Previous Lecture Summary

- Components of Greek Philosophy
- Components of Indian Philosophy.
- Components of Chines Philosophy.
- Today's Lecture:
- Components of Islamic Philosophy.

Islamic Philosophy

Definition OF Philosophy In Islam

It is " a metaphysical survey of the visible as well as the invisible worlds including the perspective of life as a whole".

Islamic philosophy encompasses important elements and principles, like Creator, Universe, Prophethood, society, man, and Hereafter, etc.

A well established framework derived from the Revelation and interpreted by Muslim scholars throughout Islamic history.

Provides correct and consistent answers to the ultimate questions pertinent to the issues of God, unseen, man, universe, and life. And guides man as a vicegerent of Allah to the correct belief system, *Shari'ah*, and ethical values.

Islamic philosophy consists of both in this world and here after which is ultimate and final significance.

What is Islamic Philosophy?

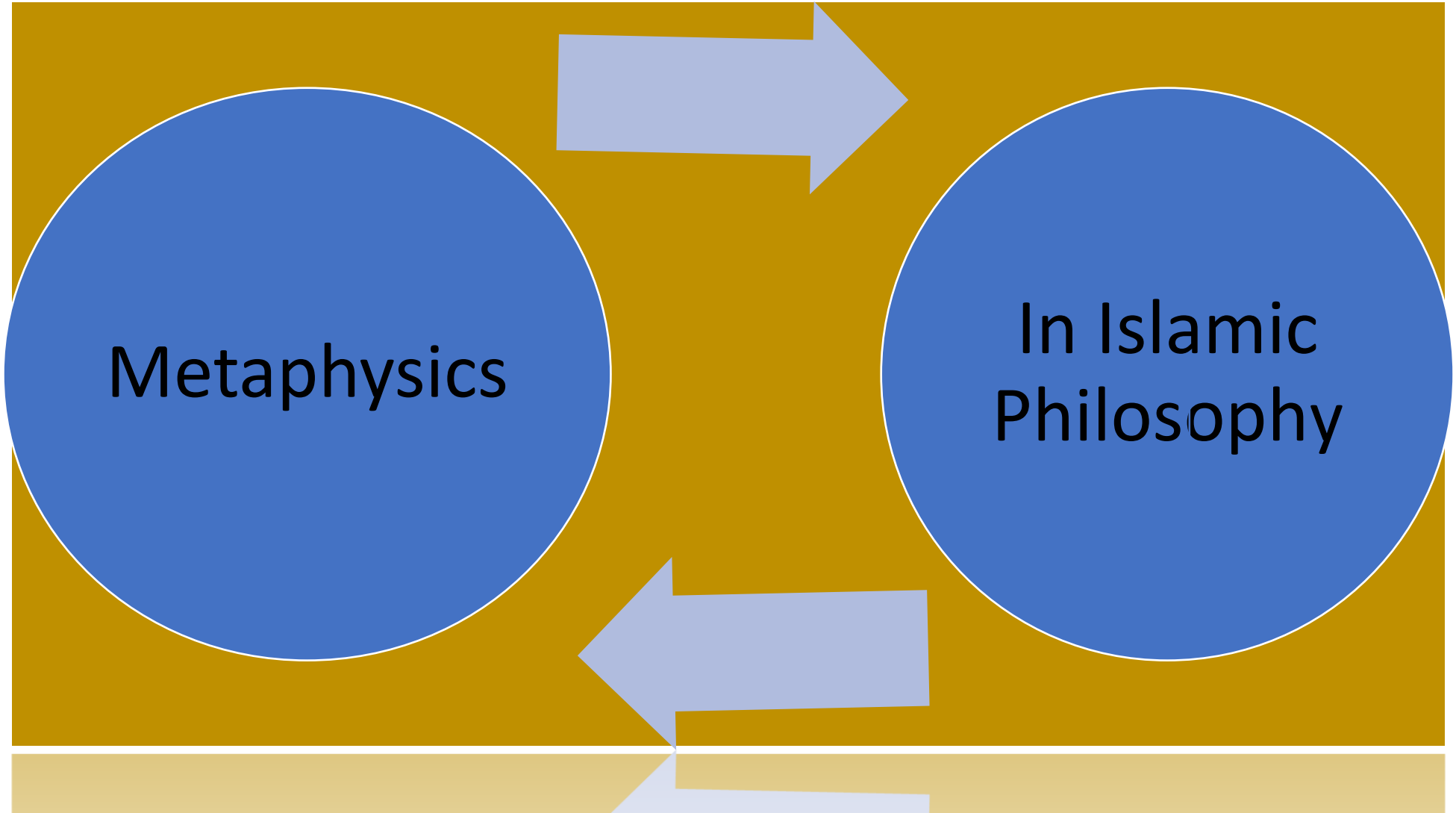
- Islamic philosophy is based on pure reason. And it is mentioned that the purpose of philosophy is to know the real world as much as human abilities. According to religious traditions and the history of religions, man has never lived without a prophet and, at all the times, religions or cultures left by prophets have provided a model or a program for people's lives.
- Message of all prophets was based on “thinking”: thinking about the world, and the relation between man and the world and its wonderful phenomena

Components of Islamic Philosophy

- Islam is a coherent religion; containing beliefs, moralities, rights, and jurisprudence.
- The source of existence for Islam as a religion is the eternal divine will and knowledge. Intellect and traditions are the epistemological sources of Islam. There are rational and traditional arguments for knowing what is the will of God. So, intellect and tradition are two sources of knowing and understanding in Islam.
- Faith and Deeds are core principles in Islamic Philosophy in all three domains of Metaphysics, Epistemology and Axiology.

Religion and Philosophy is Same.

- Islamic philosophy and Islam do overlap in their purpose. In addition, Islam has a lot of emphasis on understanding, reasoning, and knowledge. If the principles of Islam are not understood and proven by reason, they are not considered valid. There is a principle in Islam that says, whatever is judged by intellect, Islam accepts it and judges according to it. As such, there is no conflict between Islam as religion and Islamic philosophy. In other words, revelation and knowledge, intellect and faith do not contradict one another.

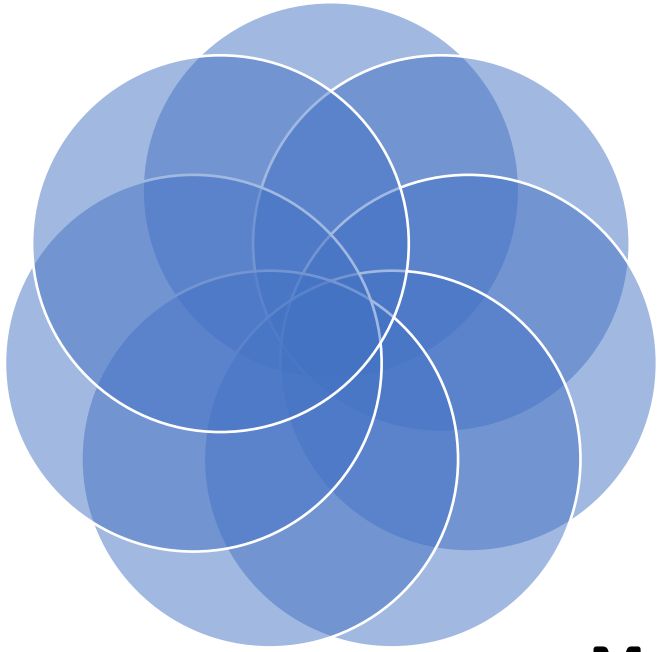

Metaphysics
In Islamic Philosophy

Elements of Islamic Philosophy

God;

Freedom;

Revelation (the Holy Qur'an);



Religion;

God's Creation;

Knowledge;

Man and the psychology of human soul;

Domains of Islamic Philosophy

- **<u>Metaphysics:</u>**
- What is real? Life and Death
- What is being? Creator and Creation
- Is there a purpose to our being? Yes
- What is the self? Taqwa and Consciousness
- Is there a God? Yes One
- Do human beings possess free will? Yes

God as First Cause

According to Aristotle, God must be the first cause or the first principle of all the substances. Aristotle agrees that theology is an integral part of metaphysics since God is the principle of being. In his epistle, On the Aims of Aristotle's Metaphysics, Farabi explains metaphysics as a universal science comprising general concepts as being, unity, species, accidents etc.

The proof of God can be found by modes of existence and through the argument that contingent existence requires an existence which is necessary. The infinite ladder of the principle of principles by insisting that the whole of being has no principle, and the principle is the principle of the caused being only.

And He is God in the heavens and the earth. He knows our secrets, and what you publish. (6:3)

He is the First and the Last, the Outward and the Inward. He has knowledge of everything. (57:3)

Allah is One and Absolute. (112:1-2).

And His is the loftiest likeness in the heavens and the earth. (30:27)

God in Islamic Philosophy

- The version of the argument from design is best known in contemporary philosophy while walking in a deserted remote location one comes across a watch. Upon examining this device one may ask themselves how did this object come into existence. Surely it could not be by pure chance, it is composed of intricate and complex internal design. Therefore this world must have an **intelligent creator.**
- **This idea of intelligent creator called in Islam as Allah.**

Reflective and Non-reflective Beliefs

Cognitive scientist Justin Barrett, for example, demonstrates that belief in God—and beliefs more generally—are formed and attained in two ways:

- 1) Non-reflective, intuitive beliefs that result from experience.
- 2) Reflective, conscious beliefs that result from thought.

The human being naturally forms beliefs from these two sources. Similarly, the case for God's existence in Islamic Philosophy involves both sources of beliefs: heart-based appeals based on intuition and mind-based appeals based on rational reflection.

Natural Instinct – *Fiṭrat Allāh*

Human beings sense the existence of God—or what they perceive as a higher power—by pure instinct, with or without a prophetic revelation to guide them. Expressions of this *sense's divinities* have appeared in cultures and religions all over the world, despite them being widely separated by time, geography, and language. In Islamic spiritual terms, this is because God took a primordial covenant with every person before the world was created that they would recognize their Creator.

Natural Instinct – *Fiṭrat Allāh-Origin of Man*

"And ⌜remember⌝ when your Lord brought forth from the loins of the children of Adam their descendants and had them testify regarding themselves. ⌜Allah asked,⌝ "Am I not your Lord?" They replied, "Yes, You are! We testify." ⌜He cautioned,⌝ "Now you have no right to say on Judgment Day, 'We were not aware of this."

(Al-Quran,7:172).

Word Allah as Creator

- The very word Allah consists of the prefix “AL," which is the definite article in Arabic, attached to the word “LAH," meaning "the worship able one.“
- Allah as "the worship able and the transcendental nature of Allah is best evident if taken as the One who is One and worthy to be worshiped.

  He is "beyond all that they describe [of Him]" (06: 100).
- Since all humans can sense a higher power, they will instinctively turn to God in times of danger. Every person, at some point in his or her life, will have an intense experience that causes a natural reaction to turn to prayer. There are many cases of people who experience a sudden brush with death that causes them to become more faithful to their religious tradition.
- (***«Or were they created without there being anything, or are they the creators? » (52:35)***

God as Unmoved Mover and First Cause

«You see no incongruity in the creation of the Beneficent God: Then look again, can you see any disorder? » (67:3)

«He it is Who made the earth smooth for you, therefore go about in the spacious sides thereof and eat of His sustenance, and to Him is the return after death. » (67:15)

«My Lord is He who gives life and causes to die». (2:258)

«... When Ibrahim said: My Lord is He who gives life and causes to die. » (2:258)

«There is no god but He; He gives life and causes death, your Lord and the Lord of your fathers. » (44:8)

Theory of Time and Space with God in Islamic Philosophy

"God is not inside things in the sense of physical penetration and is not outside them in the sense of physical exclusion. Times do not keep company with Him, and implements do not help Him. His Being precedes times. His Existence precedes non-existence and His eternity precedes beginning. By His creating the senses it is known that He has no senses. By the contraries in various matters it is known that He has no contrary, and by the similarity between things it is known that there is nothing similar to Him.

God exists before time, by saying that His being precedes time itself. He transcends all time, number, limit and all kinds of quiddities.