

An Analysis of the Criterion for Moral Action in the Thought of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei

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Abstract

To structure the moral foundations of society, it is essential to formulate a fundamental ethical theory grounded in the intellectual framework of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic. Drawing on an extensive analysis of Ayatollah Khamenei's speeches, letters, messages, and published ethical discourses, this study reveals that his conception of moral criteria differs considerably from conventional normative ethical theories. One of the defining features of this perspective is its contextual flexibility: ethical standards are shaped by the agent's individual capacity and moral development, and they are conveyed in graduated forms depending on the audience. According to his view, each person adopts moral standards in proportion to their ethical maturity and existential capabilities, and acts accordingly. The diversity of his moral guidance directed toward various social groups further supports this view and points to a pluralistic approach in crafting ethical frameworks suitable for societal planning and governance.

Keywords

Moral Action Criterion, Agent Capacity, Normative Ethical Theories, Truth Criterion, Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic.

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