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Relationship Between Religion and Reason in Nāṣir al-Dīn Ṭūsī's Thought: Challenges to the Correlation Theory

This research adopts an analytical-critical approach to examine the relationship between reason and revelation in the thought of Nāṣir al-Dīn Ṭūsī (1201–1274 CE). Through a rereading of his works, it elucidates the challenges to the theory of correlation (*mulāzama*) between reason and religious law (*sharī'ah*) within his intellectual framework. Although the correlation theory was systematically formulated in later periods of Islamic jurisprudence, our analysis demonstrates that despite Ṭūsī's emphasis on the general harmony between reason and revelation, he maintained a critical-modifying approach to this issue.

The study of Ṭūsī's works, particularly *Tajrīd al-I'tiqād* ("Abstraction of Belief") and *Akhlaq-i Nāṣirī* ("Nāṣirean Ethics"), indicates that he effectively distanced himself from accepting an absolute correlation between reason and revelation through: distinguishing between epistemic domains, adopting an interpretive approach to religious texts, accepting the relative authority of practical reason, taking a middle position on the issue of rational goodness and badness of actions, applying philosophical methodology to theological discussions, criticizing extreme views on the primacy of either reason or revelation, and differentiating between particular and universal matters.

Using a descriptive-analytical method and relying on Ṭūsī's original texts, this research shows that his perspective on the reason–revelation relationship was influenced by both the Avicennian philosophical tradition and Shī'ī theology, charting a middle path between the extreme rationalism of the Mu'tazilites and the traditionalism of the Ash'arites. The findings suggest that Ṭūsī, by proposing a dynamic and flexible model of the reason–revelation relationship, laid the groundwork for subsequent developments in Shī'ī philosophical-theological thought. His approach can be understood as a response to the challenges posed by competing theological and philosophical schools of his time. This critical rereading can contribute to a more precise understanding of Ṭūsī's intellectual heritage and to rethinking the theoretical foundations of the correlation between reason and revelation in contemporary discourse.

Keywords: Nāṣir al-Dīn Ṭūsī, reason and revelation, correlation theory, Islamic philosophy, Shī'ī theology, rational good and evil



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