Lesson 96
The Definition and its Divisions (2)
(المعرّف و اقسام التعريف)

- When we seek an overall concept of something, such as ''غضنفر'', we ask only about the linguistic meaning: What does it mean? The answer is another word with the same meaning, such as 'lion'. This is called 'التعريف اللفظى'(literal definition), which is provided in dictionaries.

- When we ask about the nature of something, in detail, to distinguish it from other things, and we say, "What is it?" the answer is called الشارحة which is (what) ما and the شرح اسم or 'التعريف الاسمى' provided first by its proximate 'جنس' & 'فصل'(الحد التام). If someone mistakenly answers the question with near genus (جنس قريب) only, the questioner will not be convinced with the answer, and he will ask more questions with 'which' ''اى'' about the properties of that thing. Then, the answer will be with differentia ''فصل''only or with property ''خاصة''.

- When we ask whether something exists and say, "Does it exist?", the answer is called ''هل هو موجود؟'' is called 'هل' and the 'التعريف الحقيقى' ''هل البسيطة''.

- When we want to seek affirmation of an attribute or a predicate for something, after presuming its existence, for example: ''هل الله الموجود مريد؟'' (is the existent God …?), the 'هل' here is called ''هل المركبة'' because it is asking about the existence of some feature in an existent thing.

- When we ask the reason for the predication or for that and the existence together, we use "لِمَ" (why), for example: "Why is God…?"