



## *Al-Mantiq*

### Lesson 3

#### Types of Knowledge (علم)

Allah the Exalted has created the human race, by its essential nature, to think, and has given the human being the capacity to obtain knowledge through the power of his intellect. In this way, the human being is distinguished from all (creatures). Sensual knowledge, is the first stage of knowledge, and the starting capital for all sciences possessed by the human race. All animals share this capacity. Imaginary knowledge [*ilm khayālī*], achieved by human beings through the faculty of *imagination*, is still common between them and animals. Then, the perceptions begin to widen, extending beyond sensory perceptions. He starts to grasp partial meanings that have no matter or measure such as love. We can term this knowledge as *estimative* knowledge [*ilm wahmī*]. After this, man uniquely surpasses the animals by means of the faculty of intellect [*aql*]. The knowledge, which is achieved by the human being via this faculty, is complete knowledge, and it is what makes a human being a human being. The knowledge of logic has been established in order to organize the functioning of this rational faculty, not to get influenced by the [lower] functions of imagination or estimation, deviating from its straight path.