



Philosophical Analysis Of The Manifestation Of Symmetry Laws In Islamic Practice

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Abstract

The article provides a systematic analysis of the implementation of the law of symmetry in the pillars of Islam. It demonstrates that in performing prayer (Salat), fasting during the month of Ramadan, giving alms (Zakat), and pilgrimage (Haji), symmetry is manifested through order, periodicity, repetition, balance, and harmony, while their socio-philosophical essence is also revealed.

Keywords

Islam, symmetry, equality, repetition, harmony, balance, stability, worship.

Introduction

In the Islamic civilization that emerged in the Middle Ages and had a profound impact on the development of humanity, the ideas of symmetry were widely manifested, reflected in architectural, scientific, religious, and social spheres [1]. For example, in Islamic architecture, symmetry holds a particularly important place in mosques, madrasas, and palaces. This symmetry is manifested through various geometric forms and intricate patterns such as girih, reflecting the inner ideas and philosophy of Islam. Through these elements, not only aesthetic beauty but also the order of the universe, balance, and the oneness of Allah are expressed. In the architecture of mosques and palaces, fourfold symmetry was also manifested, with buildings arranged symmetrically in four directions around a central courtyard [2]. This symmetrical system preserved spatial order and was regarded as a symbol of balance and peace among Muslims.

In the Middle Ages, Islamic scholars conducted profound research in the fields of science and mathematics, studying symmetry in nature and the universe on a scientific basis. Their scholarly investigations were aimed at understanding the perfect and balanced structure of the cosmos through the principles of symmetry [3]. In particular, the application of symmetry principles in geometry, astronomy, and algebra led to the development of deep theoretical and practical knowledge. Ulugh Beg's observatory and other scientific discoveries serve as vivid examples of this process.

Acts of worship and religious rituals in Islam reflect the principles of symmetry and balance in every respect, ensuring spiritual and physical order in Muslims' lives. In these traditional devotions, time, space, movements, and spiritual unity are arranged symmetrically, through which Muslims manifest their spiritual connection with Allah and the balance within society. Below, we explain in detail the aspects of symmetry as they appear in religious worship and rituals.

Symmetry of time and movements in prayer: In the daily lives of Muslims, the five daily prayers hold a special place. These acts of worship are performed at specific times—dawn (Fajr), noon (Dhuhr), afternoon (Asr), sunset (Maghrib), and night (Isha). This periodic symmetry serves to maintain spiritual and physical balance in the lives of believers. The movements of prayer are also performed in a defined and symmetrical order—the sequence of standing (Qiyam), bowing (Ruku'), and prostration (Sujud) is repeated in each rak'ah. This not only demonstrates obedience and devotion to Allah but also provides an opportunity for spiritual purification and inner stability during each prayer time.

Namozda simmetriya nafaqat jismoniy harakatlar, balki qiblaga qarab ibodat qilish orqali ham namoyon bo'ladi. "Qiblaga qarash musulmonlar orasidagi ruhiy birlikni anglatadi, chunki har bir musulmon dunyoning qaysi burchagida bo'lmasin, bir maqsadga intilayotgandek, Kabaning markaziy simvoliga qarab ibodat qiladi"[4].

In prayer, symmetry is manifested not only through physical movements but also through the act of facing the qibla. "Facing the qibla signifies the spiritual unity among Muslims, for no matter where a believer may be in the world, it is as if they are striving toward a single goal—worshiping while turning toward the central symbol of the Kaaba" [4].

Fasting in the month of Ramadan and symmetrical periodicity: During the month of Ramadan, Muslims observe fasting for an entire month. In this period, daily life is organized symmetrically: the precision of eating times at suhoor (pre-dawn meal) and iftar (meal at sunset), along with the continuous repetition of this practice day after day throughout the month, maintains symmetrical periodicity. Through this symmetry of worship, Muslims cultivate self-discipline, striving for spiritual purification through the patience of enduring hunger and thirst. The daily repetition of Ramadan practices establishes a certain stability and spiritual balance in life.

Zakat and communal symmetry: Zakat is the financial contribution given by Muslims to support the needy members of society, thereby preserving social balance and equality within the community. Through zakat, Muslims contribute to financial stability and the symmetrical distribution of resources in society. This practice is not only about providing material assistance but also about achieving spiritual and social harmony by ensuring equality within the community.

Giving zakat is also carried out in a periodic manner, that is, once a year, thereby establishing a system of regularity and mutual assistance among members of the community. Through zakat, social symmetry is maintained in Islamic societies by fostering mutual support, solidarity, and care for one another.

Symmetrical movements in the Hajj ritual: During the Hajj, Muslims circumambulate the Kaaba in Mecca seven times (tawaf), which is a distinctly symmetrical act. Through this rotation—radially circling around the Kaaba as the central point—Muslims manifest both spiritual and physical unity. This act of circumambulation symbolizes the unification of all pilgrims toward a single purpose and expresses their spiritual and social solidarity. By circling the Kaaba, participants in the Hajj experience a sense of striving toward the center of the universe, realizing their profound connection with Allah.

In conclusion, the symmetry inherent in Islamic acts of worship and rituals reflects Muslims' daily devotion to Allah and their pursuit of spiritual purity, serving to make their lives balanced and stable. Through practices such as prayer, fasting, zakat, and Hajj, Muslims maintain



symmetrical order and periodicity in their lives, reinforcing both spiritual and social equilibrium. These acts of worship have contributed to the creation of a stable, orderly, and harmonious way of life within Islamic civilization.

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