



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Lesson 40

Equational Syllogism

EQUATIONAL SYLLOGISM (AL-QIYĀS AL-MASĀWĀH) SECTION FORTY SEVEN

Equational syllogism's only aim is the explanation of the equivalence of two matters due to their being equivalent with a third, for example:

Zaid is equal to 'Amr in height (Premise)

Amr is equal to Bāqir in height (Premise)

Zaid is equal to Bāqir in height (The Conclusion)

The intent of this syllogism is the explanation of the equivalence of Zaid and Bāqir in height due to their equivalence in height with 'Amr. Sometimes, the explanation is in regards the matter of equivalence and, at times, it is regarding other than that, for example:

The body is a part of the animal (Premise)

The animal is part of the human (Premise)

Then, the animal is a part of the human (The Conclusion)



The correctness of the Equational Syllogism and the soundness of the conclusion from error depends upon the veracity of the externally omitted premise. In the first example, it is: *the equal of an equal is equal*. In the second example, it is: *part of a part is a part*. Both are truths. Therefore, the conclusions in the two syllogisms are sound.

Regarding when the external omitted premise is not true, then, the conclusion is not correct. For example:

Two is half of four (Premise)

And four is half of eight (Premise)

Then, two is half of eight (The Conclusion)

The external premise, half of a half is half, is false because half of the half is a quarter. Due to that, the Conclusion, then, that two is half of eight, is a mistake.

Zaid is an enemy of 'Amr (Premise)

Amr is an enemy of Ja'far (Premise)

There, Zaid is an enemy of Ja'far (The Conclusion)

The externally omitted premise is: *an enemy of an enemy is an enemy*, this is also false because the enemy of an enemy is sometimes a friend. Due to that, then, the result, which is: *Zaid is an enemy of Ja'far*, is a mistake.

Therefore, it is obligatory to investigate the external premise and the assurance of its truthfulness. When the external premise is true in the syllogism, the conclusion is true. When the external premise is false, the syllogism is corrupted and the conclusion is false.