

A Comparative Study of Anthropology in the Views of Ayatollah Motahari and S.T Augustine

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Abstract

Understanding human existence is one of the main concerns of some Islamic and Christian thinkers. Therefore, this article finds out the dimensions of human existence according to two dominant articles which one of them is Christian -Sent Augustine- and another one is Moslem -Motahhari-, then ask this question: what similarities and differences has the anthropology of these two thinkers together?

For sake of that reason, the framework anthropology of Christopher Berry has been used. The findings show that Augustine knows human as a single existence who have to collective life inevitably in this world, while Motahhari knows human as a social existence who also have individual responsibilities, as well as both of the thinkers introduce will and wisdom as the best human ability. Although Augustine knows human as a creature who cannot change their fate with their will, Motahhari believes that the role of human will in their fate is very fundamental. Augustine believe that human is immutable, whereas Motahhari reckons human as the evolving ones. Finally, Augustine introduces human as the unpolitic people who should obey the political authorities, albeit Motahhari believe that human are intrinsically political who are irrefutable political activists.

As a whole, it should be said about both similarities and differences of these two thinkers:

- 1- Both thinkers believe that human is combination of body and soul
- 2- Motahhari introduces human as clean the nature individuals, while from Augustine perspective, human has a fake nature because of the first sin.
- 3- Both thinkers know human as the goddess human being.

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4- Motahari believes that human has free will, Augustine believes that human is a bound existence though.

5- Both thinkers know human as the social people who also have individual responsibilities. While Motahari believes that human are social-political individuals, Augustine knows human as the unpolitic people.

6- The two thinkers have different views about activity and rights of human. Although Motahhari emphasizes more about human's spiritual rights such as freedom, Augustine knows human as required human.

7- Motahari believes that human is intellectual who can recognize the historical regulations with their wisdom and puts step in its route, whereas Augustine knows human as impractical-intellectual existence who merely experience life with their mental sense but cannot recognize the historical regulations.

8- The two thinkers have different point of view about human as the evolving or being immutable. Even though Motahari introduces human as an evolving person, Augustine believes that human is immutable.

KeyWords

Human, Antropology, Islam, Christendom, Motahari, Augustine.

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