

The Mulla Sadar's principles in proving the existence of different stages in gaining the knowledge of GOD

Ruholla Zeynali^{1}, Alireza Najafzadeh²*

1. Ph.D Researcher, Islamic Research Foundation, Astane Qodse Razavi, Iran

2. Assistant Professor, Ferdowsi University Of Mashhah, Iran

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Abstract

One of the issues raised in discussing the knowledge of God, is the existence of different stages in this regard. Despite the unity and simplicity of God and apparent similarities among the knowers in existence, the question remains as why this plurality exists? According to his philosophical principles, like copulative existence of the caused (in regard to the cause), the ontological approach to knowledge, and the intensifying movement of the soul, Mulla Sadra believes that all creatures, including the soul, in all their stages have a kind of knowledge of God. He concludes that according to these principles, all humans have an understanding of God in their respective levels. This understanding involves a wide range of knowledge, including acquired and intuitive ones. This idea encountered some problems that will be investigated in this article.

Keywords: acquaintance and intuitive knowledge, copulative exists, intensified movement of soul, ontological approach to knowledge, understanding of GOD.

*.Corresponding Author: Ruholla12@gmail.com