



Al-Mantiq

Lesson 12

The Ignorance and its Divisions (1)

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(الجهل وأقسامه)

Knowledge and Ignorance (العلم و الجهل)

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.

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Conceptional & Assent Ignorance (الجهل التصوري و الجهل التصديقي)

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 conceptional-ignorance and assent-ignorance.

Simple & Compound Ignorance (الجهل البسيط و الجهل المركب)

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.

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Compound Ignorance (الجهل المركب): This is ignorance about a thing, but combined with ignorance about one’s ignorance. Such a person believes that he has knowledge where he does not.