

# 'Aql \ Reason in Islamic Experience

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## SPECTRUM OF RATIONALITY

*Ḥashwiyah* / « ... Faith-in-Reason ... » \ Pure *Falāsifah*

(avoid reason)

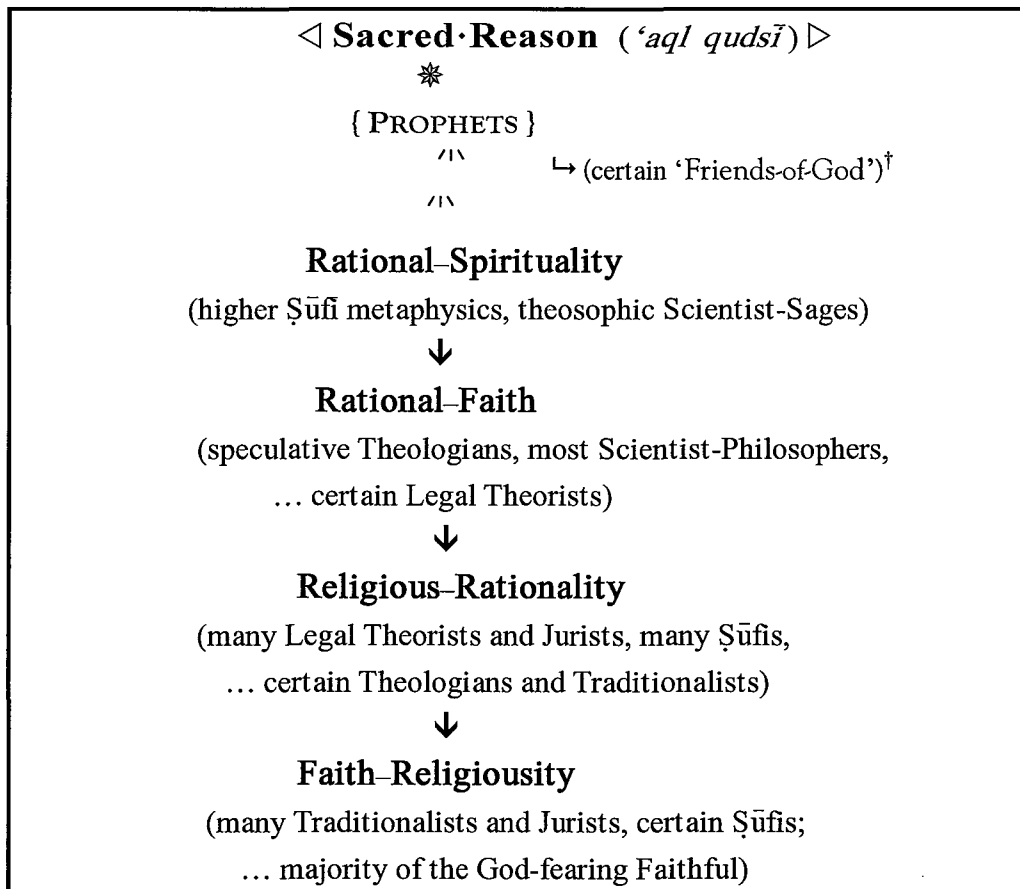
(limit reason)

(elevate reason)

→ « Traditionalists...Jurists...Legal Theorists...Ash'arī Theologians...Mu'tazilah...Philosophers »

→ [display increasing dependence on and utilization of rational methods & techniques] →

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## SCALE OF FAITH-RATIONALITY IN ISLAM

<sup>†</sup>In spiritual teachings, this ultimate degree is partially accessible in the sanctified consciousness of Friends-of-God/*Awliyā'* constituting an inner core of humanity, and signifying the highest possibility of human cognitive-spiritual attainment below the degree of Messenger-Prophets. Since the beings of the great Envoys originate from a single reality (*al-Nūr al-Muḥammadī* / 'Muhammadan Light') the Friends-of-God mirror this Light within their own innermost consciousness. Consult *Fuṣūṣ al-Ḥikam / Bezels of Wisdom* by Ibn al-'Arabī.

Abū l-Ḥasan al-‘ĀMIRĪ (d.381 H / 992 CE): *al-I‘lām bi-Manāqib al-Islām*

[ed. Aḥmad ‘Abd al-Ḥamīd Ghurāb (Cairo 1967; rpr. Tehran University Press, 1367 *shamsī*) ]

Developed AL-KINDĪ’s insight on complementarity of Revelation & Reason, Religion & Philosophy:

*al-dīn al-ṣaḥīḥ wa l-‘aql al-ṣarīḥ* : *Waḥyi* / ‘*Aql*, *millī* / *ḥikmī*, *shar‘ī* / *falsafī*  
Authentic Religion and Clear Reason : revelation / reason, faith / wisdom, religious-law / philosophy

Practical Philosophy  
Ethics / *maḥāsīn al-a‘māl*



al-Millī Religious  
(source: revelation / *Anbiyā’*)



al-Ḥikmī Philosophic  
(source: reason/ *Ḥukamā’*)

“*wa kullu nabīyyin ḥakīm wa laysa kullu ḥakīmīn nabīyyan* / every prophet is a philosopher, but not every philosopher is a prophet.”

1. ‘*ilm al-akhlāq* / *al-nafsāniyyah*  
= *tadbīr al-rajul nafsu*

1. *ḥissiyyah* : – *ṣinā‘at al-muḥaddithīn*.  
sensory

– *ṣinā‘at al-ṭabī‘iyyīn*.

2. ‘*ilm tadbīr al-manzil* / *al-kadhkhudā’iyyah*  
= *tadbīr al-khāṣṣah*

2. sensory + intellectual: *al-fuqahā’*.

– *al-riyāḍiyyīn*.

3. ‘*ilm al-siyāsah* / *al-riyāsiyyah*  
= *tadbīr al-‘āmmah*  
(or *siyāsah al-madinayyah*)

3. ‘*aqliyyah* : – *ṣinā‘at al-mutakallimīn*.  
rational

– *ṣinā‘at al-ilāhiyyīn*.  
(Kindī: ‘*ilm al-rubūbiyyah*)

- (4) the ‘instrument’ / *al-ālāh* designated for each of three, its utility not intrinsic to itself, but serves as a **tool** to attain the other knowledges :  
- *ṣinā‘at al-Lughah* (*adab*) / linguistics. - *ṣinā‘at al-Mantiq* / logic.