

SPRITUAL ETHICK AND MODERN MAN IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, MOST GRACIOUS, MOST MERCIFUL

Senad Mrahorovic

Introduction:

Ethics is, generally speaking, concerned with those standards of behavior that authorize attitudes of admiration and condemnation, respect and disdain. These standards may apply throughout a whole society and comprise a code of honor or apply to the professional practices of a particular group. As for Spiritual Ethics, the term itself shows that the ethics in question are transcending qualities of human behavior based and achieved through the following of a certain religious path. Since ancient times, numerous subjects concerning spiritual or religious ethics have been studied within different cultures all over the world. Before the rise of Islamic civilization among major contributions to such a study were made by Hindu, Chinese and Greek philosophers. The great proportion of Greek philosophical works as well as of the former two has been translated later in Arabic and partly integrated into the Islamic worldview of Ethics in general and finally spread all over the world.

Prior to modern times, traditional people in every part of the globe were fully aware of the spiritual significance of life. This can easily be seen through different kinds of ancient architecture, arts, literature and other aspects of their civilizations discovered and studied by contemporary man. Besides the Islamic civilization, some of those civilizations have survived even to this day and can be found in some parts of America, Africa, Asia and Australia. According to a corpus of researches and studies made during the last few decades (some are also available on TV channels such as Discovery and National Geography), clearly shows that the majority of these civilized people, though often called as primitive, lived in accordance with spiritual ethics understood in their own perspective which is not much different than that of revealed religions. Those days were happy days of our humanity.

However, time had drastically changed. The peaceful days of traditional man have become part of sacred history. Emerging of modern man and his creation of materialistic civilization, especially in the West, has almost entirely diminished those days of serene and harmonious life of man governed by higher dimension of Reality. This brings us to our theme of his paper entitled "*Spiritual Ethics and Modern Man*," in which we will try to present the current situation of humanity and its attitude towards higher aspects of moral standards by which human being lived throughout the ages. But before embarking on the given issue, we would like to begin our paper with traditional approach to spiritual ethics in a general manner.

Spiritual Ethics and Traditional Man:

In the majority of traditional cultures, human behavior has been based on certain rules or norms that have been sent down through Divine Revelation of which the essential role is to educate man about his origin and his way of life while in this world and finally about his end. It goes without saying that the above education implies the knowledge of God as the Creator of the cosmos and all what it contains, and the knowledge of the manner in which man is to live his life and fulfill his duty towards God and the creation that surrounds him. According to the Qur'an, the seal of all previously sent Revelations, all people in the past as in the present were given such an education or teaching: "To every people was sent an apostle..." (Yunus, 9:47), and: "We sent not an apostle except to teach in the language of his own people, in order to make things clear to them..." (Ibrahim, 14:4).

The behavior of traditional man of different societies, be they from Chinese, the Islamic, the North American Indian or any other traditional background – in everyday life or in their religious rituals and celebrations, in their presence of the beauty of virgin nature and sacred art, or perhaps in their spiritual feelings of love, both human and divine, can certainly provide general indications of their highly developed spiritual dimension of life. Beside Revelation, natural surroundings too have been the source of inspiration, symbolism, artistic beauty, the way of life, the way of behavior in their communitarian life as well as individual life. Speaking about symbolism in