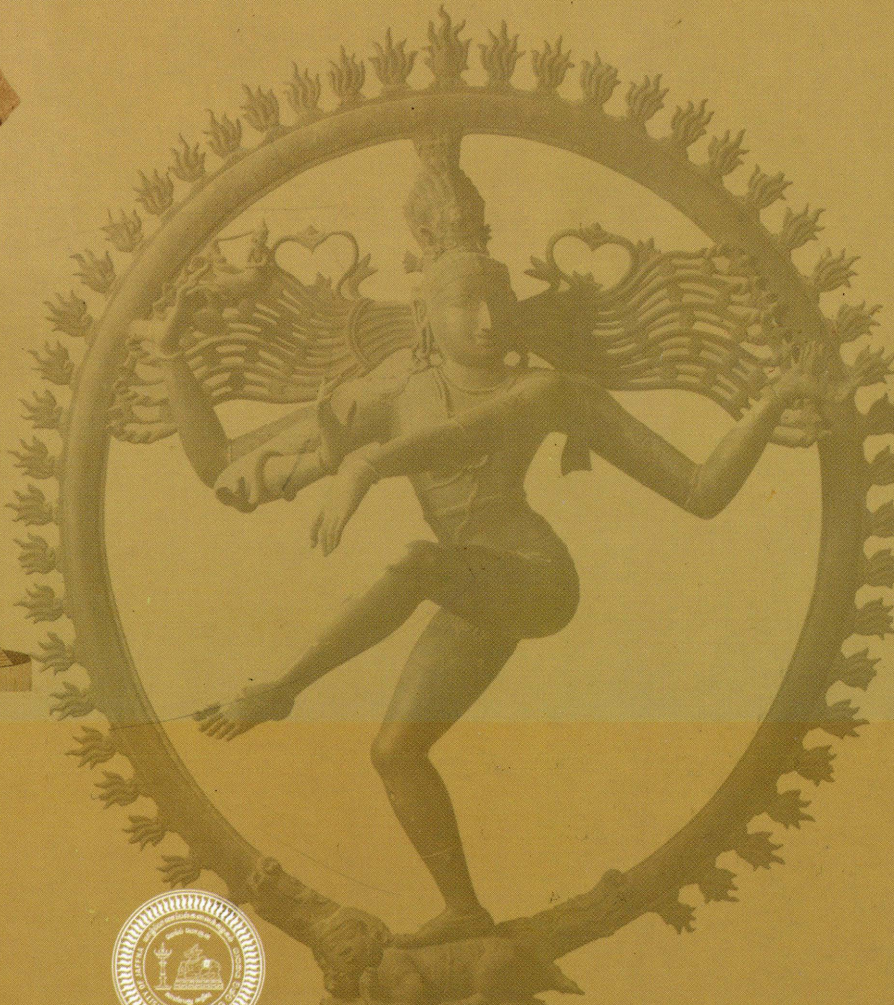


VOLUME 01 NUMBER 02 NOVEMBER 2015

THE SRI LANKA JOURNAL OF
SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES



The Faculty of Arts

UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA, SRI LANKA

THE SRI LANKA JOURNAL OF SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

EDITOR

Senior Professor N.Gnanakumaran

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

DR.Mrs.C.C.A.Sivapalan

MANAGING EDITOR

Dr.Mrs.S.Ramesh

EDITORIAL BOARD

Dr.S.Vijayakumar

Dr.Mrs S Raveenthiran

Dr. T.Sanathanan

Rev.Dr. J.C.Paul Rohan

Mr.S.Uthayakumar

Dr.K.T.Ganeshalingam

Mrs.V.Ravishangar

The Sri Lanka Journal of South Asian Studies is a publication of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Jaffna. 'The Sri Lanka Journal of South Asian Studies' is a refereed Journal which publishes articles in the Field of Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Fine Arts. Reviews of Books are also included. The Journal is intended to cover subjects of relevance to the South Asian subcontinent that are of both contemporary and historical interest. Its primary aim is to publish the findings of new research by members of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Jaffna, contributions from other scholars are also welcome. Books for Review should be sent to the Editor. Books relating to South Asia and especially Sri Lanka are welcome.

Editorial correspondence should be addressed to Prof.N.Gnanakumaran, Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna, Jaffna, Sri Lanka.

Business correspondence should be addressed to Dr.Subathini Ramesh, Head, Department of Law, Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna, Jaffna, Sri Lanka. The Journal is published twice yearly in April and November by the University of Jaffna. The annual subscription is Rs 900 SLR. Single issue Rs 500 SLR. These two issues constitute one volume. ISSN: 2386-1956

(Bar Code 9772386 195007)

Cover Design : Dr. T.Sanathanan

THE SRI LANKAN JOURNAL OF SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES
FACULTY OF ARTS
UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA
SRILANKA

VOLUME 01 NUMBER 02 NOVEMBER 2015

THE SRI LANKA JOURNAL OF
SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES



The Faculty of Arts

UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA, SRI LANKA

The Vaishedika Atomism –A key to all philosophical quests, related to Cosmology

S.Muhunthan

ABSTRACT: *Vaishedika is one out of the Six Darshanas which are the most important among the Indian schools of Philosophy. Though this is one of the Orthodox School of Thought in India it is deeply concerned with physical nature, more than any other metaphysical quests. Thus Vaishedika with the help of the two theories, viz: Theory of Substance and atomism, has deeply gone into the study of the Universal phenomenon. The important interpretation behind Vaishedika is the justification that all structural forms within universal phenomena are created by the compounding and separation of atoms. Comparatively, though Vaishedika was contemporary to Greek and Jain atomic theories, it has certain unique qualities of its own.*

Key Words: Atomism, Cosmology, Pluralistic Realism

The Scientific studies which proclaim atoms as the primordial raw materials of the universe are not sudden outbursts of scientific ideas. From time unknown, fitting quite appropriately into the statement that, "Science is a baby nurtured in the cradle of philosophy," all basic conceptual discussions giving rise to modern studies on science, has been undertaken at the global stage by various schools of philosophy. The awareness and quests in the Indian tradition are of historical superiority, extending age long from times prior to the Christian era.

In the Indian arena of philosophy, concerned with the creation of this Universe, Vaishedika is the most ancient doctrine that posits the discussions on "atoms".

The fundamental aim of this article is to analyses Vaishedika atomism, and establishes its multi-dimensional aspects. Accordingly, primary and secondary data collected from the sources of Vaishedika doctrine have been used in this study. The methodology here includes discussions and analyzing method has also been used where appropriate.