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The role of religious and ethical teachings in the modern system of education

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Abstract

Undoubtedly deeper search on prophets teachings such as Moses, Jesus and Mohammad – peace be upon them- opens new horizon to us. These great teachers of humanity have stood manners and insights in front of us by their heavenly connection to the learned God of world that can help to the trend of extending and deepening educational system. From the writers definition about religion, for manners ethical and religious teaching improve growth factors of knowledge sources In educational system and on the other hand they teach us mechanism of education and optimum learning (as the emphasis on skill-centered learning science). For insights also ethical and religious teaching are able to open new chapter in the forms of the following trilogy pivots in educational system: 1) Presenting Worldviews to science, tranee, trainer and educational environment. 2) Presenting educational data through explaining hypotheses and true scientific propositions. 3) Endowing revelating knowledge with applying ethic and purification of the carnal soul.

Keywords: Religion, ethics, science, education, teachings

Introduction

The religious and ethical teachings are Gift of the divine prophets to humanity. A gift which is similar to springs that is beyond the boundries of where and when make people to drink the sip of knowledge and understanding. Since the source of Divine Prophets' words is the One God, so the prophets' religious teachings are also unit and harmonized and haven't any contradiction and aversion. But they are unit and coherent treasure which don't deny each other. But, the methods of prophets may be differing from each other, but this difference doesn't mean contradiction and contrast. Actually the whole prophet's speeches are right and without errors and deficiency, as it was emphasized in the Holly Quran (as the last divine Book) on this point and also testify on rightfulness, insight, truth and infallibility of all God's Prophets. What is important within is that we should acquire those educations which are truly transmitted and issued from prophets by research and scientific attempts since may be some issues attributed to prophets which are not according to the truths.

One of the important issues that could be seen on the religious issue is education. Before reviewing the main part of the essay it is necessity to point out to two concepts of religion and ethic and their relations. According to the idea of the writer, religion is not a series of saying and doings but is a complete and general model and program which

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obtain the happiness of this world and the hereafter and is not limited to a specified time and place. Because the source of religion is not just Divine's verses and religious leaders' narrations but the wisdom is also that is mentioned in the Islamic thinking as human's inner prophet. According this the religion can have so much to say in the cultural, economical, scientific and social areas.

The religion is containing of three major parts 1) attitudes and ideas 2) values and morals 3) methods and rulings. Hence the ethics is considered as the subset of religion and apply to the set of permanent and straight features that is the source of good behaviors and bad behaviors. If scientists know the temper as an upright mood for self which provoke him for doing thoughtless work and is the source of human behavior and manners. (Ibn Muhammad Miskewayh,1966:51; Toreihi,1408:693).

A) In regard to the insight and theology

Human beings are balanced between their attitudes and objects, and phenomena of the whole world, to make coherence and harmony. Hence, the view and insight into the existence and current affairs (including education) has an important role in human's effective interaction with them.

1)presenting The Weltanschauung and Macro thoughts.

Without having a macro and deep looking to the basic elements in the learning like science, teacher, learner and the educating environment, cannot reaching an absolute successfulness. On the other hand just exalted God is an absolute wise and omnipotence and has a complete cognition of the reality of education, learning and its basic details. By the way, He just can teach us by divine prophets the plan and the way of education and its stagnation and vulnerability:

1-1)Science

There may be the contradiction or separation between religion and science in some of the humanity schools of thought but it is not so in the heavenly and divine attitude. God told Moses that the science and wisdom is very great and excellent, if I put it in the heart of someone I want him to be included from my forgiveness and blessing (shahid thany,1386:86). In the seventieth chapter of Bible is come that Woe! To the people whom hear about science and wisdom and not to inquire about it or the beginning of descending of the Holy Quran is with verses which speak about science, education and training (Alagh, 1-5).

In monotheistic and religious attitude, science is a sacred thing and God invites people to learn science and enumerated the scholars as his best servants. From Islam point of view this science is not special to theology but it include every science that serve humanity. God ordered people in the Holy Qur'an to flourish lands and start developing and constructing (Hud,61). it means from Qur'an view, sciences like farming, engineering are not only permissible but also obligated because the human being needing them and God knows this needs better than alls. From point of view of divine prophets, like prophet Muhammad (PBUH) the science is not related to the age and sex (saffar,1362:23; Mufid, 1403:29; Tabarani,1984:195) and time and place (majlesi,1403:180).This means the learning is not just for an old or young, man or woman and in everywhere and every time must be learned. From Amir Al-Mumenan ,Ali Ibn Abi-Talib (AS) the human is valued by his/her cognition and scientific knowledge (nahjul balaghah,1379: word 81; Sadugh,1414:420; Qortobi,1405:74). Because there is no factor like cognition can make people reach the happiness and perfection. But it must be concerned that the science which is serving people and make people closest to the exalted God is the gist and purpose, otherwise the science can makes veil and prevents the progress and brings arrogance and selfishness along itself to the human beings. (nahjul balaghah,1379: word 205).

1-2)Teacher

In the religious attitude the first teacher is God. In Holly Quran God introduces Himself as human being teacher and saying: whatever the human being didn’t know, God thought him (Alagh,5).
Hence the teaching work in educational system is divine work and it's privileged for teachers to precieve their high rank which is one the characteristic exalted God.Hazrat Jesus (AS), insist on bowing and reverencing for the teacher and scholar and urge on the necessity of teaching and learning for ignorants.(harrani,1404:502).

The work of scientists and teachers is discovering whatever God put in the universe (rational and sensible or experiential and human science) and transmitting it to the others and rescuing them from ignorance and unawareness. From religious point of view if someone teach others just a word (neither sentence nor phrase) he will make him his servant(ajuni,1988:265; Bahr al-ulum,1387:38). The Place of scholar in terms of ignorant is like the place of live person to a dead one (siuti, 1414:129; Abn athir,undated:8). In religious attitude everything will be decreased by giving and donating except science (amodi,1366: num 3246). It means that the teacher by teaching the science to the others, will increase on his/her science not decreasing his knowledge or feeling shortage, but by sharing and giving the knowledge, will have material and spiritual benefit for himself.

1-3)Learner

In the religious point of view Human being are dividing according to the criterion of sciences and the type of their interaction with knowledge:

1)the scholar and divine 2) the seeker of knowledge who is also on the way to deliverance 3)the common rot who run after every caller and bend in the direction of every wind. They seek not light from the effulgence of knowledge and do not take protection of any reliable support. (nahjul balagah,word 147).

The religion looks at the learner as someone who walking on the angel's wings and until he is learning and seeking knowledge, the angels are requesting blessing and forgiveness for him (heythami,1408:124; Abn asaker,1395:18). A student and learner are like someone who is fasting all days and praying all nights (razi,1990:180).

1-4)The environment

The religious and ethics teachings don’t observe any environment suitable for educational organization. Therefore notifying special points regarding educational environment so education and training process coming along with better efficiency and output. If the religion is sacred and holy, the environment should be sacred and far from anomalies. According to the religion's point of view the university is like a sacred and worshiping place.

The religion not only valued the purity and freshness of the soul but also to the healthiness of the body, because religion, seeing the effect of soul and body health highlighted for increasing the education quality. Therefor ordered to make the educational situations far from sin and anomalies to providing the purity of the soul and on the other hand emphasis on the cleanliness and the health of the education environment for being far from diseases and not put our health in danger (Shahid thani,1386:199).

2) Training provided by the true scientific hypotheses and propositions

Where as religion is the manifestation of God will and come from His sinless prophets, so religion's predicate must be far from any error and false. So the predicates in experiential and humanity's spheres are presented as honest predicates and theories which can put new horizon of science in front of us. For example, Holly Quran more than one thousand years ago in addition to earth's movement, knows about the movement of sun that finally will be in its own orbit (Holy Quran, Yasin, 38) or announces of the ability of expanding heavens and saying: (we establish the heavens with power, and always are expanding them)( Holy Quran, Dhariat, 48) which may witness to the change of expanding in the dimensions and its quantity. In Al-Sahifa al-Sajjadiyya which is the collection of prayers Imam Sajjad (AS), in addition to speck about air weightiness, also speck about the shadow's weightiness (anam Sajjad, 1400: num 4, p24). The subject in the area of phisic which haven't understood its details until now. Also in the religion's predicates we are seeing that it's recommended to brush so much and among its effects counting the strength of gums and stomach's healthiness and recovery and resolving mouth's bad smell(siuti,1414:168; Mottaghi hendi,1409:314). Or in a narration the stomach is counted as the home of illness which mean that the most of the
disease and sickness which people are facing them are the result of bad nutrition system, gluttony and filling the stomach which by pressing on the digestive system, causes some of the sicknesses. (majlesi, 1403:290). in the other word, if a human take care of his/her stomach and preventing from gluttony and eating too much, reduce illnesses. This scientific note was proposed in an era which people were so underdeveloped and weak from the side of scientific development. Nowadays we can also by focusing on the religious predicates, extracting some notes which human didn't discovered yet and opening a new horizon in front of us.

3) Imparting knowledge and inspiration because of appieing ethics and self-purification

On the current divisions the science is dividing into two parts of experiential science and absolute knowledge. But religion and ethics unveil the curtain from another science which is called (inspirational science) which will be acquired in the shadow of the self purification and acting in the regard of ethic rules. It means that if someone was obliged to religious orders and applies his knowledge by his action, will be succeeded and profited from the pure inspiration science. Jesus (AS) counted action as the condition of guidance and acquiring wisdom and saying: you learn wisdom, among you the one who acts on the regard of wisdom can accept the guidance (harrani, 1404:392). Indeed some of the concealed facts in the universe will be discovered by acting on the regard of religious' teachings. From Imam Sadiq (AS) point of view the real and eternal knowledge doesn't acquired by learning but it is a light that God is gifting it to the heart of the believers (majlesi, 1403, vol 1 p255 & vol 67 p140). This science is the most eternal and certain science. It is obvious if human doesn't find the way of God Slavery and being bound to that, he will be deprived from this science. According to narrations these sciences will be acquired when the learnt knowledge have been practiced and by that God will be turn the unknowns to knowns (mufid, 1414:107; Ameli, 1384:209; siuti, 1365:372).

One of the most important features of this science is it's adornment from ignorance and errors, while may be seen some errors and wrongs in the acquisition of experiential and humanity science. This special science will be acquired by polishing and refining heart (nahj balaghah, sermon 222; Leythi vasety, 1376:157). So we will see in the prophets like Hazrat Jesus (AS) speeches that there is an especial emphasis on the vigilance of heart. As he stated: make your hearts the home of purity and not the place of lust (harrani, 1404:393; majlesi, 1403:312). Avicenna the famous Iranian philosopher and physician saying that whenever I face a matter of wonder and astonishment and didn’t find my answer, I was going to the mosque and I was saying prayer for God and following that all of closed doors were opened in front of me and the scientific problems were resolved and everything continued smoothly for me (qefti, 1326: 270).

Therefore the heart of the man is the place of science and knowledge's manifestation and if the man keeps the heart in the light of religion teachings and don’t pollute it, can be more successful in the teaching and learning. It seems that the educational system in the third millennium which is needed this religious teachings more than before both in terms of ethic and science.

B) By methodical and executive

1) To show ways to strengthen the knowledge resources

The brain is the most important source of wisdom in science and knowledge acquisition doubtlessly and without this power man cannot step toward wisdom and science production. essentially the brain is the source of science and knowledge and also its commenter and explainer. In Nahj Al-Balagha one of the philosophy of mission of prophets, is the revolution in rationality and regeneration the power of wisdom more than before (nahj balaghah, sermon 1). The philologists recognize the "wisdom" with one original meaning which is "stop and halt" and the wisdom is called wisdom because keeps the individual from doing and saying the blameworthy things (Abn faires, 1422: under aql ). Also in Shia's tradition, the wisdom is introduced as an inner prophet who is like divine prophets is included as a proof of God (Kuleini, 1415: 16; Kashani, 1415:168).

The wisdom is the main source for acquiring science in the education system and if not exist; there will be no usage of sense and experience. In religious’ attitude the function of wisdom in acquiring recognition and understanding the fact is increasable and diminishable. On this basis in religious' teachings there are commands and
prohibitions which can be the reasons of increasing and decreasing the function of wisdom. For example, if a man isn't dominant on the field of his lasciviousness and cannot hold it truly, He will not observe its suitable and proper function and output (nahjul balaghah, word 219; Qonduzi, 1416: 224).

On the other hand, the nature and behaviors of a man can have a direct effect on the man's exploitation of wise's power.

Imam Ali (AS) saying: how many wisdom which is like a captive who is imprisoned his passion (Leythi vasety, 1376: 380). it's clear that a prisoner, because of his restriction cannot show a suitable and appropriated function. In narrations pointed out to some moral inurbanity which cause in wisdom reduction and its malfunction like: anger (majlesi, 1403: vol 74 p 206), selfishness(majlesi, 1403: vol 75p255), lustfulness( majlesi, 1403: vol 14p39) which all is showing direct relationship between ethics and rationality.

2) Providing utilized principles and strategies of teaching and learning

One of the other religious' educations output is presenting basics and notes that observing them can be very effective in the contemporary education system improvement. Some parts of these teachings are observing scientific basics and some others moral basics. the number of this basics in educational system is so much which in this article it would point to some items of them:

1) Emphasis on teaching and learning of based practice

One of the fundamental issues in teaching is practice and apply science and knowledge. Means that whatever a man acquiring science should be applied practically and objectively and comes to the truth. In religious teachings is mentioned that the science slippage is to abandon practicing it and scholars without practice are blamed and criticized (Leythi vasety, 1376:181). On the other hand the most humble knowledge is that which remains on the tongue and the most honourable one is that which manifests itself through (the action of) the limbs and the organs of the body (nahjul balaghah, word 92). Indeed learning is the introduction of usage and applying the knowledge and not just for quoting it.

It is worthy to say that the gist of science and its practicing is not just related to religious and ethic sciences but also is including of all experiential and human sciences.

for example if a dam-building engineer after scientific and laboratory considerations to calculate the necessary stability and basic rules for building dam but for some reasons like ignorance and negligence didn't move in right direction and did not use his scientific findings and by building an incorrect dam causes the loss of people and government, This person will be cursed and criticized and will be responsible before almighty God. As an inattentive scholar to jurisprudence rulings or moralities is reproached and criticized too. It is better to design a plan in all of the all educational centers to consider about the executive methods and applying different sciences to make them applicable. Now we can understand the importance and value of religious' teaching more, among them Imam Ali abn Hossein(sajad)(AS) quoted from Bible: until you didn't exert your knowledge, don't ask about your unknowns. Every knowledge and science which have not been practiced, cause in the thanklessness and been scatted from God more .(Kuleini,1415:56; Mashhadi,1366:362).

2) Emphasis on taking note learning

One of important issues in the teaching is the method of learning and memorizing scientific subjects. For understanding and memorizing a subject better in the mind, what kind of methods must be choosen? It seems that from religious' point of view one of the reasons of weakness in learners' learning process, Is because of not taking note on the process of the learning, an issue which must be taken into consideration and attention.

Holy Prophet (PBUH) said: (obtain the science and knowledge and keep it), asked: how is that? He replied: by taking note and writing it. (majlesi,1403:vol 58 p124). It had been narrated that a person used to go to the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and speeches of prophet were interesting and surprising for the man until he was fascinated by them but he couldn't memorize them. So he was worried of his shortage and weakness of memory and enclose this matter to the Holy Prophet. the apostle of God Said: (seek help from your hands) and pointed to his hand saying that
writing down his speeches (Seyyed razi, undated: 179; Abn salamah, 1405: 370; mottaqi hendi, 1409: 245). From the perspective of religious teachings, taking note helps to memorize and save informations. this means that by writing, photography of mind is so stronger and the person can understand them better.

3) Presenting Specific issues and questioning students

In religious' teachings is mentioned that a good and thoughtfully question is the half of knowledge and science (Abn abi al-hadid, 1961: 108; Erbali, 1985: 198; Abn hajar, 2000: 116). For this reason the teacher should present good and useful questions for students through his teaching process and asking them to reply back. The teacher can transmitting his teaching scientific note better to the student and explaining the applications and profits of related syllabus and make the addresses more familiar with this issues and get habitue with their accuracy and carefulness. On the other hand the power of the student's perception and elavation will be tested and the teacher by recognizing their aptitudes and potentials can be able to communicating better and more realistically with them.

4) Teacher and student previous preparation for lessons

Without doubt one of the factors that increase the efficiency and quality of learning is teacher and student preparation before the lesson. Teacher's Pre-study and thinking about related lesson and sorting it results preventing from precipitance and slippage. The student also should have pre-studying for more understanding of the lesson, because his mind will be more prepared than others and if he continues this method, his power of mental analysis would be increased. (shahid thany, 1386: 198).

5) Establishing emotional relationships and befriending whit students

Today, inflexible and mere academic relationships between teachers and students cannot be the best way. But other factors must be there to improve the level and quality of education. One of these factors, is to make emotional and compassionate relationship with the students. Teaching is just the factor of transmitting mental data and nurture man's mind, but love and affection will nurture the soul and refining the heart and making the dead alive and stimulating the students for more learning and guidance (Rashid pur, 1388: 32). As Holy Prophet (PBUH) was doing with his friends and companions and one of the outstanding features of prophet was his affability to his friend and relatives (Tabarsi, 1371: 55).

As we said before that the teacher can be the symbol of beautiful characteristic of God. A best teacher in modern age is the teacher that makes his best efforts toward teaching and educating student and always want from God that students to be included by his Mercy and their hearts will be ready for accepting knowledge and make them succeed to act along with scientific and religious rules.

Summary and conclusion

The religion is a model and complete and universal plan which can be guidance and the clue that can guide human being in all of cultural, scientific, economical and social dimensions and preparing a guideline for better living and more advanced. The main source of religion is will of God that is explained by divine prophets and gumption.

In monotheism and religious attitude, science is a sacred thing and God calls humans to acquiring science and counted scholar as his better and most lovable servants. From Islam point of view this kind of science is not just specific to theology but the gist of every science is helping and useful to humanity.

By the way, according to the view of point of writer the education system in modern era is like a student which needing heavenly and religious teachings to fills his/her deficiency by that, and this student in the case of deprivation from this kinds of teaching, will not have a suitable training and proper nurture.

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