This paper argues that Ḥanafi uṣūlis of the latter phases of the postclassical period understood uṣūl to be universal propositions that were underdetermined with respect to their evidentiary bases. Though the purpose of such propositions was to confer actionable certainty to particular legal effects, the later tradition imagined the charge of uṣūl on a meta-theoretic level, i.e., to determine how such propositions could themselves be suitably grounded. In casting the discourse within the framework of naturalized technical methods and distinctions from the fields of logic and philosophy, the tradition generally granted the relational and systemic validity of any given proposition in terms of the grounding it received from another underdetermined proposition. Uṣūl, therefore, are best imagined as systemically valid, but individually underdetermined. In such cases, the application of the attribute of relational validity to them or to the effects for which they are serviceable is more apt.

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