



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## Lesson 108

### Conditions of the Definition (1)

(شروط التعريف)

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- **Conditions of Definition:** The purpose of a definition is to understand the definiendum's concept and distinguish it from other concepts. This purpose is not met except with five conditions:

1. The definiendum and the definer must be equal both in the instances, i.e., the definer must be 'مانع و جامع' or 'مطرود و منعكس' and that means it must include all the instances of the definiendum and exclude all the others.

In this condition:

- ✓ The definer should not be more inclusive 'اعم' than the definiendum because it also includes others.
- ✓ The definer should not be less inclusive because it is not comprehensive enough.
- ✓ The definer should not be alien to the definiendum because aliens cannot be predicated on each other.

2. The definer must be clearer than the definiendum to serve the purpose of definition; therefore, defining through something equally unknown or by a less familiar concept is useless.

In this condition:

- ✓ The definer and definiendum should not be equal in their ambiguity and clarity.
- ✓ The definer should not be more ambiguous than the definiendum.

3. The definer must not be the same in concept. There must be a difference between the definiendum and the definer, either in brevity and elaboration (as in 'الحد التام') or in concept; otherwise, the vicious circle (دور) would happen (the definiendum being known before getting known), and it entails that something depends on itself; which is impossible.

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