



Al-Mantiq

Lesson 13

The Ignorance and its Divisions (2)

(الجهل وأقسامه)

Knowledge and ignorance are based on the presence or absence of a given faculty (ملكه و عدم ملكه). We would not call a rock “blind”. The contradictory relationship between “blindness” and “sight” is a kind of opposition of privation and possession.

Ignorance has two divisions, insofar as ignorance is always contrasted to knowledge. Sometimes, it is reciprocal to a conception and sometimes to an assent. It is correct to use the terms conception-ignorance and assent-ignorance.

- Simple Ignorance (الجهل البسيط): This is a situation where someone is ignorant about a thing, but he is aware of his ignorance and knows that he does not know.
- Compound Ignorance (الجهل المركب): Someone does not know something but he is unaware of his ignorance; like the one who trusts in false beliefs and thinks that he knows the reality but in fact, he does not.
- Some logicians believe that compound ignorance is a type of knowledge because the ignorant person has belief about something, even though it is against the reality.

Compound Ignorance is not a Type of Knowledge

In actuality, by compound knowledge, the presence of some *other* thing is in the mind, and therefore one does not have actual knowledge. Since knowledge and ignorance are opposites, ignorance cannot come under the categories of its opposite.