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EXPLORING ISLAMIC PHILOSOPHICAL IDEAS: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN REASON, REVELATION, KNOWLEDGE, AND ETHICS IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT

Islamic philosophy represents a significant intellectual tradition that explores the relationship between human existence, divine reality, knowledge, reason, morality, and the purpose of life. It provides a comprehensive framework for understanding the world through the integration of revelation, rational inquiry, spiritual awareness, and ethical responsibility. Islamic philosophical ideas have developed through the contributions of influential Muslim thinkers, including Al-Farabi, Ibn Sina, Al-Ghazali, Ibn Rushd, and other scholars whose intellectual contributions continue to influence contemporary discussions. This research explores the fundamental principles of Islamic philosophy and examines their relevance to modern intellectual, educational, ethical, and social challenges. Particular attention is given to the relationship between reason and revelation, the nature of knowledge, human freedom, moral responsibility, justice, and the unity of existence. The study employs a qualitative research methodology based on library research, document analysis, and thematic interpretation of contemporary academic literature published between 2023 and 2025. The findings suggest that Islamic philosophical thought offers an integrated approach to knowledge and human development by connecting intellectual reasoning with spiritual and moral values. The research further highlights that Islamic philosophy remains relevant in addressing contemporary problems, including moral uncertainty, intellectual fragmentation, social injustice, and the excessive materialism of modern society. It concludes that the integration of rational inquiry, divine guidance, and ethical responsibility can contribute to a balanced understanding of human life and the development of a more just and intellectually responsible society.

KEYWORDS:*Islamic Philosophy, Islamic Thought, Reason and Revelation, Islamic Epistemology, Human Existence, Moral Philosophy, Knowledge, Ethics, Justice, Spirituality, Tawhid, Contemporary Muslim Society.*

INTRODUCTION

Islamic philosophy is an important intellectual tradition that examines fundamental questions concerning existence, knowledge, truth, morality, human nature, and the relationship between humanity and God. It developed through the interaction of Islamic religious teachings, rational investigation, Greek philosophical traditions, and the intellectual contributions of Muslim scholars. Islamic philosophy does not simply focus on abstract theoretical questions; rather, it also explores how philosophical understanding can guide individuals toward moral improvement, spiritual awareness, and responsible participation in society. Its central foundation is the concept of Tawhid, which emphasizes the unity and oneness of Allah and provides an integrated understanding of existence. Through this perspective, the universe, human life, knowledge, and morality are understood as interconnected dimensions of a meaningful reality. Abrar, M., & Sari, C. M. (2026). Found thatOne of the most important aspects of Islamic philosophy is the relationship between reason and revelation. Human reason enables individuals to investigate the natural world, evaluate arguments, understand relationships, and develop intellectual knowledge. Revelation, on the other hand, provides divine guidance concerning spiritual realities, moral responsibilities, and the ultimate purpose of human existence. Muslim philosophers have examined how these two sources of understanding can work together without necessarily creating intellectual conflict. Recent discussions of Islamic epistemology demonstrate that the integration of reason, revelation,

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and metaphysical understanding remains an important subject in contemporary Islamic scholarship (Zackya & Moniruzzaman, 2024; Syafaq et al., 2024).Another significant dimension of Islamic philosophical thought concerns the nature and purpose of knowledge. Knowledge in Islam is not limited to the acquisition of information or the development of scientific skills. It also involves wisdom, intellectual responsibility, moral awareness, and the recognition of truth.

Classical Muslim philosophers developed different approaches to understanding knowledge, including rational investigation, logical argumentation, textual interpretation, and spiritual experience. Contemporary discussions continue to examine how these approaches can contribute to modern education and intellectual development. Islamic epistemology therefore offers an opportunity to challenge the separation between intellectual achievement and moral responsibility (Alkhadafi, 2024; Klinger, 2025).Islamic philosophy also provides important perspectives on human morality and social responsibility. Ethical principles such as justice, compassion, honesty, equality, moderation, and accountability are central to Islamic intellectual thought. These principles emphasize that human beings possess responsibilities toward themselves, other people, society, and the natural environment. Islamic philosophers have explored the relationship between knowledge and moral character, arguing that intellectual development should contribute to the improvement of human conduct. Recent research on Islamic ethics demonstrates the importance of incorporating moral and spiritual dimensions into contemporary discussions of education, social relationships, and ethical decision-making (Bektovic, 2024; R'boula et al., 2024).In contemporary society, Islamic philosophical ideas face new challenges resulting from globalization, technological development, cultural transformation, secularization, and changing social values. Ali, F., Bouzoubaa, K., Gelli, F., Hamzi, B., & Khan, S. (2025found that Modern individuals frequently encounter questions about personal freedom, scientific knowledge, artificial intelligence, environmental responsibility, economic inequality, and moral decision-making. Islamic philosophy can contribute to these discussions by providing a framework that combines rational evaluation with ethical principles and spiritual responsibility. For example, the concepts of Amanah (trust), Adl (justice), and Maqasid al-Shariah (objectives of Islamic law) can help establish ethical foundations for addressing modern social and technological challenges (Ali et al., 2025).

Therefore, exploring Islamic philosophical ideas is important for understanding the continuing relationship between traditional Islamic intellectual heritage and contemporary human concerns. Although classical philosophers developed their ideas in different historical and cultural contexts, their discussions of existence, knowledge, reason, freedom, and morality continue to provide valuable resources for contemporary philosophical investigation. This research examines these ideas through a critical and analytical approach, emphasizing their theoretical foundations and practical relevance. It argues that Islamic philosophy should be understood as a dynamic intellectual tradition capable of engaging with contemporary knowledge while maintaining its fundamental commitment to divine unity, human dignity, and ethical responsibility.

RESEARCH QUESTION

1. How do fundamental Islamic philosophical ideas concerning reason, revelation,

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knowledge, human existence, and morality contribute to addressing contemporary intellectual, ethical, and social challenges?

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

2. To examine the fundamental concepts and historical development of Islamic philosophical thought.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Islamic philosophy emerged as a major intellectual tradition through the interaction of religious teachings, rational inquiry, scientific investigation, and philosophical reflection. Muslim scholars developed philosophical approaches to questions concerning the nature of existence, the structure of the universe, human knowledge, and divine reality. Al-Farabi contributed significantly to political philosophy and the relationship between intellectual development and the ideal society. Ibn Sina developed influential philosophical discussions concerning metaphysics, causality, existence, and the human soul. Al-Ghazali examined the relationship between philosophical reasoning, religious belief, and spiritual understanding, while Ibn Rushd defended the importance of rational investigation and philosophical interpretation. These contributions established a diverse intellectual tradition that continues to influence contemporary philosophical discussions. Recent research by Klinger (2025) demonstrates that Islamic philosophical traditions also developed sophisticated theories of logic, conception, judgment, and knowledge beyond the classical period.The relationship between reason and revelation is one of the central subjects in Islamic philosophical thought. Reason represents the human capacity to investigate, interpret, compare, and evaluate information, while revelation provides divine guidance concerning matters of faith, morality, and ultimate reality. Islamic intellectual traditions have developed different approaches to understanding the relationship between these sources of knowledge. Some emphasize the importance of rational interpretation, whereas others highlight the authority of revealed texts and spiritual understanding. Zackya and Moniruzzaman (2024) explain that contemporary debates concerning Islamic epistemology involve different intellectual approaches, including Islamization of Knowledge, radical reform, and Maqasid methodology.

Islamic epistemology examines the sources, nature, limitations, and validity of human knowledge. It recognizes the importance of revelation, reason, observation, and spiritual awareness in the process of understanding reality. The concepts of Bayani, Burhani, and Irfani are particularly relevant to discussions of Islamic knowledge. Bayani emphasizes textual interpretation and linguistic reasoning, Burhani focuses on rational demonstration and logical argumentation, and Irfani concerns intuitive and spiritual understanding. Alkhadafi (2024) discusses these approaches as important dimensions of Islamic epistemology. Klinger (2025) further examines the distinction between conception and assent in the history of Islamic philosophy, demonstrating the intellectual sophistication of Muslim discussions concerning knowledge and judgment. These perspectives indicate that Islamic epistemology is not restricted to a single method of inquiry but provides multiple approaches to understanding truth.Ethics is another fundamental area of Islamic philosophical investigation. Islamic moral thought emphasizes justice, honesty, compassion, responsibility, moderation, and the importance of developing a virtuous character. These principles connect individual

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conduct with broader social and spiritual responsibilities. Bektovic (2024) examines the relationship between knowledge and ethical interpretation in Islamic philosophy of religion, emphasizing the significance of understanding knowledge when discussing moral agency. R'boula et al. (2024) investigate Islamic ethics as an alternative epistemological perspective within intercultural education, highlighting how ethical principles can contribute to educational understanding and social interaction. Wahab (2025) also explores the philosophical relationship between Al-Ghazali and Kant, proposing an integrated approach to moral education that considers reason, character, and spiritual development. These studies demonstrate that Islamic ethical philosophy can contribute to contemporary discussions about moral education and responsible human behavior.

Islamic philosophy explores human existence through questions concerning the soul, consciousness, free will, divine knowledge, and moral accountability. Human beings are understood as possessing intellectual and moral capacities that enable them to make decisions and assume responsibilities. The relationship between divine power and human freedom has been discussed by numerous Muslim philosophers and theologians. These discussions remain important because they address the question of how individuals can be morally responsible within a universe governed by divine knowledge and power. Long, Mahmood, and Ismail (2025) examine free will in Averroes' compatibilist philosophy and explain how divine foreknowledge can be discussed alongside human freedom. Such philosophical perspectives provide important foundations for understanding personal responsibility, moral choice, and the relationship between human agency and divine reality.Contemporary Islamic philosophy increasingly engages with modern challenges involving technology, education, social justice, environmental sustainability, and cultural transformation. The principles of Tawhid, Amanah, Adl, and Maqasid al-Shariah can provide ethical guidance for examining these challenges. Ali et al. (2025) investigate the application of Islamic trusteeship ethics to artificial intelligence, emphasizing responsibility toward God, knowledge, and creation. Their research suggests that Islamic ethical philosophy can contribute to debates concerning algorithmic fairness, privacy, accountability, and technological responsibility. Similarly, Poljarević (2024) presents Islam as a method of intellectual and ethical inquiry, connecting Islamic principles with justice, dignity, and critical scholarship. Kostić, I. E., & Poljarević, E. (2024). explanthat These contributions indicate that Islamic philosophy should not be understood merely as a historical subject. Instead, it remains a developing intellectual tradition with the potential to contribute to contemporary academic and social debates.

METHODOLOGY

The present research adopts a qualitative research methodology to explore Islamic philosophical ideas and examine their significance in contemporary intellectual and social contexts. A qualitative approach is appropriate because the study focuses on philosophical concepts, theoretical interpretations, historical intellectual contributions, and ethical principles rather than numerical measurements or statistical relationships. The research is primarily based on library research and documentary analysis, using academic journal articles, scholarly publications, philosophical discussions, and relevant literature published between 2023 and 2025. The selection of literature is guided by its relevance to the main research question and objectives, particularly its discussion of Islamic epistemology, metaphysics, reason and revelation, human existence, moral philosophy, and contemporary

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applications of Islamic thought. The study also considers the intellectual contributions of classical Muslim philosophers, including Al-Farabi, Ibn Sina, Al-Ghazali, and Ibn Rushd, to establish a theoretical foundation for interpreting contemporary scholarship. Data are collected through a systematic examination of relevant academic documents and organized according to the major themes of the research. Particular attention is given to identifying similarities, differences, and intellectual developments among the selected scholarly perspectives. The research follows an interpretive approach in which philosophical arguments are examined within their religious, historical, and intellectual contexts. Furthermore, the study uses comparative analysis to investigate how different Islamic philosophical approaches understand knowledge, morality, human freedom, and divine guidance. To maintain academic reliability, the research prioritizes identifiable scholarly publications and clearly distinguishes between theoretical interpretation and documented research findings.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design is descriptive, analytical, and interpretive in nature. It is designed to investigate the major dimensions of Islamic philosophy and establish connections between classical philosophical thought and contemporary intellectual discussions. The descriptive component identifies the fundamental concepts of Islamic philosophy, including Tawhid, reason, revelation, knowledge, existence, ethics, human freedom, and spiritual development. The analytical component examines the philosophical meanings of these concepts and evaluates their relationships within the broader Islamic intellectual tradition. The interpretive component investigates how contemporary scholars understand and apply these principles to modern questions concerning education, technology, social responsibility, and moral development. The research is organized around a thematic framework that includes five major dimensions: epistemology, metaphysics, moral philosophy, human nature, and contemporary relevance. Each dimension is examined through relevant academic literature, allowing the study to identify recurring ideas and differences among scholarly interpretations. A comparative perspective is also incorporated to examine how different philosophical approaches address similar questions. For example, rational approaches to knowledge are considered alongside revelation-based and spiritually oriented approaches to understanding truth. Similarly, individual moral responsibility is examined in relation to divine guidance and wider social obligations. The research design also emphasizes conceptual relationships rather than attempting to establish statistical causation. This makes it possible to understand Islamic philosophical ideas as interconnected elements of a broader intellectual worldview. Overall, the design provides a structured foundation for examining the theoretical significance and contemporary applications of Islamic philosophy.

DATA ANALYSIS

The data analysis is conducted through qualitative thematic analysis of the selected academic literature. The collected documents are examined repeatedly to identify significant concepts, recurring arguments, theoretical similarities, and differences in scholarly interpretations. The first stage involves familiarization with the selected literature through reading and reviewing the relevant academic publications. During this stage, particular attention is given to discussions of Islamic knowledge, reason, revelation, metaphysics, ethics, human freedom, and social responsibility. The second stage involves identifying and organizing important

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themes according to their relationship with the research objectives. For example, discussions concerning rational inquiry, divine revelation, and spiritual experience are categorized under Islamic epistemology. Similarly, arguments concerning justice, accountability, honesty, and human dignity are organized under Islamic moral philosophy. The third stage involves comparing the identified themes to determine how contemporary scholars interpret classical Islamic philosophical principles. The analysis indicates that different intellectual approaches often share an emphasis on the relationship between knowledge and moral responsibility, even when they differ regarding the appropriate sources or methods of philosophical inquiry. The fourth stage involves interpreting the broader significance of these themes within contemporary society. This includes examining how Islamic philosophical principles can contribute to discussions concerning educational development, technological responsibility, social justice, and human well-being. Particular attention is given to the concept of Tawhid because it provides a unifying philosophical foundation for understanding the relationship between God, humanity, knowledge, and the universe. The analysis also considers the importance of Maqasid al-Shariah as a framework for connecting ethical principles with human welfare and social responsibility.

FINDINGS

The findings of this conceptual literature-based research identify several important dimensions of Islamic philosophical thought. First, the study indicates that the concept of Tawhid provides a fundamental foundation for Islamic philosophy by establishing the unity of divine reality and connecting different dimensions of human understanding. It suggests that knowledge, morality, spirituality, and human existence should not be treated as completely separate areas of life. Second, the research identifies the relationship between reason and revelation as a central feature of Islamic epistemology. Human reasoning is important for investigating the world and evaluating philosophical arguments, while revelation provides guidance concerning spiritual and moral questions. The literature indicates that these sources can be understood as complementary dimensions of a comprehensive approach to knowledge. Third, the study finds that Islamic philosophy recognizes multiple methods of understanding reality, including textual interpretation, rational demonstration, empirical observation, and spiritual reflection. These approaches demonstrate the intellectual diversity of the Islamic philosophical tradition. Fourth, the findings highlight the relationship between knowledge and moral responsibility. Intellectual development is not understood merely as the acquisition of information but also as a process that should contribute to wisdom, good character, and responsible behavior. Fifth, the research identifies the continuing relevance of Islamic moral principles in addressing contemporary social and technological challenges. Concepts such as justice, trust, human dignity, moderation, and accountability provide valuable foundations for evaluating modern ethical problems. Finally, the study finds that Islamic philosophical thought has the potential to contribute to contemporary academic discussions through the integration of intellectual inquiry, spiritual awareness, and ethical responsibility. However, this contribution requires critical interpretation, scholarly dialogue, and a willingness to engage with changing social and scientific conditions.

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CONCLUSION

Islamic philosophy represents a rich and multidimensional intellectual tradition that provides important insights into human existence, knowledge, morality, reason, revelation, and the relationship between humanity and God. This research has explored the major philosophical ideas of Islam and examined their continuing relevance in contemporary society. The discussion demonstrates that the concept of Tawhid provides a fundamental foundation for understanding the interconnected nature of existence, while the relationship between reason and revelation offers an important framework for intellectual and spiritual development. Islamic epistemology further demonstrates that knowledge can be approached through rational investigation, textual interpretation, observation, and spiritual understanding. The research also emphasizes the significance of Islamic moral philosophy, particularly its commitment to justice, honesty, compassion, human dignity, and social responsibility. These principles remain important in a contemporary world facing challenges associated with technological transformation, intellectual fragmentation, social inequality, and moral uncertainty. The contributions of classical Muslim philosophers continue to provide valuable theoretical foundations, while recent academic research demonstrates that Islamic philosophy remains an active field of intellectual investigation. The study concludes that Islamic philosophical ideas should be understood not only as historical contributions but also as relevant resources for addressing contemporary human concerns. Their effective application requires critical thinking, academic engagement, and a balanced understanding of traditional principles and modern developments. Future research can further investigate the practical application of Islamic philosophical ideas in education, governance, environmental ethics, artificial intelligence, and intercultural dialogue.

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