

Description, Analysis and Epistemological Elaboration of Divine Inspiration in Farabi's Thought

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Abstract

In Farabi's thought, the speech and imagination faculties play the greatest role in the inspirational perceptions. Farabi considers the divine inspiration as a result of the connection of Prophet's speech intellect to the active intellect and receiving rational ideas from it. Furthermore, he believes that through paving the rational positions, the prophet can receive the rational images from the active intellect.

However, in another expression, he emphasizes on the instrumental role of imagination faculty in the imitation of rational ideas, general facts of divine inspiration and objective and immediate perception of trivial facts of divine inspiration. This research aims at presenting a description, analysis and epistemological elaboration of divine inspiration from the Farabi's viewpoint. Using the descriptive-analytical method, this research deals with the quality of connection of imagination faculty to the active intellect, the method of conversion of general and trivial rational ideas into each other in prophet and sage and method of receiving the divine knowledge in Farabi's epistemological system. This research has led to this understanding that the difference which exists in Farabi's thought on the method of effusions of the active intellect to human and the role of imagination intellect indicates that Farabi does not degrade divine inspiration into prophet's imagination intellect, but due to the presence of weakness in

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humans' souls, he believes that the connection of prophet and human through imagination intellect is possible. Thus, in Farabi's view, divine inspiration originally is conceptualized with regard to the speech intellect and the pillar of this communication, i.e. imagination has a basic role in the definition of divine inspiration. Moreover, the prophet and the sage have achieved the acquired intellect and can be connected to the active intellect, but prophet is distinguished from the sage in having a stronger imagination intellect.

Keywords: Divine Inspiration; Prophet; Imagination Faculty; Active Intellect; Farabi.

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