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Lesson 37

The Coupled Syllogism

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The Attributive Coupled Syllogism are of four forms or figures:

Figure One: that the Median (al-Ausat) becomes the Attribute in the first premise (as-Sughra) and the Subject (Maudu') in the second premise (al-Kubra). Example:

This is a human (Minor Premise) And every human is a body (Major Premise) Then, this is a body (Conclusion)

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Therefore, the human, which is the Median, becomes the Attribute in the Minor Premise and the Subject in the Major Premise.

Figure Two: that the Median becomes the Attribute in both premises, for example:

Every human is an animal (Minor Premise)

And no rock is an animal (Major Premise)

Then, No human is a rock (Conclusion)

The animal, then, is that which is the Mean, it becomes the Attribute in both premises.

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Figure Three: that the Median becomes the Subject in both premises, for example:

Every human is an animal (Minor Premise)

And every human is rational (Major Premise)

Then, some animals are rational (Conclusion)

Then, the human is that which is the Mean, it becomes the Subject in both premises.

Figure Four: that the Median becomes the Subject in the first premise and the Attribute in the second Premise, for example:

Every human is an animal (Minor Premise)

And every rational being is a human (Major Premise)

Then, some animals are rational (Conclusion)

The human, then, is that which is the Median, it becomes the Subject in the first premise and the Attribute in the second premise.

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