



Al-Mantiq

Lesson 15

The Types of Knowledge (2)

Axiomatic Knowledge and Reflective Knowledge

(العلم الضروري و العلم النظرى)

We can divide knowledge into two divisions: **Axiomatic Knowledge** (العلم الضروري) **and Reflective Knowledge** (العلم النظرى). The knowledge of some affairs, such as existence, can be obtained without reflection or thought. All that is needed is for a person to turn his soul towards something. This is known as **necessary or axiomatic knowledge**.

There are other affairs, however, which the human being cannot grasp easily. He must make recourse to reflection and intellectual work to move from known to unknown. This is what we call **reflective or acquired knowledge**.

It is not necessary that every person must be aware of all the axioms; if a person is ignorant of an axiom, that does not mean it is not axiomatic.

The causes (أسباب) which allow one to understand axioms:

- Attention
- Healthy mind
- Healthy senses
- Lack of confusion
- Non-intellective (*ghayr `aqliyyah*) operations