Concept of Humility (Tawadu) As A Virtue in Thought of Kinalizâde

Abstract

Kinalizâde (1510–1572) is an important Ottoman scholar and moralist who lived in the XVI. Century. sixteenth century Ottoman. His best well-known work Ahlâk-ı Alâî was the first book written in Turkish on moral philosophy. He details his views on ethics in his book Ahlâk-ı Ala’i, which analyses the practical philosophy in three sections. The first part contains the problems of individual morality and ethics in general, the second deals with family ethics and the third is about politics ethics and political philosophy.

This study consists of an analyzes the concept of tawadu’/humility and deals with its meaning, and how it is treated in Kinalizâde’s moral philosophy. The concept of modesty in dictionaries, to be humble, show modesty, to avoid arrogance, and similar meanings are used. This concept is opposite of being arrogant. Humility is the quality of being modest and respectful. Humility, in various interpretations, is widely seen as a virtue in many religious and philosophical traditions. Classification of the virtues of modesty Kinalizâde classical virtue, courage (şecaat) defines itself as a virtue, which exist in virtue. According to the understanding Kinalizâde humility, which is moderate, virtuous behavior. Middle of this virtuous excess, referred to as arrogant. This lack of virtue in the descent (tezellül) is called. In this respect the opinions of Aristotle maintained by Kinalizâde. Each of the virtues is a state of being that naturally seeks its mean to us. According to Kinalizâde, the virtuous habit of action is always an intermediate state between the opposed vices of excess and deficiency: too much and too little are always wrong; the right kind of action always lies in the mean. Kinalizâde’s notion of humility is a virtue, and indeed a central virtue; although that easy to distinguish between humility and arrogance, but otherwise it is a moral problem to distinguish.

Keywords: Kinalizâde Ali, Ethics, Ahlâk-ı Alâî, The virtue of tawadu, Virtue.