

Chapter – 13

Material World

(عالم شهادت)

❖ **Introduction:**

It should be clear that anything before Allah's **كُن** ("Be") is not Creature. The knowledge of God which is technically termed in Sufism as "**اعيان ثابتة**" is not Creature. The names and the Attributes of God are also not Creatures. All these are eternal like the Persona of God as well. They do not have any other Persona.

After "Be" souls or spirits are created. Spirits are among new emergence. Since spirits are not time bound therefore they are treated as Straight Away Emergence (**حادث دهری**). Things which appear at once but with complete stature are all Straight Away Emergence. Hence, the whole Spiritual World is virtually Straight Away Emergence.

All the thoughts of Human Beings are called with multiple terminologies, like **خیال متصل** (Attached thought), **خیال مطلق** (Absolute thought), **مثال انسانی** (Human harmony), and **خیال انسانی** (Human thought). Whatsoever man writes, reads, speaks and executes, first it comes in his mind or thought, and then it appears in this world. Similarly, whatever is created and appears in this Material World that comes first in the Supernatural World, or unattached thoughts or restricted thoughts and then appears in this Material World. The Supernatural World is in between the Spiritual World and the Material world. This is virtually a Separate World (**عالم منفصل**) and restricted thought. But it has a relation with the human thought.

❖ **Material World:**

The phase of the Supernatural World is after the stage of the Spiritual World, and then the juncture of the Material World (**عالم شهادة**) comes. It is also called as **عالم ناسوت** (Human World), **عالم خلق** (Created World), **عالم اجسام** (World of Bodies).

Other than the superiorities of the Spiritual and Supernatural World, weight and volume is also included in this Material World, due to the bindings of time and space. Here, all the bodies achieve their final shape progressively. The process in which a thing gradually and slowly develops and come to the final stage is called **حادث زمانى** (Gradual Materialization). As such, this Universe, which is also known as Material World, Human World, Created World and World of Bodies, is Gradual Materialization.

Quran is full of descriptions of this Material World, the Charismas of Nature and the Glories of God's Lordships. For Example:

هُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مَا فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا ثُمَّ اسْتَوَىٰ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ فَسَوَّاهُنَّ سَبْعَ سَمَاوَاتٍ وَهُوَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ

{It is He Who created for you all that is in the earth; then He inclined towards the heaven, therefore fashioning it as proper seven heavens, and He knows everything. (02:29)}

يُولِجُ اللَّيْلَ فِي النَّهَارِ وَيُؤَلِّجُ النَّهَارَ فِي اللَّيْلِ وَسَخَّرَ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ كُلًّا يَجْرِي لِأَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى ذَلِكُمُ اللَّهُ رَبُّكُمْ لَهُ الْمُلْكُ

{He brings the night in a part of the day and He brings the day in a part of the night; and He has subjected to the sun and moon; each one runs to its fixed term; such is Allah, your Lord – only His is the kingship. (35:13)}

الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ الْأَرْضَ فِرَاشًا وَالسَّمَاءَ بِنَاءً وَأَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَخْرَجَ بِهِ مِنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ رِزْقًا لَّكُمْ

{The One Who has appointed the earth a base for you, and the sky a canopy – and caused water to pour down from the sky, thereby producing fruits as food for you. (02:22)}

إِنَّ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافِ اللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ وَالْمُلْكِ الَّتِي تَجْرِي فِي الْبَحْرِ بِمَا يَنْفَعُ النَّاسَ وَمَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مِنْ مَّاءٍ فَأَحْيَا بِهِ الْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا وَبَثَّ فِيهَا مِنْ كُلِّ دَابَّةٍ وَتَصْرِيفِ الرِّيَّاحِ وَالسَّحَابِ الْمُسَخَّرِ بَيْنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ لآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَعْقِلُونَ

{ Indeed in the creation of the heavens and the earth, and in the continuous alteration of night and day, and the ships which sail the seas carrying what is of use to men, and the water which Allah sends down from the sky thereby reviving the dead earth and dispersing all kinds of beats in it, and the movement of the winds, and the obedient clouds between heaven and earth – certainly in all these are signs for the intelligent. (02:164)}

برگ درختان سبز در نظر هوشیار

هر درختی دفریبت، معرفت کردگار (Sa'adi)

{ In the eyes of a well informed and wise man every branch of the green tree and its every leaf portray as bureau of the cognizance of God }

If we look towards the establishment of this world and the creation of all its creatures, and going through all these imageries a way leads to Realism, and one has to show his concurrence that there must be Real Persona who is the essential source of all these imageries, and He is Allah (SWT). It is the sole knowledge and power of the Lord through which all the worlds are visible, whether they are made up of materials or spirits. These perfect items are entirely created from the same source. Nevertheless, a metaphor is also produced at every point.

