

## NATURAL AVENUES OF GOD REALIZATION

### LECTURE TWO

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#### RECOGNITION BEYOND SENSATION

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In the course of discussing the importance and benefit of human awareness and knowledge in the previous lecture, we concluded that the primary and supreme "Maarifa" - awareness is that of Allah - the Glorious.

Let us now explore the natural avenues of God-realization. One common avenue of recognizing the existence of a thing is by sensing through our body organs. Can Allah be realized through any of our organs? If not, are we to deny His existence?

#### 1. HUMAN SENSE ORGANS

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Man by nature recognizes the existence of things through one of his five senses. By seeing with his eyes, or by hearing with his ears or by tasting with his tongue, or by smelling through his nose or by touching with his fingure.

These five senses are limited in their reach of comprehension. They can only sense and feel certain things. For example, eyes cannot recognize the taste of a thing. Man's hand cannot hear a sound.

Allah Himself is the Creator of human body organs. He is to be appreciated by all of them and not sensed. Anything humanly sensed is in need of a Creator. It is said that inability to find a thing does not justify denial of its existence. It is possible that something we are unable to see yet it exists.

#### 2. A LOGIC DISCUSSION

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It is related that a non-believing the subject of how an existence is recognized. He paused before them the following questions:

Teacher            Students! Can you see me?

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Student            Yes Sir.

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Teacher            Do yor see this table?

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Students            Yes Sir.

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Teacher            Do you see this picture?

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Students        Yes Sir.  
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Teacher         Can you see God?  
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Students        No no.  
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On hearing this, the non-believing teacher took an opportunity to tell his students that it appeared there was no God. If He were existing, we would have been able to see like we see the table and picture. The students were taken aback not knowing what to say. One of them stood up and said: Teacher! Would you allow me to say something? Certainly yes, replied the teacher. On securing the permission, the student paused the following questions:

My fellow students!        Are you able to see the head of the  
-----                                teacher?

"Yes" came the reply from the students.  
"Do you see the teacher himself"? Another question.  
"Yes" replied the fellow-students.  
"Do you see the teacher's eyes another question.  
"Yes" came the reply.  
"Do you see the "Akl" i.e. the mind of the teacher?  
"No No" replied the fellow students.

To this reply, that student reacted by pausing the last question.  
"According to the teacher's own argument that what cannot be seen does not exist, does this mean that the teacher has no "akl" no mind and intellect, because it cannot be seen? Just because we do not see his (teacher's) mind, so he does not have it, is it not so?  
On hearing this, obviously the teacher must have become so abashed and embarrassed with nothing further to say on the subject.

### 3. WHY GOD CANNOT BE SEEN? -----

In a discussion with a non-believer of God, the eight Imam Ali bin Musa Al-Ridha (A.S.) explained.

"It is because of the difference between Him (Allah the Creator) and the things created by Him, which (whose existence) is determined by (human) eyesight."

In other words, if Allah were to be recognized by seeing with human eyesight or other body organs, what difference would there be between the Creator and the created beings.

4. OUR LORD CANNOT BE LIKE ANYTHING  
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In another discussion with a non-believer who claimed that God did not exist because He cannot be recognized through man's five senses, the eighth Imam argued:  
"Woe be upon you. You deny His Lordship because you are unable to recognize through your senses, whereas with us when we find that our senses are unable to find Him, we feel certain that He is our Lord, and that He is not like all the other things."

(Biharul Anwar)  
3/37

5. There are number of things in our life, the existence of which we believe without seeing. Take example of the sun which shines for 24 hours everyday. How come we dont see it at night? Does it mean it does not exist?

SUMMARY  
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1. Man's five senses are limited in ability and incaple to determine God's existence.
2. Realization of God's existence is beyond human sensing powers.
3. If God were to be sensed by human senses, there would be no difference between Creator and created beings.
4. God's existence is to be determined through logic and reason.