بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

Lesson 114
Rules of Division
(اصول القسمة)

- Rules of Division:
  1. Productivity: The division is useless unless it serves the divider's purpose, i.e., the parts differ in the intended peculiarities. For example, when a grammarian divides the verb into different tenses, it is because they have different peculiar rulings. But if a grammarian divided the past tense verb into مفتوح العين, مكسور العين and مضموم العين, this division would be useless for a grammarian to whom they have the same rule.
  2. Contrast of the Division: There must be no overlap among the divisions, e.g., the division of animals into humans and poets, … is incorrect. For example, dividing 'مفعول، حال، تمييز، ظرف' into 'منصوب' is incorrect because 'ظرف' is a type of 'مفعول' itself.
  3. Criterion: There must be a criterion for the division, i.e., the division must be carried out according to only one aspect.
  4. Inclusiveness and Exclusiveness: The division of a divided must include all its divisions and exclude all the non-divisions of it.

For correct division, first divide the citizens into scholars and ignorant, then rich and poor, and then divide these four into sick and healthy. All in all, there will be eight divisions.

It can be inferred from the second condition (contrast of the divisions) that:
  1. A 'قسم' of a thing cannot be its 'قسيم', such as considering 'ظرف' as a 'قسيم' to 'مفعول'.
  2. A 'قسم' of a thing cannot be its 'قسيم', such as considering 'حال' as a division of 'مفعول' while it is a 'قسيم' for it.
  3. A thing cannot divide into itself and other things.

Some believe that the division of knowledge into 'تصــور'and 'تصــدیق' is dividing something into itself and another thing because knowledge is absolute conception, but they are unaware that 'تصدیق'is a 'تصور' with affirmation and its 'قسیم'is the 'تصور' without affirmation.