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nafas al-Rahmān, nafas Rahmāni

'breath of the Merciful' (= Bestower of Being). As words and letters are united in breathing, so the universe is created by God's exhaling the essences and forms of things. Hence it may also indicate a universe which is not yet given definite form: it is only being capable, and being ready to appear in any determined form whatever

nafs (shahwiyya)

the concupiscent soul which has its residence under the umbilicus

nafs kulliyā

'Universal Soul'. It is the intermediate level through which the universe passes. Necessitated by God, it is first at the level of the transcendental determination. Next, it enters the level, called *al-nafs al-kulliyā*, i.e. the stage of being (*wujūd*) that is spreading over the structural forms of the cosmos. After that, the universe descends into the realm of matter (*nāsūt*). It represents also the *rūh* (vital principle) of the cosmos. Finally, it is the point of departure and return for all individual human souls.

nafs nāṭiqā, pl. nufūs nāṭiqā

rational soul. It is the connecting link between the *ʿay thābita* (archetypal individuality), which is a purely sacred entity, and the *nasama* (lower soul) which belongs to the objects of this tainted world. It represents the kernel of a person's personality, orders men's lives, and is able to have revelations of angels and visions of the *ḥazīra al-quds*

nasama

fine pneuma. It stands for the physiological and psychic dispositions of man and universe, conveying potencies of perception, nourishment and growth

nashʿa

evolutionary stage; level of existence

nāsikh wa mansūkh

abrogating and abrogated verses of the Qur'ān

naskh

abrogation of divine laws; repeal of former heavenly decrees substantiated into a Qur'ānic verse by a newly revealed message

nāsūt

see *'ālam al-nāsūt*

nāṭiq

enunciator prophet bringing a revealed message. The first six ones were Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Mohammed. Each of them was followed by a silent one (*ṣāmit*) who, being his *waṣī* (trustee), was charged with conveying an esoteric interpretation of the message of the previous *nāṭiq*

nisba

a disposition in the rational soul which grants likeness to the angels, on account of which information is received from the *jabarūt*, spiritual atmosphere that presupposes affiliation and connectedness with God

nūr al-quds

sacred light: name of a concealed *latīfa* which is able to become acquainted with the disputes of the *mala a'lā* and the decisions descending from them