

Original Article

The role of imagination in Man`s Exemplifying toward God from the perspective of Allameh Tabatabai and his students

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Abstract

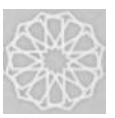
Imagination, as a level of human existence, has a divine aspect in one sense and a creativity aspect in another sense, which plays a major role in man's likeness to God. This characteristic of the imagination puts it in a orbit that can cross the distance between God and creators in order to reach to the ultimate purpose which is the man`s exemplifying toward God. In this regard, the views of Mr. Allameh Tabatabai and his fellow thinkers on the role of imagination in the likeness of man to God are examined. According to him, human existence, due to its comprehensiveness, corresponds to the material world in terms of body, to the world of Form (separate imagination) in terms of imagination, and to the world of complete incorporeal intellects in terms of intellect. Therefore, it can be promoted to the supernatural worlds and succeed in creativity.

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Extended Abstract

1. Introduction

In the terminology of philosophy, imagination is used both as a treasury that preserves tangible details and as a perceptual power responsible for formulating meanings in the descending course and maintaining them in itself. Imagination has a hierarchy in the perceptual sense:

Its earliest perceptual level is the presence of forms and meanings without any interference. According to Allameh Tabatabai, imagination in this sense is synonymous with sense (Sadr Al-Mutallahin, 2014: 3 / Taliq, p. 362).

However, at higher levels, imagination can be the creator of forms and meanings that have no objective and external existence at all. From this aspect of imagination, we can mention the action and voluntary field of invention, which is also the origin of the simile of man to the Sublime. However, in simile, all the features of the tenor do not exist in the vehicle. Since human is the vicegerent of God, he must have the talent to approach the supererogatory and obligatory duties (Javadi Amoli, 2017: 18/488).

Imagination, as a level of human existence, has a divine aspect in one sense and a moral aspect in another aspect, which plays a major role in man's likeness to God. This characteristic of the imagination places it in a plane that can cross the boundary between the two arcs of Yali al-Khalqi and Yali al-Haqi and approach the ultimate willingness of human, which is likeliness to Hazrat Bari.

2. Method

The research method is descriptive-analytical and the data collection is done through library method.

3. Results

Allameh Tabatabai and his fellow thinkers study the role of imagination in the likeness of man to the Sublime is examined. According to him, first, since man is the vicegerent of God on earth, he has the power and talent to lead to true perfection and can find the greatest resemblance to God in actions and attributes. Second, imagination, in addition to being a repository of detailed forms and meanings that are received directly from the outside, is also the creator of forms and meanings, and that is why man resembles God. Third, human, using his imagination, rules over its own inner realm and even outside. In addition to creating images in the realm of the mind, it also creates them outside the mind. He can create and realize beings both inside and outside who are independent of Him and obey Him. Fourth, human perfection is not ended to physical happiness and the attainment of natural perfections, but the life of this world is a means to the Hereafter and to attain true real perfection, that is, approaching God. Fifth, the existence of man is the sum of all worlds, which corresponds to the material world in terms of body, to the world of ideas (separate imagination) in terms of imagination, and to the world of complete abstract intellects in terms of intellect. This is why man can be promoted to the super-material worlds and succeed in creativity. According to Allameh Tabatabai, the issues of "adaptation of the worlds of existence" and also "adaptation of the world and man" explain the role of imagination in the issue of human divinity. Sixth, in philosophical interpretation, creativity is one of the activities of the human mind and imagination, meaning "creation without material" and is possible inside and outside of the mind, causing the transcendence of habits.



4. Conclusion

In general, due to being comprehensive, human existence corresponds to the material world in terms of body, to the world of ideas (separate imagination) in terms of imagination, and to the world of complete abstract intellects in terms of intellect. Thus, it can be promoted to super-material worlds and succeed in creativity.

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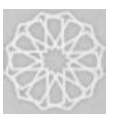
Conflict of Interest

This article does not have any conflict of interest.

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