

Molla Sadra

Articale's abstract of the 2th world
congress on transcendent philosophyy

May 21-25 2004 Tehran-Iran



Mullā Şadrā's Methodology

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Mullā Şadrā's methodology is one of the most important and controversial issues of his philosophy. The critics of Mullā Şadrā's philosophy, in the light of methodology, has given rise to various theories such as ecclesiasticism, comparative philosophy of Illuminationist Sinean philosophy in Suhrawardean style, a philosophy that enjoys a higher language of philosophical theology, a philosophy that enjoys various tools in the context of discovery. These are the main out looks that have been posed by the opponents and have been referred to by thinkers such as Muṭahhari, Henry Corbon, and Hā'iri Yazdī.

It can be said that Mullā Şadrā is the pioneer of inter-disciplinary studies in theology. This approach in the West has been started only two decades ago. Through in his theory Mullā Şadrā succeeded to remove many vague points in the method and structure of the Transcendent Philosophy such as the relationship between unveiling, demonstration (tasting and discussion) and intuition. The author has already referred to inter-disciplinary approach of Mullā Şadrā. In this paper he tries to explain Mullā Şadrā's success in his innovation and application.

There are various factors behind Mullā Şadrā's success in inter-disciplinary studies. These factors are divided into three groups of psychological, linguistic and logical ones. He was endowed with EQ and tolerance in his conduct which are counted among psychological factors. Mullā Şadrā's ability in establishing linguistic

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relation and dialogue with the masters of different arts and disciplines of two Islamic cultures are the examples of linguistic factor.

Logical factor pertains to Mullā Ṣadrā's innovative pattern in bringing about fruitful dialogue among various disciplines for solving theological problems. Through this pattern, Mullā Ṣadrā succeeded to develop his mastery over some inter-disciplinary studies and in the light of which he confronted with the challenges of different sciences. His holistic approach and deep insight are the result of discovering new theories in analyzing philosophical problems.

Second logical factor led Mullā Ṣadrā to realize the various sources of theological problems in two fields of metaphysics in general sense and metaphysics in particular sense. Issues such as faith, revelation, cognition, the relation of the world to God and the like have various origins and these issues can be analyzed only through inter-disciplinary approach otherwise it will lead to reduction and one-dimensional approach.

As far as the methodology of Mullā Ṣadrā is concerned, his followers are divided into two groups: 1- the scholars of inter-disciplinary such as Āqā 'Alī Nūrī, Ḥakīm Zunūzī, and 'Allāmah Ṭabāṭabā'i, 2- the scholars of several disciplines. The former, while advocating Mullā Ṣadrā's Transcendent Philosophy, were themselves founders as well. The latter were interpreters only.

Key words: methodology, Mullā Ṣadrā, inter-disciplinary studies, logical factor, innovation