



An Environmental Ethics in Islamic Perspective: An Analysis of the Thoughts of Dr. Sayyed Hossein Nasr

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ABSTRACT

The global environmental crisis is getting more complex, and attention to environmental ethics is becoming important. This article analyzes Dr. Sayyed Hossein Nasr about environmental ethics in Islam. This study uses the method of literary analysis by using the writings and speeches of Dr. Nasr as the main source. The research results show that Dr. Nasr regards environmental ethics as an integral part of Islamic teachings. He emphasized how important it is to maintain harmony between humans and nature, social and economic justice, and the fair management of natural resources. His thoughts provide valuable insights for society in maintaining harmony between humans and nature, and creating a sustainable environment. The implications are relevant in the face of current climate change and environmental degradation. To apply this thinking, it is necessary to increase environmental awareness, the active role of religious leaders, cooperation between Muslim countries, and a combination of scientific knowledge. This thinking can have a positive impact on environmental preservation for future generations.

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INTRODUCTION

The increasingly complex global environmental crisis has demanded serious attention to environmental ethics. The increasingly pronounced phenomenon of climate change, widespread ecosystem damage, significant loss of biodiversity, and rampant pollution have had a serious impact on the sustainability of the planet (Sonny Keraf, 2010). Faced with these challenges, societies worldwide seek strong moral guidance to preserve and protect the environment (T., 2002). Therefore, religious thought and spirituality play a crucial role in providing a framework of ethical values that can guide human actions in facing the environmental crisis. World religions hold a treasure trove of values and moral teachings that can be applied to environmental conservation efforts. Likewise, Islam, as a religion that carries a humanitarian mission and cares for nature, also has valuable contributions in the field of environmental ethics (Hassanpour, 2017).

One Muslim thinker who has made significant contributions to developing an understanding of environmental ethics from an Islamic perspective is Dr. Sayyed Hossein Nasr. A renowned scholar and philosopher, Dr. Nasr has explored the relationship between religion, philosophy, and environmental science through his work. Through his in-depth research and thought, Dr. Nasr has outlined how Islamic

principles can be applied to the treatment of nature and the environment (Sachedina, 2016).

Dr. Nasr's writings and speeches frequently emphasize the importance of viewing the universe as a sign of God's greatness and humans as God's vicegerent or representative on earth. This perspective affirms that humans have a moral responsibility to preserve, protect, and care for the universe. The concept of the vicegerent in Islam implies that humans are not arbitrary rulers over nature, but rather must act as wise and responsible stewards of God's creation (Izutsu, 2002).

Dr. Nasr's thoughts also underscore the importance of harmony between humans and nature. He emphasizes the need to avoid overexploitation of natural resources and environmental pollution (Nasr, 2007). Instead, he encourages developing a deep spiritual awareness and treating nature with respect and reverence. In this context, environmental ethics from an Islamic perspective encompasses not only individual actions but also a just social and economic dimension, where the distribution of natural resources must be equitable and justice must be upheld (Izutsu, 2002).

Through this research, the author aims to conduct an in-depth analysis of Dr. Sayyed Hossein Nasr's thoughts on environmental ethics from an Islamic perspective. The literature analysis was conducted by examining Dr. Nasr's written works and speeches related to environmental ethics and relevant Islamic concepts. In this process, the research focused on identifying the core of Dr. Nasr's thoughts, analyzing his arguments, and exploring his contributions to strengthening understanding of how Islamic values can be applied to environmental conservation efforts.

The results of this analysis are expected to provide deeper insight into the Islamic perspective on environmental ethics, as well as Dr. Sayyed Hossein Nasr's contribution to the development of this framework. It is also hoped that a better understanding of environmental ethics from an Islamic perspective will encourage positive reflection and action in preserving and protecting the environment.

Furthermore, a better understanding of environmental ethics from an Islamic perspective can also provide strong guidance for both Muslim and non-Muslim communities in facing current environmental challenges. By considering Dr. Nasr's views, it is hoped that a broader awareness of the importance of maintaining harmony between humans and nature and the need to develop an environmentally friendly lifestyle will emerge (Nasr, 2003).

Applying Dr. Nasr's ideas to everyday life can involve concrete actions such as the use of renewable energy, wise management of natural resources, and biodiversity conservation efforts. Furthermore, cooperation between Muslim and non-Muslim communities, as well as countries around the world, will also be a crucial factor in efforts to preserve the environment (Nasr, 2003).

To achieve this goal, it is crucial to promote environmental awareness and education broadly, informed by Dr. Nasr's thinking. Environmental education based on Islamic values can be instilled in educational institutions, mosques, and Muslim communities. Furthermore, Muslim religious leaders and intellectuals need to play an active role in advocating for sustainable environmental policies and actions.

In conclusion, Dr. Sayyed Hossein Nasr's thoughts on environmental ethics from an Islamic perspective provide a valuable contribution to environmental conservation efforts (Nasr, 1996). Through an analysis of his thoughts, it is hoped that this article can provide a deeper understanding of the Islamic perspective on

environmental ethics and inspire positive action in maintaining the sustainability of the universe, which is the shared home of all humanity.

METHOD

The method used in this article is a literature analysis approach to analyze Dr. Sayyed Hossein Nasr's thoughts on environmental ethics from an Islamic perspective (Nasr, 1996). This approach involves several structured steps carried out systematically. First, the author identifies primary literature consisting of Dr. Nasr's writings and speeches that specifically discuss environmental ethics and the Islamic perspective (Nasr, 2003). The selection of primary literature is based on its relevance, authenticity, and credibility as a primary source. Furthermore, the author also uses secondary literature consisting of books, articles, and other papers that discuss the same topic or related to Dr. Nasr's thoughts to support and complement the analysis (Rachmat, 2009).

After collecting primary and secondary literature, the author conducted a content analysis of the existing materials. The content analysis approach was used to identify the main themes, arguments, and views expressed by Dr. Nasr in his writings and speeches (Nasr, 2003). This analysis process involved careful reading, in-depth understanding, and systematic note-taking of relevant texts. Next, the author integrated and synthesized the data obtained from the analysis of primary and secondary literature (Iqbal, 2018). Data integration was carried out by comparing, contrasting, and identifying relationships as well as similarities and differences between the existing sources.

The final step is to interpret the findings obtained and initiate a broader discussion on the implications of Dr. Nasr's thoughts in the context of environmental ethics from an Islamic perspective (Malikl, 2020). In this section, the author considers the relevance and contribution of Dr. Nasr's thoughts in understanding and addressing current global environmental ethics challenges, as well as providing a deeper understanding of how environmental ethics can be integrated within the framework of religion and spirituality (Khan, 2017). Thus, the literature analysis approach used in this research method provides a strong and systematic foundation for analyzing Dr. Sayyed Hossein Nasr's thoughts on environmental ethics from an Islamic perspective.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Dr. Sayyed Hossein Nasr, a leading scholar in the fields of religion and philosophy, has made significant contributions to understanding and integrating environmental ethics from an Islamic perspective. His thinking reveals that Islamic teachings not only focus on the relationship between humans and God but also provide strong moral guidelines for preserving and protecting the natural environment. The following are the results and discussion of Dr. Sayyed Hossein Nasr's thinking on environmental ethics from an Islamic perspective:

Integration of Environmental Ethics in Islamic Teachings

Dr. Nasr is a scholar who considers environmental ethics an integral component of Islamic teachings. According to him, the Islamic view of the universe and all creatures within it is that they are signs of God's greatness (Nasr, 1996). This perspective affirms that the universe and life within it have profound value and meaning, and that humans, as part of God's creation, are given a moral responsibility to preserve and protect the environment.

In Islamic teachings, humans are given the role of caliph, or representative of God on earth. This means that humans have the responsibility to act as caretakers and guardians of nature. As caliphs, humans are entrusted with the trust and responsibility to preserve nature's diversity and maintain a harmonious balance between humans and nature.

This context highlights that environmental ethics in Islam emerged as a moral guideline that regulates human relations with nature. This ethic teaches that humans must appreciate, respect, and care for nature as a manifestation of God's majesty and power (Djahir Basyir, 2015). Its practice includes concrete actions such as sustainable management of natural resources, wise use of water, land, and energy, and protection of the flora and fauna that inhabit this planet.

Furthermore, environmental ethics in Islam emphasizes the importance of maintaining balance and justice in the relationship between humans and nature. Humans should not over-exploit natural resources or damage the environment for personal gain. Instead, humans are expected to maintain ecological balance and act responsibly in their use of natural resources.

Environmental ethics in Islam also encompasses respect for the beauty and diversity of nature. The universe, as a sign of God's greatness, possesses high aesthetic value. Therefore, humans are expected to preserve nature's beauty and respect the diversity of flora and fauna within it (Ariwidodo, 2014).

Harmony between Man and Nature

Dr. Nasr, a leading scholar, places strong emphasis on the importance of harmony between humans and nature in Islamic environmental ethics. His critical approach expresses his concern about the overexploitation of natural resources and environmental pollution, which violate fundamental Islamic ethical principles.

Dr. Nasr argues that overexploitation of natural resources demonstrates an imbalance and lack of wisdom in the use of God's gifts. According to Islamic teachings, humans are creatures tasked by God as caliphs on earth, meaning they have a moral responsibility to preserve, protect, and care for the universe created by God. Overexploitation and environmental damage are considered violations of this duty.

Dr. Nasr also highlighted the importance of developing a deep spiritual awareness in humanity's relationship with nature. In Islam, spirituality is seen as a path to understanding and appreciating God's greatness, reflected in the beauty and harmony of the universe. By developing a deep spiritual awareness, humans can treat nature with proper respect and reverence.

This spiritual awareness leads to a more responsible attitude toward the environment, fostering a strong sense of connection between humans and nature. It encourages humans to see nature as a manifestation of God's greatness and to recognize its right to remain intact and undisturbed. Appreciating nature as a sign of God's greatness is a form of respect for the Creator and His creation.

Furthermore, Dr. Nasr highlighted that environmental ethics in Islam also emphasizes the need to maintain ecological balance. Humans are not only obligated to maintain balance in their relationship with nature, but also to maintain balance within nature itself. Environmental pollution and ecosystem damage are considered violations of Islamic ethical principles, which encourage humans to act as caretakers and guardians of nature (Nasr, 2003).

In explaining the importance of environmental ethics in Islam, Dr. Nasr offers a critical perspective that reveals that overexploitation of natural resources and environmental pollution are contrary to Islamic ethical values and principles. He

emphasizes the importance of developing a deep spiritual awareness to treat nature with greater respect and reverence. Thus, Dr. Nasr's views broaden our understanding of the importance of maintaining harmony between humans and nature in the context of Islamic environmental ethics. Overexploitation of natural resources and environmental pollution, which are contrary to Islamic ethical principles, need to be avoided to ensure ecological balance and environmental sustainability (Yasir Said and Nurhayati, 2017). Deep spiritual awareness can be the foundation for treating nature with the respect and reverence it deserves, as a form of reverence for the creator and His existence. Therefore, adopting the principles of environmental ethics in Islam can help guide human actions to maintain harmony between humans and nature, for the sake of the sustainability of our planet.

Social and Economic Justice in the Context of Environmental Ethics

Dr. Nasr places strong emphasis on the importance of social and economic justice in the context of environmental ethics. In his view, the social inequalities and economic injustices inherent in the current system have a significant negative impact on the environment. Dr. Nasr highlights the urgency of addressing these issues, taking into account Islamic principles that emphasize the importance of justice in the management of natural resources and their equitable distribution to all members of society.

Islam is a religion that strongly opposes injustice, so the principle of justice is a fundamental foundation in various aspects of life, including the environmental context. Islam teaches the need for fairness in the management of natural resources, whether water, land, forests, or energy. Every individual and society has a responsibility to treat these resources fairly, taking into account the common good and long-term sustainability.

Dr. Nasr also highlighted the need for equitable distribution of access to and benefits from natural resources. Islam teaches that natural resources are a trust from God, and every member of society has an equal right to benefit from them. Therefore, an Islamic economic system should encourage equitable distribution and reduce social inequality. This will ensure that no group or individual unfairly controls natural resources or receives excessive benefits, while others suffer from deprivation or injustice.

Furthermore, Dr. Nasr also emphasized the importance of addressing economic injustice, which can negatively impact the environment. Economic injustice often leads to the overexploitation of natural resources to meet unbalanced material needs. Examples include over-extraction practices in the mining industry or irresponsible deforestation aimed at achieving substantial financial gains, while local communities and future generations suffer the destructive impacts of these actions. From an Islamic perspective, these actions contradict the principles of justice and environmental ethics, which require humans to maintain the balance and sustainability of nature (Nasr, 2003).

Ganzheitlich (Holistic) Approach in Islamic Environmental Ethics

Dr. Nasr emphasized the importance of a holistic approach from an Islamic perspective as a way to address the environmental crisis we face today. This holistic approach leads to a comprehensive understanding of nature and the complex relationships between humans, nature, and God within the framework of Islamic thought.

According to Dr. Nasr, it is important for everyone to have a deep understanding of the universe and recognize God's presence within it. The universe, according to Islamic teachings, is a sign of God's greatness. Every element in nature, be it plants, animals, mountains, rivers, or the sky, is God's creation, reflecting His power and wisdom. In understanding this, humans are expected to have a sense of awe and respect for the beauty and majesty of nature created by God. From an Islamic perspective, awareness of God's presence in the universe must be the basis for every action taken to protect the environment. Humans must understand that they are creatures appointed as God's caliphs or representatives on earth.

As caliphs, humans have a moral responsibility to act as caretakers and guardians of nature. Our actions in utilizing natural resources, preserving biodiversity, and preserving the beauty of nature must reflect an awareness of God's presence and our responsibility as His caliphs.

This holistic approach also emphasizes the importance of understanding the complex relationship between humans, nature, and God. Humans are not viewed as separate entities from nature, but as an integral part of it. Ecological balance and the sustainability of nature have a direct impact on human well-being. If humans overdo the exploitation of natural resources or damage the environment, it will negatively impact human life itself. Therefore, a holistic understanding of the relationship between humans, nature, and God within an Islamic framework helps guide our actions to maintain the balance and sustainability of nature.

The holistic approach emphasized by Dr. Nasr teaches us to view the environment as an integrated whole. Our actions in preserving the environment should not be limited to physical aspects but also encompass spiritual and ethical dimensions. Awareness of God's presence in the universe and our responsibility as His vicegerents should guide us in every action we take to preserve nature (Nasr, 1996).

In this regard, the ganzheitlich approach from an Islamic perspective offers a comprehensive and holistic framework for addressing the current environmental crisis. By understanding that the universe is God's creation, reflecting His greatness, we are reminded of the necessity to respect and preserve the environment. Awareness of God's presence in the universe also fuels our awe and respect for the beauty of nature and our responsibility as His vicegerents.

Through a holistic approach, we are reminded that protecting the environment is not a separate task from spirituality and ethics, but must be an integral part of our daily lives. In taking action to protect the environment, we must consider the moral consequences of each action. We must consider its impact on the sustainability of nature, ecological balance, and human well-being.

The ganzheitlich approach also encourages us to examine the complex relationship between humans, nature, and God. As caliphs on earth, humans have a moral responsibility to preserve and protect nature as a sign of God's greatness. Our actions in utilizing natural resources must be carried out wisely, preserving biodiversity and preserving the beauty of nature as a form of respect for the Creator and His existence.

Thus, a holistic approach from an Islamic perspective helps us develop a deeper understanding of the complex relationship between humans, nature, and God. Awareness of God's presence in the universe and our responsibility as His vicegerents guides our actions in preserving the environment. This approach enables us to integrate spiritual and ethical dimensions into every aspect of our lives, including

environmental stewardship, to achieve the sustainability and balance bestowed by God on our planet.

Consumerism Paradigm and Paradigm Change

Dr. Nasr advocates the need to shift the dominant consumerist paradigm in today's society. In his view, consumerism, which focuses on material possessions, has caused serious environmental damage and negatively impacted overall human well-being. Dr. Nasr emphasizes the importance of developing a new awareness that true happiness and abundance lie not in possessing abundant material goods, but in living simply and possessing a strong spiritual awareness.

The concept of asceticism in Islamic teachings plays a crucial role in addressing the consumerist paradigm. Asceticism can be translated as an attitude of emotional detachment from possessions and material wealth. Dr. Nasr encourages Muslims to cultivate asceticism in their daily lives, namely by distancing themselves from greed, avarice, and the uncontrollable desire for more material goods.

Furthermore, Dr. Nasr highlighted the importance of the values of moderation and justice in consumption. Islam teaches Muslims to avoid waste and excessive consumption. In this regard, awareness of the blessings that Allah has bestowed upon humanity should motivate Muslims to use resources wisely and share with others. Dr. Nasr encouraged the development of a responsible attitude toward consumption, which includes wise choices, frugal use, and an emphasis on justice in the distribution of resources (Nasr, 2003).

In an effort to change the paradigm of consumerism, Dr. Nasr encourages Muslims to live a simpler life and emphasize spiritual values. A strong spiritual awareness will help overcome limitless materialistic desires and direct focus on the search for deeper meaning in life. Thus, true happiness can be found in a simple life, where material fulfillment is not the primary goal, but rather awareness of God's existence and a meaningful life are the primary foundations.

By shifting the consumerist paradigm, developing a spirit of asceticism, and emphasizing the values of simplicity and justice, Muslims can participate in building a more sustainable and balanced society. In Dr. Nasr's view, this is a crucial step toward maintaining environmental sustainability and achieving true well-being based on spiritual awareness and noble values.

Environmental Justice and Fair Distribution

Dr. Nasr emphasized the importance of environmental justice and equitable distribution within the context of Islamic environmental ethics. For him, environmental justice means ensuring that all members of society, regardless of their social or economic background, have equal access to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

Islam demands and guides its followers to uphold equality. Equality and social justice are essential foundations in natural resource management. All humans are considered equal before God, and therefore, they have the right to benefit from the natural resources He provides. In this context, it is crucial to ensure a fair and equitable allocation of natural resources, so that no group of people is excluded or marginalized (Murni et al., 2021).

In practice, this involves having systems and policies that promote equitable access to natural resources and their equitable allocation for all members of society. For example, in the use of water, land, and energy, it is important to ensure that no one

group dominates the use of these resources while others suffer from shortages. Furthermore, it is necessary to consider the sustainability of resource use and maintain ecological balance in environmental management.

Dr. Nasr also highlighted the need for awareness and active participation from all members of society in maintaining environmental justice. This means that the responsibility lies not only with the government or relevant institutions, but also with each individual to contribute to maintaining a just and sustainable environment. This can involve being aware of one's impact on the environment, adopting environmentally friendly behaviors, and participating in environmental conservation and restoration efforts (Nasr 1996).

In the context of environmental justice, Islam also emphasizes the importance of maintaining harmony and balance between humans and nature. As caliphs on earth, humans have a responsibility to preserve and protect nature, a trust from God. Therefore, in maintaining environmental justice, humans must also consider how their actions affect ecological balance and the sustainability of nature.

Thus, it is crucial to adopt the principles of environmental justice within Islamic environmental ethics. This involves ensuring fair access to natural resources and their equitable allocation for all members of society. Furthermore, active individual participation and awareness in maintaining environmental justice are also crucial aspects of maintaining harmony between humans and nature.

Addressing the Environmental Crisis with a Holistic Approach

Dr. Nasr emphasized the importance of a holistic approach to addressing the environmental crisis we are facing. He believes that addressing today's environmental challenges requires a comprehensive understanding of the complex relationships between humans, nature, and God. This requires a deeper understanding of the universe as God's creation, filled with beauty and diversity.

According to Dr. Nasr's perspective, awareness of God's presence in the universe should be the foundation for every action taken to preserve and protect the environment. He believes that the universe is a sign of God's greatness, and as humans who depend on nature, we have a moral responsibility to act as caretakers and guardians of it. This holistic approach encompasses the understanding that the physical, ethical, and spiritual environments are interconnected and inseparable (Nasr 2003).

In an environmental context, a holistic approach involves considering physical, ethical, and spiritual aspects. Physically, we must maintain ecological balance and treat nature with respect. This means not overexploiting natural resources, avoiding environmental pollution, and adopting environmentally friendly practices. This understanding of ethics within a holistic approach emphasizes the importance of justice in the management of natural resources and ensuring their fair distribution to all members of society (M. DeMarco 2015).

However, a holistic approach not only considers the physical and ethical aspects but also incorporates the spiritual dimension. Dr. Nasr believes that a deep spiritual awareness can provide a strong foundation for treating nature with the respect and reverence it deserves. When we view nature as a manifestation of God's power and presence, we become more aware of our responsibility to protect and preserve nature as a form of respect for the Creator and His existence.

This holistic approach also highlights the importance of establishing a responsible and sustainable relationship with nature. This means developing an understanding that humans are part of nature and deeply dependent on it. Therefore, we must adopt mindsets and behaviors that respect nature's existence and maintain ecosystem balance. This involves respecting flora and fauna, preserving biodiversity, and treating nature as a living partner that we must care for.

Changing the Paradigm of Consumerism

Dr. Nasr proposes a paradigm shift away from the consumerism that dominates today's society. He emphasizes the importance of recognizing that true happiness and abundance depend not only on material possessions, but also on a simple life and a strong spiritual awareness. Dr. Nasr encourages Muslims to develop an attitude of *zuhud* (asceticism), a lack of attachment to worldly desires. He emphasizes the values of simplicity and fairness in consumption, which involve thoughtful and responsible consideration of the use of natural resources.

In his conclusion, Dr. Sayyed Hossein Nasr's thoughts on environmental ethics from an Islamic perspective highlight the importance of environmental justice, a holistic approach to addressing the environmental crisis, and a paradigm shift from consumerism to a simple life with a strong spiritual awareness. These findings and discussions provide valuable guidance for Muslims and society in general in addressing the environmental crisis and working towards sustainable practices. Implementing these principles requires collective efforts, policy changes, and individual commitment to address social and economic inequalities, foster a harmonious relationship with nature, and prioritize the well-being of present and future generations (Nasr, 1996).

CONCLUSION

Dr. Sayyed Hossein Nasr is a prominent scholar in the fields of religion and philosophy, particularly in the context of environmental ethics in Islam. He integrates environmental ethics as an integral part of Islamic teachings, emphasizing the moral responsibility of humans to preserve and protect nature as God's vicegerent on earth. His thinking emphasizes the importance of environmental justice, harmony between humans and nature, a holistic approach, and a paradigm shift from consumerism to simplicity and spiritual awareness. Implementing these principles requires a collective effort to address social and economic inequalities, maintain ecological balance, and prioritize the well-being of present and future generations.

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