The Moral Principles before the Prophet's Mission; Moral Prerequisites for Accepting the Prophet's Invitation

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Abstract

Exploring the moral principles in the early Islamic era, this paper seeks to explain that Pre-Islamic Arabs' acceptance of Islam was gained by, in addition to the Prophet's good character, some moral values and principles institutionalized in the inhabitants of the Arabian Peninsula. To understand better what was going on in the early period of Islam, it would be necessary to recognize the element of "invitation". Its assessment can lead us to realize the epistemological relation between Islam and some moral principles. In this paper, I claim that it was not possible for people to accept the Prophet's invitation if there had not been certain moral beliefs, and to accept Islam they needed to believe in some moral principles. Appealing to historical cases and analyzing moral concepts, I attempt to show that principles such as "loyalty", "honesty", and "benevolence" were generally accepted by the audience of divine revelation before Islam and it was on the basis of these values that the Prophet successfully managed to invite people.

Keywords

The Prophet's mission, moral principles, loyalty, benevolence, moral intuition, moral prerequisites for accepting Islam.

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