RELATION BETWEEN MORALITY, VIRTUE AND CIVILIZATION IN MEHMET AKİF ERSOY’S WORLD OF IDEAS

The world was undergoing a rapid change while Mehmet Âkif was growing. In this process three great empires fell apart, new economic relations and colonial attitudes stood out. Social and political crises burst there withal. He presented a realistic analysis of the value erosion which was effective in the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and also revealed by this collapse.

Mehmet Âkif who sees a close relationship between religion and morality states that moral virtues are developed and settled when faith is strong and vices arise when faith is weakened in hearts. Mehmet Âkif emphasizes that Islam is a religion of morality. He discusses morality in terms of the principles of Islam. He criticizes people who are seeking a basis for morality other than religion. He sees the spirit which makes us distinctive in view of West in these moral values and virtue. Backwardness of the Islamic world is a result of getting away from these values and falling into vices like laziness.

In his works he assesses the moral values such as good and evil, virtue and vices with in the social structure that humans are related. Moral virtues are emphasized in his works, especially justice, truth, courage, temperance, patience that take place in classical moral literature.

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