

Chapter – 09

Knowledge of God

(علم الہی)

There are three forms of the Knowledge of God:

1. **Personal Knowledge** (علم ذاتی): The knowing of God about His Own self. In fact, it is the knowledge of everything. This is called the Knowledge of Persona, because He is the origin and the main source of all. So, God knows all about Himself and His knowledge. Quran Says:

أَلَا إِنَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ مُّحِيطٌ

{Unquestionably He encompasses everything (41:54)}

Not a single particle is out of His knowledge and His reach. All the things are the revelations of God in Persona.

At the level of ‘Complete Oneness’ (احدیت), the knowledge is Persona Specific. His Persona is entirely the Light and darkness is out of question for Him. His knowledge is Light. At this juncture, He is the Knowledgeable (عالم) and simultaneously He is the Known (معلوم). He is the Evidence (شاهد) and He is the Witnessed (مشهود). He is the Perceiver (واجد) and He is the Existential (موجود). At this stage, the name of Knowledge is ‘*the Light*’ and ‘*the Knowledge of Persona*’. Quran says:

اللَّهُ نُورُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ

{Allah is the Light of the heavens and the earth. (24:35)}

2. **Practical Awareness** (علم فعلى): Before any creation, the knowledge that God earlier had is ‘اعیان ثابتة’, and distinctly knowing to this previous knowledge is ‘Personal Knowledge’ (علم ذاتی). Simultaneously, no one should doubt that these two are eternal. Since God creates all the things knowing earlier, therefore the status of this Knowledge is higher than the Nature.

God knew all before creation is technically termed as 'اعيان ثابتة' (Unchangeable Designs). In fact, things occur when God orders for them. That is why this stage is known as Practical Awareness.

3. Knowing after Creation (علم انفعالي): When the old knowledge of God is related after Creation, it is called علم انفعالي, means knowing after creation. This type of knowledge has two sides. One side is God, and the other is God's Creations. As the Creations of God appear newly (حادث), therefore this new appearance gives some confusion that the Knowledge of God is also new. But, as mentioned above, God knew all before creation, therefore God creates exactly the same as it was known to him and that creation remains unchanged. God knows one thing and He created another thing, this is not possible. When God's knowledge (معلوم الهی) is ordered through كُن (Be--!) and the Glories (تجلیات) of Allah's Names effect on them then all things appear and come into existence. The knowledge at this stage is called علم انفعالي (Knowing after Creation).

Some people say that God describes the first two types of knowledge (means Personal Knowledge and Practical Awareness), with 'past' and the third one (means Knowing after Creation), with 'future'. For example, we say, "God has created this thing". In this, the creation relates on two sides. One relates to 'God' and the other to the 'created thing'. When the knowledge is related to God then the desire is old. And if it is related to 'the created thing' then it appears as new emergence (حادث). Few people consider that 'Knowledge' is old-in-old and new-in-new.

