بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

Lesson 102
The Types of Definition
(اقسام التعريف)
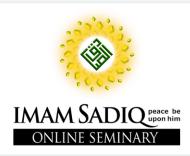
- 'التعريف اللفظى' (literal definition) is not a real definition, and therefore, it is not discussed in the science of Logic; rather, the known conception which clarifies the unknown conception and is an answer to 'ما الشارحة او الحقيقية' is the logician's subject of study.

- 'الحد التام' (complete definition) is to define by all the essentials of the definiendum, and that is by the proximate genus and species; e.g., answering ''ما الانسان؟'' by ''الحيوان الناطق'', because 'حيوان' contains 'الجسم النامى' , 'جوهر', and 'الحساس المتحرك بالارادة', all of which are essential to 'انسان'. It is to define by the proximate genus and the property(خاصة), which contains both the 'ذاتى' and 'عرضى' of the subject and, therefore, it is called 'تام' (complete) such as 'الحيوان' الضاحک' for 'انسان'.

- 'الحد الناقص' (incomplete definition) is to define by some of the essentials, i.e., the proximate 'فصل' alone or by that and the distant 'جنس' , such as 'الجسم' 'ناطق' alone for 'انسان'. It is to define by only the 'خاصة' or النامى الناطق' (property), such as 'ضاحک' alone for 'انسان', so it contains only the 'عرضى' and therefore, it is called 'ناقص'(incomplete).

  What is a human? ما الانسان
  1. The first answer to the question can be by the proximate genus and species, e.g., speaking animal 'الحيوان الناطق'.
  2. The second can be by ''جسم نام حساس متحرک بالارادة ناطق'' which is also a complete definition ''حد تام''and has more detail because there is the complete definition of animal حيوان.

3. The third answer can be by ‚‚جوهر قابل للابعاد الثلاثة نام حساس متحرک بالارادة، ناطق''. This definition includes the complete definition of the body ''جسم'' and is in more detail than the previous definition.