

## VIEWS ON HUMAN NATURE IN THE EAST AND THE WEST

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**Annotation.** This work explores how Eastern and Western philosophical traditions interpret human nature. In Eastern thought, the human being is often understood in harmony with society, morality, and spiritual balance, while Western views frequently focus on individuality, rationality, and the struggle between personal freedom and social order. The study highlights similarities and differences in these perspectives, showing how cultural, religious, and historical contexts shaped them. It also emphasizes the relevance of these ideas for modern society and their influence on education, ethics, and personal development.

**Key words:** human, west, east, thought, human nature, moral purity, philosophy, harmony, essence of consciousness, individual, thinker, approach.

**Аннотация.** В данной работе исследуется интерпретация природы человека в восточных и западных философских традициях. В восточной мысли человек часто рассматривается в гармонии с обществом, моралью и духовным равновесием, в то время как западные воззрения часто фокусируются на индивидуальности, рациональности и борьбе между личной свободой и социальным порядком. Исследование выявляет сходства и различия в этих взглядах, показывая, как они формировались в культурном, религиозном и историческом контексте. Также подчёркивается актуальность этих идей для современного общества и их влияние на образование, этику и личностное развитие.

**Ключевые слова:** человек, запад, восток, мысль, человеческая природа, нравственная чистота, философия, гармония, сущность сознания, индивидуум, мыслитель, подход.

**Annotatsiya.** Ushbu maqola Sharq va G'arb falsafiy an'alarida inson tabiatining talqinini o'rganadi. Sharq tafakkuri ko'pincha shaxsni jamiyat, axloq va ma'naviy muvozanat bilan uyg'unlikda ko'radi, G'arb qarashlarida esa ko'pincha individuallik, ratsionallik, shaxsiy erkinlik va ijtimoiy tuzum o'rtasidagi kurashga e'tibor qaratiladi. Tadqiqot ushbu qarashlardagi o'xshashlik va farqlarni aniqlaydi, ular madaniy, diniy va tarixiy sharoitlarda qanday shakllanganligini ko'rsatadi. Shuningdek, u ushbu g'oyalarning zamonaviy jamiyat uchun dolzarbligini va ularning ta'lim, axloq va shaxsiy rivojlanishga ta'sirini ta'kidlaydi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** inson, g'arb, sharq, tafakkur, inson tabiati, axloqiy poklik, falsafa, uyg'unlik, ong mohiyati, individual, mutafakkir, yondashuv.

The question of human nature has long been one of the most important and important topics of philosophy. It is shaped by the specific philosophical views of each person about his decision, purpose and role in society. Eastern thought, in general, considered spirituality, morality, harmony as the main criteria, while Western thought analyzed man in the center of reason, freedom and individual consciousness. In three articles, a comparative analysis of the views of Eastern and Western thinkers on human nature is presented.

**Views on human nature in the East.** In Eastern philosophy, the approach to human nature is mainly based on the ideas of spiritual purification and moral perfection. The essence of a person is determined not only by physical, but also by spiritual, moral and divine aspects. Abu Nasr Al-Farabi in his work "Theories of the Virtuous City" describes a person as a "rational and social being". In his opinion, a person achieves happiness only through moral perfection and knowledge. For Al-Farabi, the highest virtue in human nature is the harmony of reason and moral purity. In his work "The Book of Wisdom", Ibn Sina interprets a person as a two-faced being: he has a physical body, but is spiritually created from divine essence. A person must

correctly direct the mind in his nature and strive for spiritual perfection. Imam Ghazali, a great figure in Islamic philosophy, argues in his work *The Alchemy of Happiness* that the human heart is like a "mirror" and that by purifying it, one can see the truth. Ghazali believes that spirituality is at the center of human nature. In Chinese thought, which has ancient roots in Eastern philosophy, human nature is also closely connected with morality. Confucius, in his work *"Lun-yu"*, says that man is naturally inclined to goodness, but through proper upbringing and social environment he reaches perfection. Lao Tzu, in his *"Dao De Jing"*, sees human nature in harmony with nature: the factor that destroys human nature is artificiality and excessive passion. Thus, for Eastern thinkers, the essence of human nature is the achievement of spiritual purity, inner harmony and spiritual perfection.

**Views on human nature in the West.** In the history of Western philosophy, the issue of human nature has been viewed primarily in relation to reason, freedom, and individuality. In his work *"The Republic,"* Plato divides the human soul into three parts - reason, anger, and lust. According to him, human perfection is the harmonious management of these parts of the soul. Aristotle, in his *"Nicomachean Ethics"*, defines man as "the possessor of reason" and emphasizes that happiness (eudaimonia) can only be achieved through a virtuous life. In modern Western philosophy, the essence of human nature has increasingly begun to be analyzed in terms of individual freedom and reason. Rene Descartes, with his famous phrase "I think, therefore I am," equates man with consciousness and thought. According to him, the true nature of man is determined not by the body, but by consciousness. Thomas Hobbes, in his *Leviathan*, sees man as a being who is naturally self-interested and "at war with all." Jean-Jacques Rousseau, on the other hand, proposes that man is inherently good, corrupted by society and culture. Immanuel Kant understands human nature through moral freedom. In his *Critique of Practical Reason*, he argues that the essence of man lies in the "inner moral law," that is, in the ability to govern himself. As a result, Western thought sees man as the center of reason, freedom, and personal responsibility. This approach highly values the individual nature of man and his worldly potential.

**Comparing Eastern and Western views.** Main Aspects Eastern Philosophy Western Philosophy Human Essence Spiritual and Spiritual Being Intellect and Individual Being Purpose Perfection, Spirituality, Harmony Freedom, Thinking, Self-Awareness Relationship with Society Harmony and Wholeness Independence and Personal Freedom Fundamental Value Morality and Spirituality Intellect and Freedom Thus, while Eastern thought interprets man as a being in harmony with the entire universe, Western philosophy sees man as an active, independent, and thinking being in the world. In conclusion, although the views on human nature in the East and the West differ, their common goal is to understand the essence of man and bring him to perfection. Eastern thinkers sought the well-being of society through the spiritual purity and moral perfection of man, while Western thinkers paved the way for progress through the development of human freedom and reason. In today's globalization, the harmonization of these two approaches remains an important philosophical task for the more harmonious development of humanity.

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