

“The Meeting with God” (Liqa' Allah) as the Ultimate Goal of Ethics: A Comparative Study of Thomas Aquinas and Mulla Sadra

Zeinab Nemati* | Mahdieh Sadat Mostaqimi**



7

Abstracts

Abstract

This article aims to examine the ultimate goal of ethics by comparing the views of Mulla Sadra and Thomas Aquinas, two prominent Muslim thinkers. It seeks to elucidate the common aspects such as happiness and enjoyment in the concept of the meeting with God (Liqa' Allah) and the various forms of encountering God in this world and the hereafter according to these two philosophers. By analyzing and presenting their perspectives and arguments, the article demonstrates the convergence of these two philosophers in their foundations and beliefs. Aquinas' arguments for proving the meeting with God as the basic and ultimate goal of ethics are mainly based on the necessity of unity, transcendence, and divine love. On the other hand, Mulla Sadra presents different dualistic arguments, some based on a general ontological perspective and others on a specific anthropological perspective. Mulla Sadra does not consider anything other than moral obstacles such as excessive desire and anger as hindrances to the realization of divine encounter, emphasizing the possibility of universal and eternal perception of this mode of encounter, even in this world. However, while Aquinas agrees with Mulla Sadra on many matters, he holds a different view on the possibility of divine proximity and encounter.

Keywords

The meeting with God (Liqa' Allah), happiness, goal of ethics, Mulla Sadra, Thomas Aquinas.

* Assistant Professor, Jame'at Al-Mustafa, Qom, Iran. (Corresponding Author) | hznemati@gmail.com..

** Associate Professor, University of Qom, Iran. | m.s.mostaghemi@gmail.com