



Al-Mantiq

Lesson 28

The Divisions of Signification

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The Divisions of Signification

The movement of the mind from one thing to the other only occurs through a cause. This cause is nothing other than the firm bond existing between the two things.

The relationship and concomitance in signification also have a cause, which is knowledge of the necessary relationship between these two things outside of the mind.

Based on the nature of the relationship and concomitance in signification, it's divided to:

- 1) Rational Signification** (الدلالة العقلية); e.g., the morning light in the sky is the effect of the sunrise.
- 2) Natural Signification** (الدلالة الطبيعية); e.g., "ouch" signifies pain.
- 3) Contractual Signification** (الدلالة الوضعية); e.g., road signs.

1) Rational Signification (الدلالة العقلية)

When there is the essential concomitant between the signifier (دال), and signified (مدلول), in their external existence; as when someone knows one of them, his mind moves to the other one, such as cause and effect.