

**Anthropology and Its Influence on the Desired Political  
System in the Thought of Sheikh Mohammad Taqi Mesbah  
Yazdi**

**Ali Baqeri Dawlat-Abadi ;Nasibe Nuri**

**Translated by :Mohammad Tormos**

The interest in anthropology and its role in the formation of the political opinions of intellectuals and philosophers in the modern day forms an important part of the studies on political thought. One of the most prominent religious intellectuals whose political opinions have exerted an influence in the Iranian political sphere is Ayatollah Mohammad Taqi Mesbah Yazdi. The main question which this study aims to answer is the following: What is the influence of Sheikh Yazdi's anthropology on the desired political system in his view? According to the hypothesis presented in this essay, Sheikh Yazdi embarked on presenting a humanistic, religious and philosophical knowledge within the framework of Islamic philosophy, particularly Transcendent Philosophy. After this, and in accordance with his view on man and the intellect, this essay analyzes the necessity of revelation and prophecy, and through that, the connection between religion and politics. To study this hypothesis, this essay employs Hans-Georg Gadamer's methodology of philosophical hermeneutics, i.e. paying attention to the role of prior knowledge and assumptions in understanding the text. The conclusion of this essay suggests that, according to Sheikh Yazdi, man's incapacity to ensure his happiness has opened the path for the *wala'i* government.

**Keywords:** Anthropology, Political Views, Mesbah Yazdi, Hermeneutics.

## Comparative Study between the Perspectives of Ayatollah Mohammad Taqi Mesbah Yazdi and Abraham Maslow

Ismail Najati, Ali Mesbah

We may trace two main approaches in anthropology: “philosophical anthropology” and “empirical anthropology”. This essay compares the opinions of two modern scholars of anthropology who represent these approaches on human subjectivities, and reviews the effects of the similarities and differences in their principles on humanities. This essay takes into consideration among Muslim philosophers the opinions of Sheikh Mohammad Taqi Mesbah Yazdi which rely on Islamic sources and the Transcendent Theosophy, and among humanistic psychologists the opinions of Abraham Harold Maslow which rely on romantic philosophy, existential philosophy, and an empirical outlook. This essay concludes the presence of limited obvious similarities and many fundamental differences between these two thinkers concerning these main subject matters. These differences lead to a disparity at the level of describing humanistic phenomena and explaining the connections between them, in specifying subject matters and topics for research, in choosing the tool and sources of knowledge, in making judgements, in specifying behavioral standards for the sake of rectification, and in demarcating policies and recommendations concerning human behaviors and issues.

Keywords: Ayatollah Mesbah, Abraham Maslow, Psychology, Philosophical Psychology, Humanities, Anthropology, Fitra, Natural Sciences.

3- It provides an ethical and educational benefit which is a result of the reflection of this profound doctrine on one's relationship with God, leading the individual to realize that there is no source of influence in the universe other than God. Therefore, a person asks for his needs from God alone and feels tranquility and serenity in being close to Him.

Keywords: Unity in Action, Matter between Two Matters, Existential Connection, Imami Shiism, *Mu'tazila*, *Asha'ira*.

### **Subjectivities of Man and their Role in Humanities: A**

## Belief in the Unity of Actions in the Perspective of Sheikh Yazdi: A Study of the Concept and Effects

Ghassan Al-As'ad

This essay deals with the unity of God's actions which is considered one of the most important doctrinal topics as it is connected to the main principle in Islam: monotheism. An in depth study of unity in actions in particular acquires great significance due to the effects which arise from understanding this level of monotheism. Sheikh Mohammad Taqi Mesbah Yazdi has tackled this subject matter in a profound and unique way.

This essay presents the meaning and concept of "unity in actions" which signifies the belief that there is no entity which exerts an influence or acts independently of God. Even though voluntary human actions are attributed to their performers, this attribution does not imply an independency because man is connected in all his being to God. This level of monotheism has several products which may be summarized as follows:

- 1- It provides a response against the specious argument "God of the gaps" since a faulty opinion regarding God's actions leads to the belief that God is responsible only for creation and that the universe no longer needs God's intervention after being brought into being, an allegation refuted by the concept of "unity in actions".
- 2- It provides an understanding of the phrase "a matter between two matters" in the Twelver Imami Shiite doctrine on the voluntary actions of man, as it becomes possible to attribute actions to man and to God at the same time in a parallel manner while maintaining that the independent creator is only God.

# Regenerative Elements in Ayatollah Mohammad Taqi Mesbah Yazdi's Reading of Islamic Philosophy Philosophy of Ethics as an Example

Lezzeik Kamal

This essay presents the viewpoint of Sheikh Mesbah Yazdi on the philosophy of ethics in a modern regenerative framework and in comparison with non-religious viewpoints. It proposes the Islamic theory as a civilizational substitute which saves humanity from nihilism and meaninglessness by awakening the roots of the *fitra* in mankind, based on man's possession of free choice and responsibility and the positive educational effects which spring therefrom, and planting the seeds of hope in exhausted souls by establishing a spiritual existential equation where the basis of man's responsibility for his actions is his willpower and freewill. Sheikh Yazdi also proposes the concept of the "*fitri* (innate) consciousness", an inherent tendency which drives an individual toward perfection and is possessed by all humans.

This essay presents Sheikh Yazdi's refusal of the claim of a merely physical nature to man. The natural and compulsory law is not fit to pass an ethical judgment on voluntary actions. The ethical phenomenon is a human phenomenon which is linked to man through his intellect and freewill and not due to biological transformations. Furthermore, Sheikh Yazdi refutes hedonism, maintaining the principle of happiness or *fala* mentioned in the Quran (The word "pleasure" is used to refer to temporary states while happiness is used to refer to eternal pleasure).

Keywords: Philosophy of Ethics, Responsibility, Freewill, Human Action, Human Perfection, Willpower, Conscience, Obligation, *Fitra*, Benefit.

who acquires divine ethics, and who represents the Names and Attributes of God in his inner and outer being, and at the individual and social level.

Keywords: Islamic Ethics, Ethics, Anthropology, Ethical Issue, Reality of the Ethical Issue.

**A New Methodology in Islamic Ethics:  
The Principles and Fundamental Grounds of the  
Ethical Perspective of Mohammad Taqi Mesbah Yazdi**

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ملف العدد

Nasser Fadi

fact, the two main spheres for building any ethical perspective are discovering the origin of man and specifying his final destination. These two spheres are main points of departure for constructing any realistic Islamic ethical perspective which is compatible with Islamic tenets and rulings in their various legislative dimensions and is suited to the capabilities, inclinations, and strengths of man. For this reason, it is necessary when striving to rectify actions and their effects on our destinies to take into consideration all the existential aspects of man.

When we consider the successive philosophical-ethical schools throughout human history, we may clearly notice that the crisis these schools faced at the methodological level has always arisen from an ignorance in the nature of man and in specifying the direction and the sound viewpoint to study man's dimensions in an accurate manner. Previous viewpoints relied on the intellectual and doctrinal background which certain schools held regarding man. As for Sheikh Yazdi's viewpoint, the ethical theory takes on a metaphysical and transcendental dimension which is linked to revelation. In his opinion, the first feature of anthropology which must be emphasized is that man is composed of body and soul, and what distinguishes him from other creatures is the intellect, willpower, freewill, consciousness and independence. All of these matters are linked to the spiritual aspect of humans. This reinvigorated ethical perspective strives to reach the conclusion that the main aim of Islam is to form a human

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the essences attached to it, and the concrete reality which involves effects is a *midaq* (outward living example) for the *mafhum* (concept) of existence; it enjoys genuineness and not the essence. This existence is one despite the multitude of outer entities, because what is in common is the same as what involves disagreement, and this does not lead to a synthesis in the entity of the basic existence and does not make it susceptible to analysis into genus (*jins*) and differentia (*fasl*).

Keywords: Sheikh Mesbah, Epistemology, Ontology, Demonstrative Methodology, Empirical Technique, Value of Knowledge, Cases, Acquired Knowledge, Knowledge by Presence, Concept of Existence, Genuineness of Existence, Primacy of Existence.



## Epistemology and Ontology in the Perspective of Sheikh

Mohammad Taqi Mesbah Yazdi

Hadi Al Ahmed Hassan

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The philosophical thought of Sheikh Mesbah Yazdi is marked by the belief in the centrality of man and consideration of man's existential needs in light of divine objectives. One human need is the attainment of an answer for decisive questions such as: What is my origin? Where am I? Where am I heading? Answers to these inquiries satisfy the human desire for knowledge and yearning for security, and are achieved by employing reasoning to form a philosophical understanding of the world. This entails a search for the authority of the human intellect and the value of its receptors, a duty undergone by epistemology which relies on rationality –and not empiricism- in dealing with issues. This poses regular problems, for how can we provide logical proof on the validity of logical proof? The solution lies in that epistemology is grounded in primary axioms without the need for cases of begging the question or invented principles.

The most important issue in epistemology is the value of knowledge, i.e. proving the mind's ability to understand reality and provide solutions for metaphysical problems. First Philosophy is a real discipline even though there are some who consider it to be nonsense since its subject matters are not proven by sensory experience. The task of First Philosophy is to study general details concerning the Absolute Being in light of the demonstrative methodology which provides certainty. The subject matter of First Philosophy –existence- is a priori in taawwur and tadq, and the secret of its a priori state arises from the activity of the inner experience of the soul with its affairs and states. The concept of existence has a joint meaning with regard to

Under the main heading **Argumentation on Knowledge and Ethics in the Perspective of Sheikh Mohammad Taqi Mesbah Yazdi**, this edition of *Al-Hayat Al-Tayyiba* examines man, knowledge and ethics according to Sheikh Yazdi. A group of scholars and specialists have tackled this topic in six essays, in the following order:

➤ **Research Papers and Studies:**

- 1- Doctrinal Regeneration and Facing the Inquiries of Our Time
- 2- Sayyed Mohammad Hussein Tabataba'i and the Social Approach in *Al-Mizan*

➤ **Scholarly Reviews:**

An Analytical Review of the Legal Theory of Ayatollah  
Mohammad Taqi Mesbah Yazdi

➤ **The Observatory of Life:**

- 1- Review of the Concept of Public Religious Sovereignty
- 2- Great Civilizational Dualities and the Integrality of Methodology in the Thought of Malek Bennabi

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- 2- Summary in English

**Order of Essays in the 48-49<sup>th</sup> Issue of *Al-Hayat Al-Tayyiba* –Year 26, Winter-Spring 2022**

➤ **Central Topic: Argumentation on Knowledge and Ethics in the Perspective of Sheikh Mohammad Taqi Mesbah Yazdi**

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