

Religious beliefs, foundation of ethics

Question 1: what is the foundation of our beliefs?

question 2: how can ethics lead people of different schools of beliefs to the truth?

Question 3: can ethics be regarded as a base? And can economical issues be based upon it?

Answer: the only true definition for ethics should come from belief. If someone believes in the originality of instinct, then he counts his instincts the only criteria to evaluate values; each behavior which suppresses his instinct is not approvable and each behavior confirming his desires is approvable. In this school of belief, ethics is a vague unreliable issue.

Niche says,

*You should want yourself, worship yourself, and leave the weak ones to die. ... **supreme man** is the one ... knows himself as a God*

and destroys whatever against its being God, who is not afraid of danger, nor consciences.

According to this, we can infer the answer of second question. The only 100 percent true way of life should be based on logical reasons; the reasons which are based upon sound philosophical and religious school of thoughts.

To distinguish a good school of thought from different schools, the first step is to submit the basis of its belief to the logic. If logic rejects them, there would be no reason to evaluate its ethical or economical aspects even if in a glance we find its ethics or economical aspects true. If we submit it to the logic and it finds it true, even if we find one of its aspects questionable or unapprovable in its surface, we should accept that school of thought.

If we are going to choose between a school of thought which is vague in its foundation - though it has some approvable appearance - and the other one - which enjoys clear and firm foundation approvable in term of fitrat but some questionable aspects - a sound mind will choose the second one; though he couldn't understand the reasons of these unclear aspects. When we face a discrepancy between ethical issues to evaluate them, we should refer to religion (shar'ee) .

Briefly, in the response of second question, we can say the part of ethics which is understandable and it is rooted in our nature can help us to choose a school of thought amongst others. Also ethics – being a foundation for our practices, is not the base of religious beliefs. In this

way, ethics can be accounted as a reliable foundation if it is found on the firm base; it means it should be found on the 100 percent impeccable base otherwise it cannot be regarded as a sound reliable criteria to evaluate a school of thought upon.

In response to the third question: it is very true that ethics has undeniable impact on people's behavior ***“but when he tests him by restricting his provision, he says: 'my lord has humiliated me’”*** *(the holy qura;89:16)*

Islam wants to train people in the way that if all wealth and asset of this world welcome him or misfortunes comes to him and all things even his family hates him, his heart remains calm and strong.