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Human Authenticity: Fulfilling the Desire for the Infinite as the Main Mission of Religion

The Main Mission of Religion: From Satisfying the Need for the Infinite to the Test of Pure Faith

Imagine you are a young professional in a key meeting. The senior manager proposes a plan that looks profitable but is clearly dishonest and violates customer rights. You and your colleagues see this ethical flaw. When the manager asks, “Does everyone agree?” the room falls silent. You face a tough choice: Your conscience urges you to object, but you fear being seen as difficult, losing a promotion, or facing judgment. Paralyzed by these fears, you force a smile, nod, and agree.

This goes beyond simple compromise; it shows a deep human struggle. Every time we ignore our inner truth for social approval, we trade our authenticity for temporary popularity. This creates a fundamental question: What is our true identity, and how do we protect it? Are religions and schools of thought just here for some rituals and to set rules and create obedient citizens? Or is their purpose much deeper and tied to our very existence?

To answer this, we must look at human nature. We are beings who seek the infinite. We have an endless desire for survival, perfection, beauty, and absolute power—things that no material wealth or praise can satisfy. The tragedy happens when we lock this infinite potential inside the small cage of social approval.

This reveals the main mission of religion. It is not a system of social control, but a path to freedom. It helps us stop worshiping superficial things like public opinion and connects our infinite potential

to the Absolute. This article shows how the struggle between seeking popularity and standing for truth is the real test of our authenticity and faith. It also explores how religion, by redefining self-knowledge, helps us escape this modern trap.

Seeking the Infinite: The Main Mission of Religion

To understand religion, we must look at why humans need it. If we see religion only as a set of rules, we must ask: What is the ultimate goal of these rules? At its core, religion exists to satisfy our natural thirst for the infinite. This desire drives everything we do. If it is not guided correctly, it traps us in worldly limitations.

Religion certainly has social, political, and economic roles. These are important, but they are not the end goal. They are simply tools to create a fair society where the truth of “*La ilaha illa Allah*” (There is no deity but Allah) can grow within us. Reducing religion to just a set of social rules misses the bigger picture. Its true purpose is far greater than regulating daily life.

Pure Faith as the True Measure of our Human Dimension

How do we know if we are on the right path to satisfying this thirst? We need a clear, practical test. According to the Infallible Imams, this test depends on what we love most. Imam Sadiq (Peace be upon him) defines pure faith this way: “A person’s faith in God does not become pure until God is more beloved to him than himself, his father, his mother, his children, his family, and all of humankind.”¹

This is not just a moral suggestion; it is a way to measure our humanity and the awakening of our human dimension. Faith becomes truly pure when God is more important to us than any worldly attachment. This choice is what separates those stuck in daily routines from those living out the

true purpose of religion. If this priority is missing in our actions, it shows that our spiritual dimension is not yet awake.

The Conflict Between Popularity and Divine Laws

A major test of our human dimension is how we handle the pressure of public opinion. If we make popularity our main guide, we push the truth of “*La ilaha illa Allah*” to the sidelines. Whenever someone avoids a divine command just to keep their social status, they actually put people above God. This is a failure to meet the true purpose of religion. Feeling ashamed to practice religious duties in public is not a small mistake; it is a sign that one has prioritized people over God, which strips faith of its purity.

When we forget that religion exists to establish and deepen the truth of “*La ilaha illa Allah*”—rather than to gain public approval—the consequences are serious. In many social settings, people avoid following divine laws just to win votes, gain popularity, or secure their positions. This is not practical thinking; it is using religion for personal gain. Such people trade their inner truth and their desire for the infinite for the cheap price of temporary popularity. When religion is used only to fit in socially, it fails to guide the human soul to its main goal and instead becomes a tool for conformity, which contradicts its true foundation.

Behavioral Analysis: Why Do We Compromise?

People often distance themselves from religion to please others because they misunderstand both the mission of religion and the human being. If someone believes the goal of life is to gain status and acceptance, they will naturally choose public opinion over God’s commands.

However, if we accept that the main mission of religion is to satisfy our thirst for the infinite, we realize that human approval cannot fulfill this need. People are temporary, but God is the eternal, infinite Truth. Therefore, putting people before God is a massive error in one's values system. A person whose faith is not yet pure will still seek validation from others because their connection with God is not yet their highest priority. This inability to prioritize leads them to sacrifice their true human dimension whenever their faith is tested.

Rebuilding Your Value System Through Faith

To overcome this challenge, we must rebuild our value system based on the true purpose of religion. This process starts with focusing on cultivating “*La ilaha illa Allah*.” In every decision, we must ask ourselves: “Is this action helping me satisfy my thirst for the Infinite, or am I just trying to gain popularity and avoid social pressure?” This self-reflection is how we awaken our true human dimension. If we realize we are abandoning God’s commands just to save face, we must immediately change our priorities. This means returning to the standard set by Imam Sadiq (Peace be upon him): putting the love of God above everything else, including family, wealth, and public approval.

Ultimately, fulfilling the mission of religion is not a one-time event; it is a lifelong struggle to protect our human dimension from social pressure. Throughout life, we will constantly face choices between being socially acceptable and being obedient to God. A clear understanding of why religion exists is the only roadmap for this journey. Religion teaches us how to satisfy our infinite thirst by moving beyond limited, material attachments. Any retreat on this path weakens our truth as human beings and distances us from the ultimate purpose of religion. Therefore, understanding the true mission of religion is not just a theoretical discussion; it is the foundation

for all our actions. It transforms us from people who simply follow their environment into people of authentic faith.

In conclusion, the main mission of religion is to create a balance between our human nature and the infinite, divine truth. When this balance is achieved, nothing—not even intense public pressure—can pull us away from the truth. This is because we realize that God is the only one worthy of our absolute devotion. By deeply understanding the true purpose of religion, we find our rightful place, and our faith becomes pure—not just in words, but in our actions.

References

¹ . Majlesi, *Bihar Al-Anwaar*, vol. 67, p. 41.