
JALALUDDIN RUMI'S MASNAVI AND HIS ETHICAL IDEAS

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Abstract:

This article explores the ethical concepts presented in Jalaluddin Rumi's renowned work Masnavi. Rumi, as a leading figure in Islamic mysticism and Sufi philosophy, conveys profound moral and spiritual teachings through allegories, parables, and poetic narratives. The paper examines Rumi's approach to ethics, including themes such as self-awareness, love, compassion, humility, and the journey toward inner purification. It also highlights how these ethical teachings are relevant in both traditional and contemporary contexts, offering guidance for personal development and harmonious human relationships.

Keywords

Jalaluddin Rumi, Masnavi, ethics, Sufism, moral philosophy, spiritual development, self-awareness, love, inner purification, Islamic mysticism

Introduction

Rumi gathered many religious, ethical, and philosophical ideas in the creation of his Masnavi. The Masnavi consists of six volumes, and in each section, themes such as the spiritual elevation of the human being, good and evil, and the search for truth are explored. The work imparts ethical lessons through stories and examples, urging humans toward goodness. For example, in the first section of the Masnavi, Rumi depicts the internal struggles of individuals. In one story, he writes: «To purify the heart, one must abandon all worldly desires.» This idea, according to Rumi, lies at the core of a person's true happiness and spiritual purification.

The encounter with Shams Tabrizi was one of the most important periods in Rumi's life, during which he delved deeply into the mystical secrets of Sufism. Shams Tabrizi taught Rumi mystical words and philosophical perspectives, which transformed his life. The spiritual bond between them became one of the main sources of inspiration for Rumi's work. For example, Shams Tabrizi taught Rumi about sabr (patience) and said to him: «Patience is not just to resist evil, but to purify the inner world, and if you love Allah, you will find all patience.» This idea guided Rumi toward spiritual ascension.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Rumi consistently emphasized the spiritual journey in Sufism. In several of his poems, he expressed the «journey of the soul» and the process of reaching perfection. The true goal of humans is to abandon materialistic values and achieve spiritual elevation. Rumi also

emphasized that this journey is realized through inner knowledge. For example, in the Masnavi, Rumi describes his spiritual journey in one story, writing: «When I was carrying a bucket of water, I tried not to see any impurities at the bottom of the water. This is how I am on my path to purification.» Here, Rumi uses the metaphor of «not seeing the impurities at the bottom of the water» to express the process of spiritual purification and growth [1]. Rumi's ideas on spiritual knowledge continue to have a significant impact on modern life, which is rapidly evolving. In his works, he emphasized that to attain true knowledge, the heart and soul must undergo inner purification. In modern life, people often focus on external achievements, materialistic values, and intellect, but Rumi demonstrated the limitations of this approach and showed that true spirituality can only be found through spiritual knowledge. His ideas today play an important role in spirituality, psychology, stress management, and social relationships.

Rumi's ideas on spiritual knowledge have been widely affirmed in modern psychology. In psychology, concepts such as «emotional intelligence» and «spiritual well-being» align with Rumi's teachings on purifying the heart and soul, and achieving inner tranquility. Spiritual knowledge boosts self-confidence, reduces stress, and improves mental health [1]. For example, in modern psychology and therapeutic methods, approaches such as mindfulness and meditation are often used. Rumi also emphasized the importance of meditation and spiritual perception in his works: «To find inner peace, seek peace within yourself, regardless of the outer world.»

Spiritual knowledge plays a crucial role in managing stress, particularly in modern life. Today, many people live under high-speed work pressures and social stress, which negatively affect their mental health. Rumi, in his ideas on spiritual knowledge, stressed the importance of achieving inner peace. According to his concept, true knowledge and happiness lie in inner peace. For example, in one of his famous poems, Rumi writes: «To achieve higher goals, first, you must purify your inner world.» This idea demonstrates the necessity of spiritual knowledge and inner peace for managing stress in modern life [2].

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

Rumi's ideas on spiritual knowledge have resonated not only within Islamic culture but also across global cultures. His ideas have been widely accepted internationally, increasing the need for spiritual development and morality. Rumi's works are studied in numerous international academic research, meditation practices, and psychology courses. His mystical approach continues to be relevant in global culture, addressing not only religious but also social, philosophical, and psychological issues. Example: Today, Rumi's works are discussed in many academic conferences, seminars, and educational programs. His teachings serve as a source of inspiration in many countries, contributing to international cultural dialogue.

Rumi's ideas on spiritual knowledge are having a profound influence on modern life. His ideas are reflected in psychology, stress management, social relations, and religious explorations. Today, new approaches are developing based on Rumi's works, focusing on

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achieving spiritual well-being, finding inner peace, and understanding true knowledge. This has become an important factor in not only religious practices but also in fostering spiritual exploration within global culture [4].

The process of self-realization is the necessary spiritual and moral exploration to understand one's inner world, find one's true self, and determine a purposeful and meaningful path in life. Rumi emphasizes the importance of self-realization in his works, describing it as a process through which one understands their true nature, achieves inner peace, and attains spiritual elevation. The process of self-realization involves not only knowledge related to the external world but also the understanding of one's inner heart and soul.

For Rumi, self-realization is essentially the understanding of one's true nature and connection to the Creator. He emphasizes that self-realization can be attained through purifying the soul, cleansing the heart, and understanding divine truth. In Rumi's mystical teachings, self-realization is not achieved through logical thinking alone, but through spiritual experience, the intuition of the heart, and inner perception. This process is often explained using various symbols, stories, and metaphors. Example: In one of his famous poems, Rumi writes: «When you know yourself, you will know the whole world.» These words express that through self-realization, a person discovers their true purpose and understands their inner spiritual feelings.

The process of self-realization is closely connected with purifying the heart and soul. Rumi, in his mystical ideas, emphasizes that if the heart is not purified, one cannot achieve true knowledge, which is self-realization. At the heart of this process lies the attainment of inner peace. For Rumi, through purifying the heart, the main task is to return the person to their true nature and guide them towards their real purpose [3].

Rumi's ideas on social life primarily emphasize unity and solidarity. According to his teachings, people should live based on mutual love, patience, and respect. In his works, Rumi placed great importance on social justice and reconciliation between people. He viewed mutual love and cooperation as the most important elements in ensuring peace and prosperity in society. Problem: In modern society, egoism and the prioritization of personal interests often lead to conflicts in social relations. Misunderstandings, discrimination, and inequality between people exacerbate social issues. However, Rumi, by emphasizing the idea of «Unity,» points out that all human beings are fundamentally the same. According to him, people can unite society by understanding, loving, and supporting each other. Example: Rumi says, «People must learn to look at things from a different perspective. Everyone is right in their own way, but they must unite to reach a single goal.» This idea is crucial in ensuring mutual understanding and solidarity in social life [1].

Rumi's ideas in professional life encompass spiritual growth, honesty, a positive attitude, and readiness for continuous change. In his works, Rumi calls on people to find inner peace and companionship. Professional success is often linked to the balance of one's inner world. According to his ideas, for a person to succeed in their professional activities, they must understand their inner world and develop their spiritual potential. Problem: In modern

professional life, competition, stress, and pressure often force people to suppress their inner feelings. This makes it difficult to be effective in achieving professional success.

Rumi does not link success at work solely to external factors; he emphasizes the importance of spiritual growth and purification. According to him, every individual should rely on their inner peace and confidence in their professional life. This also helps in making correct and ethical decisions in professional life. Example: Rumi says, «To succeed in work, first you must understand yourself and trust your inner strength.» This thought highlights the necessity of developing self-confidence and spiritual strength in professional life [2].

Rumi's ideas highlight the importance of developing love and empathy in both professional and social life. He believes in approaching interpersonal relations with deep love and care, understanding others' situations, and supporting each other. In professional relations as well, people should show compassion and be open in communication. Problem: In professional life, it is often difficult to maintain a balance between protecting one's own interests and being competitive. This can lead to unfairness or negative attitudes towards one another. Rumi advises not to forget spiritual growth when communicating with others. He encourages understanding and respecting each person's inner world.

CONCLUSION

Rumi's ideas are of significant importance in both social and professional life, strengthening interpersonal relationships, professional activities, and spiritual development. His teachings are based on inner peace, love, cooperation, and self-awareness. Rumi's philosophy plays a crucial role in modern society, facilitating connections between individuals and society, ensuring professional success, and contributing to overall well-being.

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