

E-ISSN: 2582-2160 • Website: www.ijfmr.com • Email: editor@ijfmr.com

Human Psychology and Spiritual Development: An Islamic Perspective

Dr. Abroo Aman Andrabi

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi

Abstract

This paper explores the interconnection between human psychology and spiritual development from an Islamic perspective. Rooted in divine revelation (wahy), Islamic psychology provides a comprehensive understanding of the human soul and its faculties, including nafs (self), qalb (heart), 'aql (intellect), and ruh (spirit), to achieve self-purification (tazkiyat al-nafs) and moral excellence (akhlaq). These elements are integral to fulfilling the higher purpose of human existence: servitude to God (ubudiyyah) and stewardship of the earth (khilafah). Unlike mainstream Western psychological models that often emphasize cognitive and behavioral mechanisms, the Islamic framework integrates spiritual, moral, and intellectual dimensions grounded in the Qur'an, Sunnah, and the works of classical scholars such as al-Ghazali and Ibn Taymiyyah. Emphasizing tazkiyat al-nafs as the path to ethical conduct and spiritual elevation, this study also engages with contemporary scholars like Malik Badri and explores the growing relevance of Islamic psychology in modern therapeutic and academic contexts. Ultimately, the Islamic model presents a comprehensive, faith-based approach to human development, harmonizing reason, emotion, and spirituality.

Keywords: Islamic psychology, tazkiyat al-nafs, nafs, qalb, 'aql, spiritual development, moral excellence

Research Objectives: This research aims to explore the relationship between human psychology and spiritual development from an Islamic perspective, grounded in divine revelation and classical Islamic thought. The specific objectives:

- To examine the foundational components of the human self in Islam nafs (self), qalb (heart), 'aql (intellect), and ruḥ (spirit) as articulated in the Qur'an, Sunnah, and the writings of classical scholars such as al-Ghazali and Ibn Taymiyyah.
- To investigate the process of tazkiyat al-nafs (purification of the soul) as a central mechanism for spiritual and moral development in the Islamic tradition.
- To compare and contrast the Islamic psychological framework with major Western psychological models.
- To evaluate the contemporary relevance of Islamic psychology in addressing psychological and spiritual well-being.

Research Question:

1. What are the important psychological and spiritual faculties of the human being according to Islamic teachings?



E-ISSN: 2582-2160 • Website: www.ijfmr.com • Email: editor@ijfmr.com

- 2. How is tazkiyat al-nafs conceptualized and implemented within Islamic psychology?
- 3. How can the integration of Islamic psychological principles contribute to contemporary mental health and spiritual well-being?

Introduction

Human psychology is a scientific discipline concerned with understanding mental functions and behaviors in individuals and groups. As a central branch of the social sciences, psychology aims to explore the mechanisms underlying thought processes, emotions, motivations, development, personality, and social interactions (Myers & DeWall, 2022). It synthesizes empirical research, theoretical models, and clinical practice to offer insight into both typical and atypical psychological functioning. Major subdisciplines include biological psychology, which examines the physiological bases of behavior such as the brain, nervous system, and genetics; cognitive psychology, which investigates internal mental processes like perception, memory, and problem-solving; and developmental psychology, which studies psychological growth across the lifespan (American Psychological Association, 2020).

Social psychology examines the impact of social environments and culture on behavior, whereas clinical psychology concentrates on diagnosing and treating mental disorders. Personality psychology examines individual differences, and industrial-organizational psychology applies psychological principles to workplace settings (Feist et al., 2021). Core concepts such as motivation, emotion, perception, memory, and consciousness form the foundation for understanding how individuals adapt, make decisions, and relate to others across various domains, including education, healthcare, and public policy (Myers and DeWall, 2022).

The study of human psychology in Islam diverges fundamentally from Western psychological paradigms by anchoring its understanding of the human self in divine revelation (wahy). Islamic psychology emphasizes the integration of spiritual, moral, cognitive, and emotional dimensions of the human being, offering a holistic model centered on the concepts of nafs (self), qalb (heart), 'aql (intellect), and ruḥ (spirit). Through this framework, the Islamic tradition advances a model of the self whose development and healing are pursued not solely through behavioral modification or cognitive restructuring, but through tazkiyat al-nafs (purification of the soul), with the ultimate goal of achieving closeness to God and moral excellence (Badri, 2013; Rizvi, 2011).

Core Elements of the Human Psyche in Islamic Psychology

The Islamic conception of the human psyche is multidimensional, encompassing the following important abilities:

Nafs (Self or Ego): The nafs represents the self in its moral and psychological dimensions. The Qur'an identifies three primary states: nafs al-ammarah (the commanding soul that incites to evil; Qur'an 12:53), nafs al-lawwamah (the self-reproaching soul; Qur'an 75:2), and nafs al-muṭmainnah (the soul at peace; Qur'an 89:27 - 30). This dynamic view reflects a moral continuum along which the self can ascend or descend based on its ethical and spiritual engagement. Al-Ghazali (d. 1111), one of the most influential scholars in Islamic thought, provided a profound psychological and spiritual framework in his important work Iḥya 'Ulum al-Din (The Revival of the Religious Sciences). He described the nafs (self or soul) as a dynamic entity that can incline toward either base desires or spiritual elevation. According to Al-Ghazali, the nafs is not inherently evil but requires purification (tazkiyah) to fulfill its higher potential. This purification is achieved through consistent remembrance of God (dhikr), ritual worship, ethical behavior,



E-ISSN: 2582-2160 • Website: www.ijfmr.com • Email: editor@ijfmr.com

and spiritual discipline. Through these means, the nafs can transition from its lowest state (nafs alammarah, the commanding self) to higher, refined states, culminating in nafs al-muṭmaʾinnah (the tranquil self), as described in the holy Qur'an in chapter no. 89 verse no. 27 (al-Ghazali, 2002).

Qalb (Heart): In Islamic psychology, the qalb is not merely an emotional center but the spiritual core of perception and receptivity to divine truth. A sound heart (qalb salim) is a precondition for salvation (Qur'an 26: 88 - 89). Unlike many Western psychological paradigms, which center cognition and consciousness in the brain, Islamic thought identifies the qalb (heart) as the core of human consciousness, moral discernment, and spiritual perception. In the Qur'anic worldview, the qalb is not merely a physical organ but a spiritual faculty that perceives truth, guides ethical behavior, and connects the individual to God. As Nasr (1997) explains, the heart in Islam is the seat of divine presence, humility, and inner illumination, reflecting its elevated status in the metaphysical hierarchy of the human soul.

Classical scholars such as Ibn Taymiyyah (d. 1328) elaborated on this view, asserting that the heart governs human action through its openness to or rejection of divine guidance. According to him, moral rectitude begins with the purification of the heart, which then directs the intellect and body toward righteousness. This concept underpins practices like tazkiyat al-nafs (purification of the soul), where spiritual health is directly linked to the state of the qalb. Therefore, Islamic psychology promotes a holistic model in which the heart, not the brain, is the primary center of moral consciousness and receptivity to divine truth.

Aql (Intellect): The 'aql functions in close harmony with revelation. It is not an autonomous rational faculty divorced from spirituality, but is guided and enlightened by the Qur'an. It is an instrument for reflection (tafakkur), allowing humans to reason, self-examine, and understand divine signs. It works best when illuminated by revelation (wahy) (Qur'an 3:190 – 191, 8:22), thus contributing to ethical reasoning and self-regulation (Al-Attas, 1990).

Classical scholars like Fakhr al-Din al-Razi and Ibn Rushd wrote extensively on harmonizing reason with faith. Fakhr al-Din al-Razi emphasized rational inquiry within the bounds of Islamic creed. He believed that reason, when properly applied, supports and clarifies the truths of faith. In his major works like Al-Mabaḥith al-Mashriqiyya and Al-Tafsir al-Kabir, he systematically employed logic and philosophical reasoning to explain theological concepts, aiming to protect Islamic belief from philosophical skepticism. Ibn Rushd in his famous work Faṣl al-Maqal fi ma bayn al-ḥikma wa al-shari'a min al-ittiṣal ("The Decisive Treatise on the Harmony of Religion and Philosophy"), argued that there is no contradiction between religion and philosophy, as both ultimately aim to uncover truth. He asserted that rational investigation, far from undermining faith, enhances one's understanding of divine revelation.

Ruḥ (Spirit): The ruḥ is the divine breath instilled in humans (Qur'an 15:29), representing the metaphysical and transcendent aspect of human existence. While secular psychology often focuses solely on observable behavior, cognition, and neurobiology, typically neglecting metaphysical dimensions like the soul, Islamic psychology maintains the ruḥ (spirit) as a central ontological reality. In Islamic thought, the ruḥ is divinely bestowed and represents the core of human existence, transcending material explanations of the self. It is through the ruḥ that the individual remains connected to God (Allah), and it is this spiritual essence that gives life its ultimate meaning and purpose.

Early Muslim scholars, such as Abu Zayd al-Balkhi (9th century), recognized the importance of spiritual consciousness in maintaining psychological well-being. As cited in Haque (2004), al-Balkhi emphasized a general understanding of mental well-being, where the health of the body, mind, and soul is interdependent. This view contrasts sharply with secular models, which tend to isolate mental health from



E-ISSN: 2582-2160 • Website: www.ijfmr.com • Email: editor@ijfmr.com

spiritual and moral development. In Islamic psychology, spiritual awareness, remembrance of God (dhikr), and moral refinement are considered essential components of emotional and psychological balance.

These components are interrelated and operate synergistically. The balance among them determines the psychological and spiritual state of the individual, underscoring the need for inner harmony and alignment with divine guidance.

Struggle Between Good and Evil: Nafs al-Ammarah and Nafs al-Mutmainnah

Islam recognizes an inner moral and psychological struggle that each person experiences. Islamic psychology presents a detailed understanding of the inner moral and psychological struggles that characterize human existence, centered on the concept of the nafs (self). The nafs is viewed as a dynamic entity that exists in various states, each reflecting a different level of spiritual and moral development. Nafs al-Ammarah (the commanding self) represents the lowest level of the self. It is inclined toward evil (sharr), driven by unchecked desires, arrogance, and heedlessness. The Our an references this state in

(sharr), driven by unchecked desires, arrogance, and heedlessness. The Qur'an references this state in Surah Yusuf (12:53), acknowledging the self's potential to command toward wrongdoing unless guided by divine mercy.

Nafs al-Muṭmainnah (the tranquil or peaceful self) represents the highest level of the self. It is characterized by inner peace, spiritual contentment, and surrender to the Almighty's will. This elevated state is marked by ethical conduct, sincere worship, and constant remembrance (dhikr) of the Almighty. It is mentioned in Surah al-Fajr (89: 27–30) as the soul invited to return to its Lord "pleased and pleasing." This moral psychological model parallels concepts in modern psychology, particularly the Freudian idea of internal conflict between the id (instinctual drives) and the superego (moral conscience). However, the Islamic model integrates this struggle within a spiritual and metaphysical framework, in which the soul's journey involves not only self-control but divine alignment and moral purification.

Tazkiyat al-Nafs: The Core Therapeutic Process

At the core of Islamic psychology lies the concept of tazkiyat al-nafs - the purification, discipline, and refinement of the self. It is not merely a psychological process but a comprehensive moral and spiritual undertaking that integrates inner transformation with ethical behavior and divine consciousness. This process aims to liberate the soul from base impulses and align it with the higher truths of the Islamic spiritual path.

Tazkiyah involves several important practices:

- Muraqabah (Self-Awareness): Muraqabah refers to a state of constant self-awareness and spiritual watchfulness, rooted in the consciousness that God is always present and observing. In Islamic psychology and spirituality, this awareness is not merely intellectual but deeply experiential, shaping how one thinks, feels, and behaves in daily life.
 - By internalizing the belief that God sees all actions and intentions, the individual becomes more ethically vigilant, striving to align their behavior with divine guidance. This heightened self-monitoring fosters sincerity (ikhlas), humility, and restraint from sinful behavior. Muraqabah thus acts as a powerful moral compass, encouraging introspection and accountability in all aspects of life.

It is often linked with the prophetic saying (hadith) of Ihsan, described as:

"To worship God as though you see Him, and if you cannot see Him, know that He sees you." (Ṣaḥiḥ al-Bukhari, 50).



E-ISSN: 2582-2160 • Website: www.ijfmr.com • Email: editor@ijfmr.com

As a spiritual discipline, muraqabah is cultivated through remembrance (dhikr), reflection, and mindfulness of intentions, serving as a cornerstone in the broader process of tazkiyat al-nafs (purification of the self).

• Muḥasabah (Self-Accountability): Muḥasabah refers to the practice of regular introspection and self-evaluation, where a person critically examines their intentions, thoughts, and actions in light of ethical and spiritual standards. Rooted in the Qur'anic call to "Let every soul look to what it has sent forth for tomorrow" (Qur'an 59:18), muḥasabah is a core discipline in tazkiyat al-nafs (self-purification). Through muḥasabah, individuals hold themselves accountable before being held to account by God, as advised by the early Muslim scholar 'Umar ibn al-Khattab:

"Call yourselves to account before you are called to account." (Ibn Abī al-Dunyā in *Muḥāsabat al-Nafs*).

This practice promotes moral vigilance, sincerity (ikhlaṣ), and spiritual growth, encouraging the believer to seek forgiveness (tawbah), correct faults, and renew their commitment to ethical living. In Islamic psychology, muḥasabah serves as a tool for developing conscience, inner discipline, and a deep sense of personal responsibility before God.

- Jihad al-Nafs (Struggle Against the Ego): Jihad al-nafs, often referred to as the greater jihad, denotes the internal struggle to discipline the ego (nafs) and resist base desires that lead away from moral and spiritual integrity. Unlike external forms of struggle, this inward battle focuses on overcoming selfishness, pride, anger, greed, and other destructive tendencies. In Islamic tradition, the nafs is viewed as naturally inclined toward desire and heedlessness unless purified through spiritual discipline. The struggle of jihad al-nafs involves continuous effort to realign the self with divine guidance, prioritizing obedience to God over personal whims. This process requires patience (sabr), sincerity (ikhlas), and active resistance to moral complacency. The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) reportedly said after returning from a military expedition:
 - "We have returned from the lesser jihad to the greater jihad the struggle against the self." (Though the hadith's chain is debated, the concept is widely accepted in Islamic ethics. Many Islamic scholars and Sufi writers have used it metaphorically to emphasize the importance of internal jihad (*jihad alnafs*) as a lifelong spiritual battle.) It emphasizes that the internal struggle against one's own desires and temptations is more difficult and important than fighting external enemies, which is considered the "lesser jihad". The "greater jihad" is the effort to purify one's heart, do good, and avoid evil, according to Learning for Justice. In Islamic psychology, jihad al-nafs is foundational to tazkiyat alnafs (self-purification), fostering inner strength, ethical resilience, and spiritual maturity.
- **Dhikr** (**Remembrance of God**): Dhikr, meaning "remembrance," refers to the intentional and continual recollection of God through words, thoughts, and actions. In Islamic psychology, dhikr is a central spiritual practice aimed at strengthening the heart's connection to the Divine, calming the soul, and anchoring one's consciousness in divine presence.
 - Dhikr can take many forms—verbal recitation of God's names (asma' Allah al-ḥusna), Qur'anic verses, praise, or supplication as well as silent contemplation. It is prescribed in the Qur'an:
 - "Verily, in the remembrance of God do hearts find rest" (Qur'an 13:28).
 - Psychologically, dhikr serves as a means of emotional regulation, spiritual grounding, and moral focus, countering distractions and base impulses of the nafs. It also fosters traits such as gratitude, patience, humility, and trust in God (tawakkul).



E-ISSN: 2582-2160 • Website: www.ijfmr.com • Email: editor@ijfmr.com

In the broader process of tazkiyat al-nafs (purification of the self), dhikr is not merely ritual - it is a transformative state of awareness, where the believer becomes mindful of God in all circumstances, enhancing both spiritual insight and psychological well-being.

- **Tawbah (Repentance):** Tawbah, meaning repentance, refers to the sincere act of turning away from sin and returning to God. In Islamic psychology, tawbah is not only a theological concept but also a powerful process of moral repair, emotional healing, and spiritual renewal. Tawbah involves more than regret; it includes:
 - o Recognizing and admitting one's wrongdoing,
 - o Feeling sincere remorse,
 - o Desisting from the sin immediately,
 - Resolving never to return to it, and
 - o Seeking forgiveness (istighfar) from God.

The Qur'an frequently emphasizes God's mercy and readiness to forgive:

"O My servants who have transgressed against themselves, do not despair of the mercy of Allah. Indeed, Allah forgives all sins" (Qur'an 39:53).

Psychologically, tawbah helps individuals release guilt, rebuild self-worth, and reorient their behavior toward virtue. It reinforces moral accountability and promotes spiritual resilience, allowing the self (nafs) to ascend from a state of heedlessness (nafs al-ammarah) toward tranquility (nafs al-muṭmainnah).

In the journey of tazkiyat al-nafs (self-purification), tawbah is an essential step in aligning one's heart and actions with divine purpose and ethical integrity.

• Emulation of Prophetic Character: A fundamental aspect of tazkiyat al-nafs (purification of the self) in Islamic psychology is the emulation of the Prophet Muhammad's (peace and blessings be upon him) character. The Prophet serves as the exemplary model of moral excellence and spiritual virtue, guiding believers in cultivating traits essential for psychological well-being and ethical living.

The important virtues emphasized include:

- o Humility (tawādu'): Recognizing one's limitations and submitting sincerely to God without arrogance.
- o Patience (sabr): Enduring trials and adversities with steadfastness and calm.
- o Sincerity (ikhlas): Performing actions purely for the sake of God, free from hypocrisy or self-interest.
- O Compassion (raḥmah), honesty (ṣidq), justice (ʿadl), and trustworthiness (amānah) also form critical elements of prophetic character.

By striving to internalize and practice these qualities, Muslims not only purify their hearts but also foster healthy psychological states such as emotional resilience, social harmony, and a purposeful sense of identity.

The Qur'an commands believers to:

"Indeed, in the Messenger of Allah you have a good example to follow for him who hopes in Allah and the Last Day and remembers Allah often" (Qur'an 33:21).

Thus, emulation of the Prophet's character is both a spiritual aspiration and a practical guide for personal development within Islamic psychology.

This therapeutic model aims not only for emotional or cognitive well-being but for spiritual transcendence and ethical integrity, fostering a state of inner peace (sakinah) and divine satisfaction (riḍa). It differs significantly from modern psychotherapeutic approaches, which may lack an ultimate moral or spiritual telos.



E-ISSN: 2582-2160 • Website: www.ijfmr.com • Email: editor@ijfmr.com

Through these methods, tazkiyat al-nafs serves as the foundation for spiritual growth and psychological well-being in Islam. It reflects an integrated model where moral, emotional, and spiritual health are interdependent, rooted in both individual discipline and divine orientation (Badri, 2000; Nasr, 1997).

Contrast with Western Psychological Patterns

Mainstream Western psychology has emerged predominantly from a secular, materialist worldview, shaped by Enlightenment rationalism and empirical science. As such, it often emphasizes biological determinism, cognitive-behavioral models, and psychodynamic theories (Corey, 2017). Several defining features include:

- A focus on observable behaviors and measurable cognitive processes, typically excluding metaphysical or spiritual dimensions.
- Ethical relativism, with no absolute moral framework—morality is often viewed as socially constructed or subjective.
- A prioritization of self-actualization, autonomy, and individual happiness as central therapeutic goals (e.g., Maslow's hierarchy of needs).
- Limited integration of spirituality, though some subfields like transpersonal or existential psychology have begun addressing spiritual concerns (Richards & Bergin, 2005).

While Western psychology has provided valuable frameworks for understanding mental processes and disorders, it often struggles to address existential, moral, or spiritual crises completely. The lack of teleological purpose, divine accountability, and objective moral grounding may lead to fragmented conceptions of the self and well-being.

In distinction, Islamic psychology offers a holistic model that integrates the spiritual, moral, and psychological dimensions of the human being. It views humans as ensouled moral agents with a divine purpose, subject to divinely revealed ethical norms and accountable for their choices. This framework restores meaning and balance by connecting psychological health with spiritual consciousness, moral discipline, and the pursuit of God's pleasure.

Implications for Modern Psychological Practices

Integrating Islamic psychological concepts into contemporary mental health practice has significant implications, particularly in Muslim - majority societies or among practicing Muslims worldwide. Western psychological models, though clinically useful, often operate within secular, individualistic paradigms that may not fully resonate with the spiritual worldview of Muslim consumers.

The essential considerations include:

- Redefining mental distress: Conditions like depression or anxiety may be understood not solely as neurochemical disorders but also as spiritual imbalances or crises of meaning, requiring more than medication or cognitive restructuring.
- Faith-based coping: Practices such as prayer (salah), remembrance of God (dhikr), trust in divine will (tawakkul), and repentance (tawbah) serve as spiritually grounded therapeutic tools that foster hope, resilience, and peace of mind.
- Nafs and behavior change: Understanding the inner dynamics of the nafs (self), including its stages from the commanding self (nafs al-ammarah) to the tranquil self (nafs al-muṭmainnah), offers a culturally coherent model for emotional regulation, moral accountability, and self-improvement.



E-ISSN: 2582-2160 • Website: www.ijfmr.com • Email: editor@ijfmr.com

These insights point to the need for Islamically integrated therapeutic models that are not only clinically effective but also aligned with consumers' faith, values, and worldview. Such models foster complete healing by addressing the psychological, ethical, and spiritual dimensions of human experience.

Contemporary Applications and Relevance

In recent decades, there has been a significant resurgence of interest in Islamic psychology as both an academic discipline and a clinical practice. Contemporary Muslim scholars and practitioners, such as Malik Badri, Abu Zayd al-Balkhi, and institutions like the International Association of Islamic Psychology have championed the integration of classical Islamic concepts with modern psychological methodologies to address the unique needs of Muslim populations (Haque, 2004; Badri, 2000). This revival is driven by a recognition of the spiritual and cultural dissonance often experienced when applying Western therapeutic models to Muslim consumers, especially in matters concerning identity, morality, and existential purpose. The renewed Islamic psychological framework seeks to develop therapeutic models grounded in the Qur'an, Sunnah, and the intellectual legacy of classical scholars such as al-Ghazali, al-Balkhi, and Ibn Qayyim. It emphasizes the provision of culturally and spiritually congruent care that aligns with Islamic values and deeply rooted concepts of the self (nafs), soul (ruh), and heart (qalb). Central to this approach is the integration of spiritual practices, such as dhikr (remembrance of God), salah (prayer), fasting, and tawbah (repentance) as essential tools for psychological healing and spiritual growth. Furthermore, this framework reframes mental health issues like trauma, depression, and anxiety within a moral and spiritual context, highlighting divine purpose, personal accountability, and resilience through faith.

This growing movement reflects a broader global trend toward faith-informed, culturally sensitive mental health care, affirming that psychological well-being in the Islamic tradition is deeply intertwined with spiritual integrity and moral consciousness.

Comparison of Islamic and Western Psychological Models

Elements of Islamic and Western psychological models are used to illustrate the conceptual differences and potential areas of integration.

Dimension	Islamic Psychology	Western Psychology
View of the Human	Holistic: body, mind, soul, spirit (nafs,	Primarily biological and
Being	qalb, 'aql, ruh)	psychological (body and mind)
Purpose of Life	To worship God and achieve inner	Varies: self-actualization, pleasure,
	peace through spiritual development	adaptation to environment
Core Concepts	Nafs (self), Qalb (heart), Ruh (spirit),	Id, ego, superego; unconscious
	Tazkiyah (self-purification)	drives; cognitive schemas
Nature of the Self	Innate inclination toward good	Blank slate (behaviorism), driven by
	(fitrah), but subject to corruption	unconscious desires (Freud), or
		constructed schemas (cognitive)
Cause of	Disconnection from God, spiritual	Trauma, chemical imbalance,
Psychological Distress	imbalance, dominance of nafs al-	maladaptive cognition, or behavior
	ammarah	



E-ISSN: 2582-2160 • Website: www.ijfmr.com • Email: editor@ijfmr.com

Therapeutic Goal	Purification of the self, spiritual elevation, alignment with divine will.	Relief of symptoms, improved function, behavioral/cognitive change
Treatment Approaches	Dhikr (remembrance), prayer, repentance, Sufi practices, moral discipline	CBT, psychoanalysis, medication, mindfulness, and behavior therapy.
Role of Spirituality	Central and essential to well-being	Often considered optional or secularized (e.g., mindfulness)
Ethical Foundation	Derived from the Qur'an, Sunnah, and Islamic moral teachings	Based on professional ethics, secular humanism, or cultural norms
Ultimate Healing	Through nearness to God and inner tranquility (nafs al-mutmainnah)	Through self-understanding, adaptation, or symptom resolution

Conclusion

The Islamic view of human psychology offers a God-centered and morally grounded approach that is different from many modern Western psychological theories. Based on teachings from the Qur'an and the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), it sees the human being as made up of four essential parts: nafs (the ego or lower self), qalb (the heart), 'aql (the intellect), and ruḥ (the spirit). These parts are not just symbols, they play real roles in shaping how a person thinks, feels, acts, and makes moral choices. All of them are connected through a process called tazkiyat al-nafs, or purification of the self, which helps a person grow mentally, morally, and spiritually.

Unlike many modern approaches that focus mainly on personal happiness, independence, or emotional control, the Islamic approach focuses on developing taqwa (awareness of God), strong moral character, and inner spiritual balance. In this view, true well-being comes from living a life with purpose and striving to become closer to God, not just from feeling good or achieving personal goals.

Today, even modern psychology is starting to recognize how important spirituality, purpose, and values are for mental health. Islamic psychology has a long and rich tradition of dealing with human behavior, emotions, and spiritual growth. Instead of rejecting science, it offers a broader way of understanding the mind, one that values both religious knowledge and scientific methods.

In today's world, where many people struggle with stress, confusion, and a lack of meaning, the Islamic model provides a powerful alternative. It shows that healing and growth are not just about treating symptoms, but about reconnecting with our deeper purpose. By bringing Islamic insights into modern psychology, we can create a more complete and culturally aware understanding of human nature, one that sees each person as a spiritual and moral being with a purpose beyond just the self.

References

- 1. Al-Attas, S. M. N. (1990). The concept of education in Islam: A framework for an Islamic philosophy of education. International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization.
- 2. Al-Ghazali. (2002). The alchemy of happiness (C. Field, Trans.). M.E. Sharpe. (Original work published 11th century).



E-ISSN: 2582-2160 • Website: www.ijfmr.com • Email: editor@ijfmr.com

- 3. Al-Ghazali. (2002). The revival of the religious sciences (Iḥya Ulum al-Din) (N. A. Faris, Trans.). Islamic Book Trust. (Original work written ca. 11th century CE).
- 4. Aftab Ahmad Malik (ed.). The State We Are In: Identity, Terror and the Law of Jihad. Amal Press, 2006.
- 5. American Psychological Association. (2020). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.).
- 6. Badri, M. (2000). Contemplation: An Islamic psychospiritual study. International Institute of Islamic Thought.
- 7. Badri, M. (2013). Psychotherapy from an Islamic perspective. International Institute of Islamic Thought.
- 8. Badri, M. (2000). Contemporary issues in Islamic psychology. Dar Al-Fikr.
- 9. Corey, G. (2017). Theory and practice of counseling and psychotherapy (10th ed.). Cengage Learning.
- 10. Corey, G. (2017). Theory and practice of counseling and psychotherapy (10th ed.). Cengage Learning.
- 11. Feist, G. J., Feist, J., & Roberts, T. A. (2021). Theories of personality (10th ed.). McGraw-Hill Education.
- 12. G. R. Bawany. Human Psychology in Islam, Islamic Publications Ltd., Lahore.
- 13. Haque, A. (2004). Psychology from an Islamic perspective: Contributions of early Muslim scholars and challenges to contemporary Muslim psychologists. Journal of Religion and Health, 43(4).
- 14. Holy Qur'an, (A. Yusuf Ali, Trans.). Islamic Book Service.
- 15. Holy Qur'an: Surah Yusuf (12:53), Surah Al-Qiyamah (75:2), Surah Al-Fajr (89:27–30).
- 16. IAIP (International Association of Islamic Psychology) www.islamicpsychology.org
- 17. Ibn Taymiyyah. (2010). Al-Fatawa al-Kubra (Vol. 5). Dar al-Kutub al- Ilmiyyah. (Original work ca. 14th century).
- 18. Ibn Abi al-Dunya, *Muhasabat al-Nafs* [Self-accountability]. Cairo: Maktabat al-Khanji.
- 19. Malik Badri. The Dilemma of the Muslim Psychologist. (London: MWH, 1979).
- 20. Myers, D. G., & DeWall, C. N. (2022). Psychology (13th ed.). Worth Publishers.
- 21. Nasr, S. H. (1997). Man and Nature: The spiritual crisis of modern man. ABC International Group.
- 22. Richards, P. S., & Bergin, A. E. (2005). A spiritual strategy for counseling and psychotherapy (2nd ed.). American Psychological Association.
- 23. Rizvi, S. A. (2011). Self-development and spiritual intelligence in Islam. Islamic Thought Research Institute.