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**ABSTRACT**

**Islam and the Exigencies of the Age**

*اسلام و مقتضيات زمان*

*Islam and the Exigencies of the Age* is about the ethics and epistemology of Shia Islam. Murtaza Mutahhari’s argument is based mostly on a series of speeches he made during the 1960s in Iran and the work therefore has a simple narrative. Mutahhari, known to have redefined the relationship between religion and society in twentieth-century Iran, tries to answer one of the most significant epistemological questions in Islamic philosophy: how can Islamic teachings, which belong to a time of 1400 years ago, be compatible with the age in which we now live? Mutahhari admits that there is no simple answer. Nonetheless, he highlights the universality of Islamic teachings and claims that in order to understand the relationship between age and Islam, one must first understand what he calls “the spirit of Islamic teachings”.

Accordingly, the first volume focuses on the history of Islamic ethics from a Shia perspective. Mutahhari differentiates the exigencies of people from the exigencies of the age and concludes that certain Islamic teachings, such as justice and morality, are ageless and everlasting.

In the second volume, Mutahhari focuses on the definition of age and the trends of history. He asks whether certain meanings and principles in human ethics can be redefined in different ages. He concludes that if the fundamental principles of human ethics were to be redefined based on the age, then the end result would be chaos. Mutahhari contends that this would be essentially against the “spirit of creation”.

Overall, Mutahhari’s approach to Islamic ethics is subjective, full of personal conviction rather than analytical, searching and coherent. Therefore, *Islam and the Exigencies of the Age* reads more as a book of religious sermon than a critical approach towards Islamic epistemology and philosophy.

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