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Imam Khomeini's Views on Ethics and Politics

The main topic of all discussions, the subject of all training and education and the goal of the knowledge of all of the Prophets has been human beings. They have all been appointed to train true human beings. They have all come to elevate this creature of nature from its natural level to super natural and up to the highest heaven. The ultimate goal of all the prophets' efforts is the human being. (June 28, 1979)

The Prophets have been appointed for the sake of humanity; for making true human beings. The books of the Prophets are to turn human beings into true human beings. The Holy Quran is the book of true human beings. (June 28, 1979)

The goal of all of the Prophets is human beings. Everything returns to them. They are the source of all deeds, good and righteous acts; at the same time, they can be the source of all satanic deeds and darkness. (June 28, 1979)

All the efforts of the Prophets were aimed at turning human beings into true human beings; to turn a creature of nature into a divine human being in this very world. (July 7, 1979)

In Islam, everything is a prelude to making true human beings. If this creature is left to itself, it will ruin and destroy the whole world. (August 31, 1980)

The most dangerous trap for mankind is their selfishness and egoism. We have to free ourselves from this trap and then follow the right path in order to be able to both correct ourselves and our society. (September 11, 1980)

Human beings should endeavor to lessen their egoism and selfishness if they are unable to put an end to it. This is of course, a very difficult task and it needs a great deal of hard work and self-purification. But this is not an impossible task. It is difficult, but possible. (September 11, 1980)

Human beings have been created in this way; unlimited in anger; unlimited in animal passion; and unlimited in selfishness, and nothing satisfies them unless they are correctly trained and educated. With this training, they will enter a path that human beings seek to achieve, and that is absolute perfection.

When they reach that perfection, they will find themselves in peace and calmness and will enjoy confidence, reliance and reassurance. This reassurance comes with their approaching God, for having confidence in anything else will not bring them peace. (September 6, 1980)

None of the world regimes except the divine and monotheistic ones have focused on the spiritualties of mankind and have dealt with their ethics. (June 25, 1979).

The rebellious motivations of the self (inner desires) will annihilate mankind. Any step taken towards education and training should be accompanied by steps in bringing selfish desires under full control. (July 7, 1979)

If knowledge is not mingled with spiritual purification and the training of ethics, the owner of knowledge will cause more harm to the people than a person who has no knowledge. This person may use his or her knowledge as a sword to cut off the roots of a country. (June 28, 1979)

All problems and differences of humanity will be resolved if the human being's selfishness and animal desires are purified, trained and tamed. (June 2, 1981)

All differences and problems of humanity stem from the rebellion of selfish desires. (June 2, 1981)

Those seeking to train and educate others in the world should themselves be purified and purged before they carry out their tasks. (June 2, 1981)

You will face rebellious acts of your selfish desires unless you are purified and purged. Knowledge and science will inflict harm if you are not purified. In that case, the most dangerous matter for you will be accepting a social position which will annihilate you in both worlds. You should purify yourself and bring your selfish desires under full control before taking positions. (June 2, 1981)

It is impossible to learn the Book and Wisdom in the absence of purging the self. We should purify ourselves from all sorts of impurities including inner desires and selfishness. (June 2, 1981)

All differences arising between human beings such as those of monarchs and wielders of power are rooted in the rebellious motivations of their selfish desires. (June 2, 1981)

Those who seek to train and educate others should themselves be purified. They should be purged if they are to rule human beings in order to remain immune from rebellions and satanic deeds. They have to purge themselves. The commands of the Prophet is to serve this purpose. Everybody should purge themselves. This task is more vital and important for officials, rulers, presidents and leaders than it is for ordinary people. (June 2, 1981)

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