PHIL 383 Handout
9/8/22
Testimony as a Pramana?
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Active Review

1. Sometimes, people make arguments by analogy. Here's an example:

   > Premise 1: Earth is a planet.
   > Premise 2: Mars is like Earth in all the relevant respects.
   > Conclusion. Therefore, Mars is also a planet.

   For this question, I would like you to generate another example of an argument by analogy. Please make sure your example meets two criteria:
   (a) Instead of 'Earth' and 'Mars', use items from your group's category.
   (b) In your example, the second premise and conclusion must both be false.

2. This week's reading and lecture involved one important argument by analogy.

   > Premise 1: Perception is a pramana.
   > Premise 2: Testimony is like perception in all the relevant respects.
   > Conclusion: Therefore, testimony is a pramana.

   For this question, I would like you to assume that Premise 1 is true. Then, I would like you to generate objections to Premise 2. In other words, what disanalogies might exist between perception and testimony, such that perception is a pramana but testimony is not? You may draw on ideas from the reading, the lecture, or your own mind.

3. Consider the disanalogies that you or others identified. If someone believed that testimony is a pramana, how might they respond to these disanalogies? Are these responses convincing? Why or why not?

4. <u>Challenge Question (to do at home if you'd like):</u> What realistic examples best support the view that testimony is a pramana? What realistic examples best challenge this view?