

**Matin Research Journal**  
*Journal of The Research Institute of Imam Khomeini and Islamic Revolution*  
Volume 25, Issue 100, Fall 2023

**A Review of Imam Khomeini's Mystical Views on Spiritual Self-Enlightenment  
and Principles, Its Necessity and Obstacles**

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DOI: [10.22034/MATIN.2023.238647.1717](https://doi.org/10.22034/MATIN.2023.238647.1717)

**Introduction and statement of the problem**

Research Paper

"Journey to God", which is considered important in the main Islamic mysticism, refers to the process of "self-improvement". The beginning of this journey is from man himself. The goal of the mystic's journey is "Allah" and "divine identity". Therefore, the "self" that the seeker starts his divine journey by negating it will be an interpretation of the carnal aspect of "self".

Many researches are devoted to the topic of self-improvement in the form of ethics and especially mysticism, and the abundance of this attention shows the importance of refining the self. The importance of presenting a research with this title, which has been repeatedly discussed, is significant in two ways:

1. Every research is a new study .
2. Repetition of research on a subject emphasizes the importance of the subject.
3. The constructive intrapersonal and extrapersonal reflections of "self-improvement" cannot be ignored.
4. Discussing the opinions and thoughts of any thinker is like taking advantage of another intellectual product that can have its audience and be constructive and useful for them.

**Research background**

Other articles and publications have been written on the topic of self-improvement some of which are mentioned below :

- Jahanipour ,Yasir. 2014, "*Self-improvement from the perspective of Imam Khomeini and a group of mystics*",Hozour,(Attendance) No: 52
- Farshadfar ,Ezzatullah.2000, "*Self-management and self-improvement in Imam Khomeini's thought*" ,P: Orouj.
- Heydarifar, Majid. 2009,"*The happiness of self-discovery and self-improvement from Imam Khomeini's point of view*"Imam Khomeini Editing and Publishing Institute.
- Zohreh. Derakhshan. 2013, Dissertation on" *self-cultivation and self-improvement method from Imam Khomeini's point of view*" Islamic Azad University, Yazd branch.

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### **Findings**

In various works of Imam Khomeini, interpretations such as; “Human perfection” and “existential perfection” are seen, which refer to the second birth. “Self-cultivation” is the process of self-improvement, which gradually leads to ecstasy. If this birth does not take place, there will be no distinction between humans and animals. Secondary birth refers to the transformation of creation; This means that it realizes the aspect of spirituality in a person. Imam Khomeini considers this aspect to be the reason for the difference between humans and animals.

The principles of self-improvement are: coming out of neglect (awareness), Willingness, abandoning too much attachment to the mortal world and abandoning selfishness, Surrendering to God’s saints and listening to them. Imam Khomeini has divided the elements of self-improvement into three parts: Beneficial science (means science that is accompanied by moral refinement), “Good deed” (This deed should be such that it keeps the soul away from its rebelliousness and reduces the rebelliousness). “Pure Faith” (It means the stage in which rational knowledge has reached the heart). In this article, which examines “self-improvement” and its related aspects from Imam Khomeini’s point of view, we have a reading of the subject that is developed and presented to the audience in the context of his mystical thought with the influence of verses and traditions and other sources.

Imam Khomeini considers the important obstacles to self-improvement as follows:

Too much attachment to oneself and the mortal world, Denying and invalidating God’s saints and “denying unseen world and spiritual degrees”, Unwillingness and enmity with God’s saints and undue prejudice, Not doing self-improvement before old age.

According to Imam Khomeini’s point of view, people are different from each other in the authorities of conduct, and the seekers of self-improvement are each perfect according to their ability. Although “the path of truth and its study is difficult from Imam Khomeini’s point of view, but when a person enters it, God brings the paths of happiness closer to her or him. Self-development of positive reflections in both individual life and has a social. One of these reflections is a person’s mental and physical health. According to Imam Khomeini, a person who has spiritual and physical health, He has no enmity with anyone. What is reflected in the outside world from the positive influence of the mystic seeker is due to the inner health of the mystic. Mystical education of people can gradually lead to the creation of a world where they live together in peace, peace and tolerance. The emphasis on mystical education is because this type of education primarily emphasizes freedom from selfishness and, in other degrees, freedom from the belonging of the heart to a whole other than God.

### **Discussion and conclusion**

A person has two dimensions of existence, physical and spiritual, and he is distinguished from other beings by his spiritual dimension and non-physical aspects. This distinction is related to his mode of existence, which is nature. According to the sayings of Imam Khomeini, man has a pure nature, but because he is a child of the world of nature, he is also inclined to carnal moods. Therefore, man is in a struggle between two choices. People who are subject to their original nature are those who have accepted “self-improvement”. From Imam Khomeini’s point of view,

the starting point of self-improvement is the lower self, and the destination is the God-like self. In this divine journey, the original nature of man, which was far from corruption and evil from the beginning, is gradually realized.

There are many obstacles in such a way, which in Imam Khomeini's thought can be summed up in two important things: selfishness and dependence on the world. On the other hand, there are some ways for self-improvement which, can be realized within the framework of science, practice and pure faith. The occurrence of self-improvement from the stage of awareness to righteous action, and then leads to pure faith, which is an act of the heart.

It is necessary to explain that every person achieves his pure and healthy nature according to his ability and talent. Based on this, human beings, if they reach their human perfection and enter through self-improvement, they will have different ranks and degrees; The highest order is the "perfect human being" who is placed in the place of the human model.

**Keywords:** Imam Khomeini, self-enlightenment, human nature, actuality, spiritual perfection.

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