

# The Possibility of a Teleological Interpretation of Islamic Ethics

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Original Research

## Abstract



Normative ethics is a significant branch of moral philosophy that delves into the discussion of criteria and standards for ethical value. Following the acquaintance of Muslim thinkers with Western ethics, some of them endeavored to present a teleological/consequential interpretation of Islamic ethics. Ayatollah Misbah Yazdi was the first to offer a teleological interpretation of Islamic ethics, although he did not choose a specific title or name for his theory and did not explicitly define it as either consequentialist or egoist. One contemporary ethicist has developed an egoistic / self-centered interpretation of Islamic ethics, naming it “Super utilitarianism,” while another contemporary ethicist, while embracing a consequentialist interpretation, has critiqued and modified J. Bentham's seven criteria based on the teachings and principles of the Quran. In fact, many Muslim ethicists, after examining the verses of the Quran, have deemed the Islamic ethical theory compatible with teleologism / consequentialism and have even presented egoistic interpretations of Islamic ethics. There is no doubt the before offering a teleological or egoistic interpretations of Islamic ethics, it is crucial to address the important question of whether teleologism / consequentialism is compatible with the foundations and teachings of Islam. This article examines the possibility of presenting a teleological interpretation of Islamic ethics.

## Keywords

Islamic ethics, Teleological ethics, Super utilitarianism, Consequentialism, Ethical egoism.

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