



Al-Mantiq

Lesson 23

The four modes of existence

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(مباحث الألفاظ)

Q: According to the definition of Logic, it immunizes the intellect from making mistake, so, why words or vocal expressions are discussed here?

Answer: Because words are the tool to convey the ideas and we generally discuss them in logic to be away from the wrong use of words.

There are four modes of existence. Two of them are actual and the other two are contractual.

1) External existence (الوجود الخارجي)

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All the things around us are included in external existence such as humans, animals etc.

2) Mental existence (الوجود الذهني)

Our knowledge about the things around us or the concepts in our mind have mental existence. Imprinting the image of the things in the mind is mental existence.

These first two modes are the actual modes because they exist in reality.

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3) Vocal existence (الوجود اللفظي)

The human being is a social being by nature; therefore, he needs a way of conveying his thoughts and making his thoughts understood to others. Allah has blessed the human being with the power of words and speech.