

ETHICAL VALUES AND MORAL CAREER CHOICE

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Islamic philosophical thinking has not usually been welcomed by majority of Muslims. From marginal viewpoint Muslim philosophers are seen as problematizing, questioning and undermining Islamic tradition and orthodoxy. Due to this great deal of conservative Muslims looks at philosophers with suspicion. This can be said about many modern Muslims also, unfortunately.

What makes me unhappy is the fact that some of Islam's greatest philosophers are not adequately received and understood by Muslims, given their huge importance in developing an Islamic culture and civilization in the world. This article deals with Islamic philosophy and the role it has to play today. How can we make the tradition of reflective and critical thinking within Islam relevant for Muslims today?

In the past, sociologists and philosophers have proposed different outlooks on making so-called ethical career choices. Most notable among these ideas are the supposed moral high-ground of working in the charity sector and the consequentialist proposal that it is best to choose a high paying career so that more resources can be donated to humanitarian efforts. I will argue that both of these proposals for the most morally beneficent career are too simplistic to deal with the basic but complex question how should (in the moral sense) each person spend their life? Essentially the question being asked is how do I know which lifestyle is the right one?

Theories and Virtue Ethics to support the importance of character development by means of identifying the best intentions involved in making a decisions; accepting those with positive intentions and rejecting those choices with negatively motivated intentions. A discussion of the implications to the dignity of the human person and the motivations for making decisions in this way will be included. Finally, I must to briefly address potential objections and potential areas for future discussion and argue that we should adopt a method of career choice which focuses on individual intentions and character development which will more effectively uphold the dignity of the human person.

Consequentialist approach is too simplistic to realistically handle the question of ethical career choice. There are absolute moral goods, and these ought to be upheld. We can expect moral career decisions which act in accord with the moral good to have positive effects such as societal benefit and personal moral development. Hence, moral career choices can be made by evaluating intentions within a personal context which seeks the moral good. Using such a method will better serve to handle the complexities of such a decision while also seeking to uphold the dignity of the human person. Although the method outlined still has considerable flaws, it has the advantage of outlining a realistic approach for choosing a career in a moral framework. Hopefully, future thinkers can consider the details more thoroughly or provide other potential methods for career selection not based on Natural Law Theories.