

Moral Responsibility Based on the Perspective of “Love” (Mahabbat) in the Teachings of Revealed Ethics

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Abstract

Love (*mahabbat*) is one of the most fundamental concepts of the Islamic ethical system and is bound up with the virtues of faith and morality. Nevertheless, ethical studies have paid less attention to a coherent analysis of the place of love in shaping ethical life and responsibility, and its role in social relations and the cultivation of virtues. The present research, employing a descriptive–analytical approach, explores the concept of love in Qur’ānic and narrative texts, and through conceptual analysis and thematic interpretation examines discussions concerning human nature) *fiṭrat* ,(innate bonding) *ilḥāt* ,(divine inspiration, and the connection of love with intellect and faith. The method of analysis rests on extracting key concepts, classifying them at the levels of the innate, the genetic–creational) *takwīnī* ,(and the rational, and explaining the ethical function of each level. The findings show that love in Islamic texts has three principal levels: innate love, which is rooted in the human being's natural inclination toward good, survival, and intimacy; divine and creational love, which God casts into human hearts and which brings about a deep spiritual bond among people; and rational and faith-based love, which is voluntary and conscious and is directed along the path of good and moral perfection. Love in the Qur’ān and ḥadīth has multi-level grounds formed from the conjunction of nature, revelation, and reason, and can serve as one of the central principles in articulating a theory of Islamic ethics.

Keywords

ethics, revealed ethics, love, friendship, affection, responsibility, accountability.

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