

Points of today's Lecture

- Components of Islamic Philosophy: Metaphysics, Epistemology and Axialogy.
- Today's Lecture:
 1. Epistemology: Concept and Purpose.
 2. Wisdom in Islamic Philosophy.
 3. Wisdom of Man and limitation of Knowledge.
 4. Domain of “ILM” and “Yakeen” in Islamic Philosophy.

The diagram features a mustard yellow background with a horizontal gradient bar at the bottom. Two large blue circles are positioned side-by-side. The left circle is labeled 'Epistemology' and the right circle is labeled 'In Islamic Philosophy'. A light blue arrow points from the left circle to the right circle. Below the right circle, a light blue arrow points left towards the left circle. At the bottom, a light blue arrow points left, positioned between two light blue semi-circles. A small blue L-shaped line is located at the bottom right of the right circle.

Epistemology

In Islamic
Philosophy

What is Islamic Philosophy?

- The purpose of philosophy is to know the real world as much as human abilities. Revealed Knowledge is based on revelation and message of the Prophets. 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. Islamic Philosophy is based on reason with the aptitude of submission.

Purpose of Knowledge in Islamic Philosophy

- Purpose of Islamic philosophy is to know the real world, including God, nature, man and their relationship, knowing through reason, argument, and understanding. Islam also traces this purpose, because Islam has sought to know the truth and the real world, to know the existence of God and Man duties to God as creator.
- Islamic philosophy 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.

Wisdom Or Knowledge in Islamic Philosophy

- The Divine message of revelation and prophets formed human thought and also taught the lessons of ethics and law in social relationships.
- Sophia or Wisdom was the result of the prophets' teachings. So, Islamic Philosophy is a divine Philosophy because it is production of pure and practical reason the divine given and trust.
- The core of Islamic philosophy is the love of wisdom and a quest for ultimate truth through Islamic religion. In other words, Islamic philosophy aims at a comprehensive understanding of being, knowledge, and values, and no such understanding can be complete if we ignore Islam

Knowledge of Man in Islamic Epistemology

- Since man is the vicegerent of God in this world. And in order to enable him to fulfill his responsibilities (of his vicegerency), God has endowed man with the potentials of creative & conceptual knowledge. It becomes incumbent upon him to mold knowledge in the framework provided by Islam. Thus all types of knowledge whether it is Natural Science, Social Science or even Pure Science, should be understood with the aim to establish an Islamic System.

Purpose of Man's Knowledge

- “Islam's view of man. Allah (SWT) has appointed him to achieve two objectives. First, humans should transform creation into Divine patterns, i.e., to rearrange its materials so as to make them fully and beneficially serve human needs, which are materials(food, shelter, comfort, procreation) as well as moral intellectual, and esthetic. Second, in the very act of transforming creation, humans need to give substance to ethical values by choosing to enter into those acts of transformation in an ethical way, i.e., in a way that fulfills the requirements of devotion to Allah (SWT) and justice to mankind.

LIMITATIONS OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE

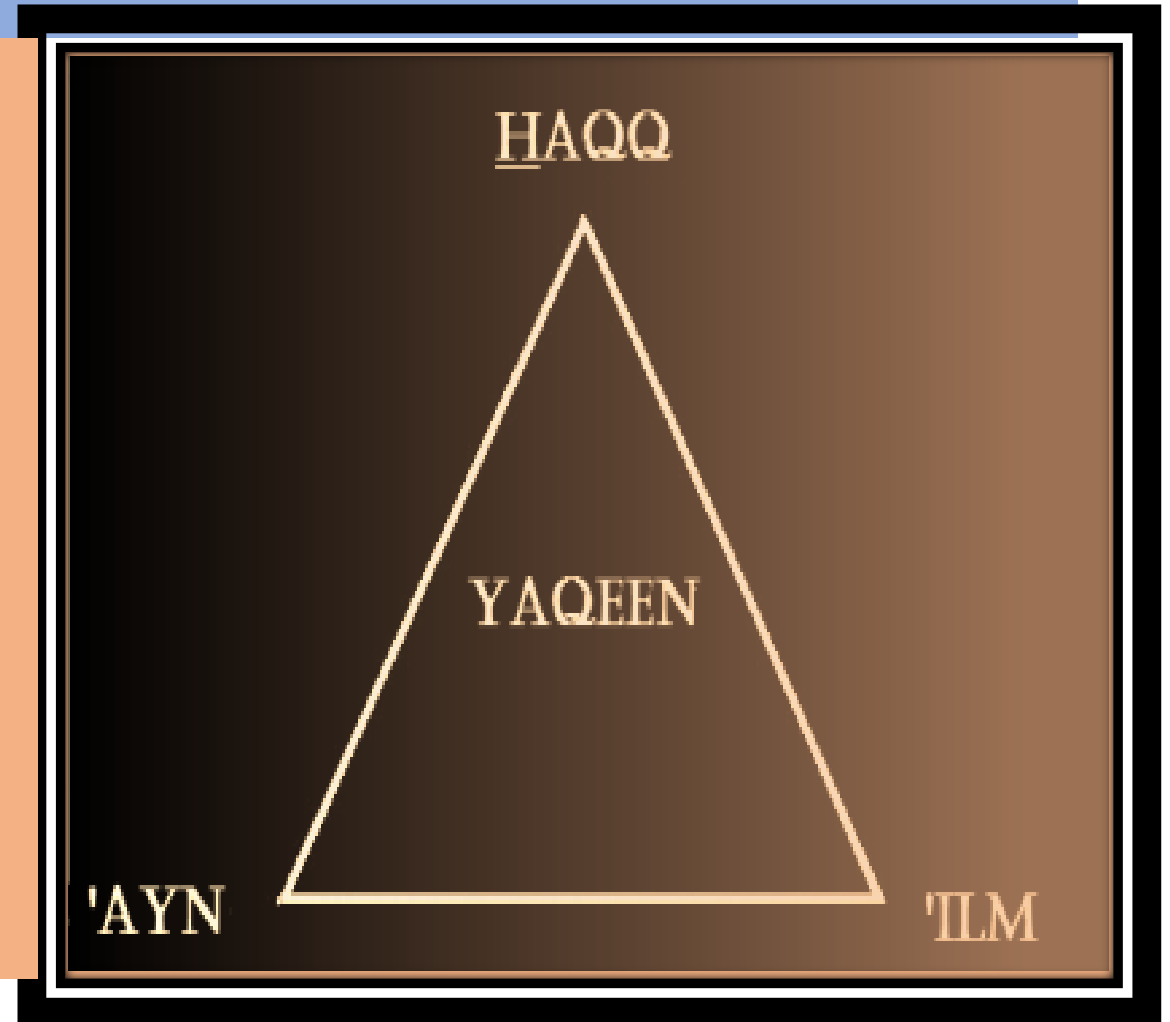
- Even though seeking knowledge is considered one of the basic steps towards understanding Allah, humans are incapable of perceiving some knowledge which is unseen or cannot be perceived with our limited senses. As Allah states in the Qur'an:
- “I swear by what you see and what you do not see...”(Q:69:38-39)
- “Glory be to Him Who created pairs of all things, of what the earth grows, and of their kind and of what they do not know...”(Q:36:36)
- The faith in the limitation of human knowledge and the unseen is an incentive for us not to stop our mind at the sensory stage and never think that we have discovered everything. The quest of knowledge is endless for a Muslim, and he must be sincere. He must just not fall out of the unique methodology of acquiring knowledge or understanding the divine scriptures; the Holy Qur'an.

Difference between علم ILM and Knowledge

- 'Knowledge' falls short of expressing all the aspects of 'ilm. Knowledge means information about something, divine or corporeal, while 'ilm is an all-embracing term covering theory, action and education.
- All wisdom is knowledge but all knowledge is not wisdom.” Sometimes what we assume knowledge to be, is in real only the contemplation of man. The more this contemplation becomes consolidated with facts, the more it comes near to Truth, Wisdom. Therefore Wisdom can be considered the final stage of man’s contemplation, which could be according to Qur’an, either, ‘ilm al – yaqin’ (Q:102:5), ‘ain al yaqin’(Q:102:7), or ‘haqqul yaqin’ (Q:56:95). Hence the difference between Wisdom and Knowledge could be considered as the progress of human thought’.

The Three Degrees of Yaqeen (Certainty)

1. 'Ilm ul Yaqeen –
" Knowledge of Certainty "
(102:5)
2. 'Ayn ul Yaqeen –
" Eye of Certainty " (102:7)
3. Haqq ul Yaqeen –
" Truth / Reality of Certainty"
(56:95)



Knowledge Premises and Argumentation

- Islamic Philosophy does not use revealed truths as premises in argumentation, but as appeal to pure reason. So Islamic philosophy insists on theoretical and practical aspects.
- God in Islamic Philosophy has two kinds of attributes, theoretical as knowing, practical as justice. Thus, the divine philosopher has rightness and trueness in thoughts as well as in practice and motivation.
- Muslim Philosophers formulated a series of philosophical issues, developed some philosophical schools under the title of theology, and began to discuss many of complex philosophical issues of being, truth and Society.