



How Do We Know What We Know? Part II

EMPIRICAL:

‘The affirmation of a relationship between two things, in terms of existence or non-existence, by the medium of repetition and the possibility of delay, as well as their being absolutely no effect from one to the other.’

A judgement based on ‘the norm.’ We can call it:

- *Scientific judgement*
- *Empirical judgement*
- *Observable judgement*



THE RATIONAL JUDGMENT

The rational judgement is affirming or negating X from Y, but does not rely on the Shariah or empirical observation.

THREE TYPES OF RATIONAL JUDGEMENTS

NECESSARY: Non-existence cannot be envisioned as existing)

This is a double negative. It must be. 'Cannot NOT be.'

IMPOSSIBLE: The opposite of necessary. You cannot envisage.

All intellects come to the same conclusion.

POSSIBLE: It might be or might not be.

All bachelors are unmarried

A square has four equal sides

$1+1=2$

A circle is a curved shape with the same distance all around from the center

Bright darkness

Father and son at the same time

What has no beginning having a beginning

It takes an infinite number of miles to reach NYC

Something is moving and still at the same time from the same vantage point

FIRST PRINCIPLES

The Law of Non-Contradiction

2] The Law of Identity

3] The Law of the Excluded Middle

NON-CONTRADICTION

Something cannot be both true and not true at the same time when dealing with the same context.

“I am in the room and outside of the room at the same time and from the same reference point.”

“I [a human being] am neither alive nor dead.”

“I am a bachelor and married at the same time.”

LAW OF IDENTITY

“Whatever is, is.”

The concept of identity states simply that a thing is what it is.

“This is a book.”

“This is a cat.”



LAW OF THE EXCLUDED MIDDLE

For any judgement, there is no middle ground. It must either be true or false.

‘**Zayd [is] human.**’ If this is true, its opposite cannot also be true. If Zayd is a human, he is **not** something else.