



An Analysis of Najm Razi's Approach Toward the Concupiscent Soul (al-Nafs al-Ammara) According to Mirsad al-Ibad

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Abstract

One of the main intellectual concerns in Shari'ah, ethics, and mysticism has been the fighting against the concupiscent soul, and mystical wayfarers have been advised to engage in this spiritual Battle (Jihad) by following certain suggested methods. By a special and comparatively unique approach in Mirsad al-Ibad, Najm Razi discusses about interaction with the soul and its qualities. The author of present paper has tried by qualitative analysis and description of content, to elucidate Razi's thought-lines in the struggle against the concupiscent soul. The research findings demonstrate that Razi believe in moderate treatment and cautious dealing with the concupiscent soul and he think that any extreme or careless behaviors in confront with the concupiscent soul would be a loss for the mystic followers. He believes that the concupiscent soul is not naturally the main cause of evils and sins, and that the reprehensible traits in the soul have been implanted there in accordance with the dictates of both divine wisdom and human expediency. Furthermore, Razi thinks that the essence of the human soul is capable of transformation; in a way that it's straying from God makes the soul command to the evils, and turning to God put the soul in the path of assurance.

Keywords: the concupiscent soul, Najm Razi, Mirsad al-Ibad, conflict with the soul.

Introduction

Relying on the views of Najm Razi in Mirsad al-Ibad, the author of present article seek to describe the intellectual landscape and explain the essential components of the tolerance-oriented policy toward concupiscent soul. Rather than attempting to elucidate Razi's interpretation of the definitions and levels of the soul, the primary objective of this paper is to analyze Najm Razi's unique perspective on the concupiscent soul. The descriptive approach and qualitative content analysis, used in this study, serve to shed light on the research issue.

Research Findings

In dealing with the concupiscent soul, Razi takes a moderate stance and is not at all radical or reckless. Excessive and severe encounters with it, in Najm Razi's opinion, will not benefit the spiritual wayfarers and will instead produce more losses. The concupiscent soul has been endowed with evil characteristics in accordance with the demands of flawless divine wisdom, and via wise interaction with it, religious followers were to be placed on the path of inner actualization. When viewed from a moderate perspective, self-deprecating



characteristics can be changed into positive characteristics, which will eventually aid the individual in achieving self-assurance.

Conclusion

Razi holds that the struggle with the concupiscent soul is necessary, and that full and conscious knowledge of the soul is an essential precondition for victory in this inner Battle. Najm Razi states that the principle of survival - something that animals do not possess - is what separates the animal soul from the human one. Razi thinks that one can train his or her soul. According to Razi, the follower's responsibility is to remain vigilant, to be aware of the dangers of the concupiscent soul, and to struggle with the ego in a sensible way—as opposed to following the extremism of the radicals. According to Razi, the primary characteristics of the soul are desire and wrath, and a person's internal development in the direction of positive or negative features depends on how they engage with these characteristics. In this way, undesirable features are turned into positive ones through a moderate approach to the soul, while negative traits of it emerge when they are suppressed. Razi believes that evil-oriented characteristics shouldn't be eliminated via a repressive method and that doing so is completely impractical; and moreover, in order to achieve greatness, one should preserve these attributes to the greatest extent possible. The aforementioned qualities are neither good nor bad inherently; rather, depending on how one interacts with them gives rise to the development of both its acclaimed and condemned traits. Razi does not take a negative stance toward the soul; but he sees it as crucial to the spiritual journey of the follower and holds that the soul is not inherently a commanding to the evils. This view is noteworthy in theoretical mysticism. Razi has this belief that philosophers who take an aggressive stance in their battle against the concupiscent soul are misguided and will only cause losses by decline in this path. He also accuses philosophers to being misinformed. In Razi's view, the most crucial requirement is tolerance-Oriented approach to the self, in accordance with Shari'a law and its standards. One of Najm Razi's key ways for understanding the concept of moderation is to consider the capacity and inner potentials of followers. This is because extreme forms of self-struggle are not helpful for everyone on the Path; in this war, they may practically be a source of evil and devastation too. Among well-known mystics, Sarraj Tusi's ideas about the self are extremely close to those of Najm Razi.

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Print ISSN: 2228-5563
online ISSN: 2588-4816

Religions and Mysticism

University of Tehran
Faculty of Theology
and Islamic Studies



Cite this article: Jahadi Hoseyni, S. A. (2024). An Analysis of Najm Razi's Approach Toward the Concupiscent Soul (al-Nafs al-Ammara) According to Mirsad al-Ibad. *Religions and Mysticism*, 56 (2), 313-332. (in Persian)

Publisher: University of Tehran Press.

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22059/jrm.2023.365778.630471>



Article Type: Research Paper

Received: 8-Oct-2023

Received in revised form: 3-Nov-2023

Accepted: 12-Dec-2023

Published online: 16-Mar-2024