



YUSUF HAMDANI'S PHILOSOPHICAL VIEWS ON THE HARMONY OF HUMANITY AND NATURE

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Abstract: This article reveals Khoja Yusuf Hamadoni's views on the harmony between humans and nature through the analysis of his work "Treatise on the Subjugation of the Universe to Man".

Keywords: Being, universe, nature, norm, time, value, quality, quantity, fauna, flora, ecology, catastrophe.

In his *Treatise on the Submission of the Cosmos to Humans*, Yusuf Hamadani teaches that in order for humans to reach perfection in all aspects, they must achieve harmony with the universe. Humans were chosen from among all living beings to be the most honored and revered, yet this "choice" imposes on them more responsibility than privilege. Achieving harmony with the cosmos primarily requires a standard. In this context, humans are not only to take from nature but also to give back. In other words, humans must treat nature with care, use its blessings only within the scope of their needs, and, at times, "repair" it, compensating for the harm caused. All creatures of nature use nature's gifts only as needed. An animal, for instance, does not destroy grass once it has eaten, does not break a tree, does not disturb the soil, nor waste water. However, humans often fail to follow this rule. Here, the soul (nafs) urges them to engage with nature greedily and brutally. Due to human greed, cruelty, and insatiability, nature constantly suffers, and its invaluable resources are gradually depleted. Humans fail to realize that their unjust treatment of nature will eventually lead to disaster, and even if they are aware of it, they remain indifferent.

The technocratic development based on human selfishness has reached such a dangerous point that it seems as though the life of Mother Nature, which has evolved over millions of years in harmony, is now nearing its end. The development of the animal and plant world has been altered drastically as humanity has followed a consumerism-based growth model, ravaging Mother Nature and completely changing its ecological appearance. Of course, the importance of technocratic development for human happiness and well-being cannot be denied. However, no step toward development should be taken at the expense of violating nature.

One of Yusuf Hamadani's works that addresses very relevant issues for today's world is *The Treatise on the Submission of the Cosmos to Humans*. This treatise is written in Arabic and titled *Risalah fi Annal-Kawna Musakhkha lil-Insan*. Among the many scholars who have researched this work, it is necessary to particularly acknowledge the Turkish scholar of the Naqshbandi order, Najdat Tüsün, and our own compatriots, Saifuddin Saifullah and Nodirkhon Hasans. Moreover, the thorough social-philosophical and moral-ethical analysis of the treatise



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can be found in the 2016 monograph *Yusuf Hamadani – Teacher of the Seven Masters* by Gulchehra Navruzova and Nigora Nurmatova.

Looking at the history of Sufi teachings, we do not come across works that discuss the relationship between humans and the cosmos, humans and nature, and their role in the world and the significance of existence for human life and perfection. This suggests that Yusuf Hamadani, while being a Sufi Sheikh, was also concerned with worldly matters. As he always emphasized, he was constantly in a state of "alertness in the moment," "attention to each step," "journey in the homeland," and "solitude in the gathering."

The core idea in the content of his work *Rutbat al-Hayat* is that humans were chosen by Allah to be the first, the most honored, and the ruler of all creatures. This idea is further developed in his *Treatise on the Submission of the Cosmos to Humans*. In the opening of the treatise, the author praises Allah and emphasizes that humans, created by Allah, are weak and in need. Allah created everything in the universe interconnected and made them dependent on humans. He also highlights that, according to verse 13 of Surah Al-Jathiya, humans are made responsible for all living beings: "He subjected to you all that is in the heavens and on the earth." Humans must understand this responsibility through the intellect granted to them and recognize that the universe is a trust given to them.

According to the author, the relationship between humans and the cosmos must be balanced for the human to achieve perfection. The treatise elaborates that the relationship between humans and the cosmos is based on mutual need and interdependence. "In truth, the cosmos [existence] is weak because it is entrusted to your service. You are also weak and in need. The world was subjected to you because you are in need of benefits, utilities, and suitable things. The value and superiority of the cosmos are clearly understood, as it is useful to you. Your superiority over the cosmos is also clear because you can make use of its beneficial and pleasurable aspects. Therefore, while the cosmos is weak in one aspect, it is also noble in its service. On one hand, you are the ruler of the universe, and on the other hand, you are weak and in need."

Yusuf Hamadani believes that the weakness of the cosmos lies in its dependence on humans, and its superiority lies in the fact that humans live with the help and service of the cosmos. The human weakness is evident in the fact that they cannot live without the cosmos. The human nobility, however, is expressed in their ability to use the world and the universe through their senses to experience life.

The cosmos, through all the senses of humans, is an interconnected existence, encompassing everything in it: the world, all events, creatures, and phenomena. Its existence is based on the interconnection of everything within it. Hence, although the cosmos may seem to be at human command, the reality is that humans are more dependent on the cosmos, and their submission to it is a higher truth.

In his *Treatise on the Submission of the Cosmos to Humans*, Yusuf Hamadani lists the elements and blessings of the cosmos one by one, explaining their significance for humans and their role in human perfection.

Human desires and needs have no limit. If these desires and wishes are subordinated to patience and contentment, they will serve only goodness. Otherwise, humans will not only harm themselves but also create difficulties for their contemporaries and the environment. According to Hamadani, when a person realizes the limits of their desires and will, it has a



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positive effect on their body and soul. This realization prevents them from complaining to the rulers and to God about what is under their control.

In conclusion, Yusuf Hamadani's *Treatise on the Submission of the Cosmos to Humans* is an invaluable work that addresses pressing issues relevant today and offers solutions. This historical source continues to serve as a guide for educating the younger generation about respecting nature, understanding the increasing ecological risks, preventing them, and establishing a just government and a virtuous society.

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