

PRACTICAL AND CONCEPTUAL ISSUES IN JALALUDDIN RUMI'S THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE

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A B S T R A C T	K E Y W O R D S
This article explores the foundational aspects of Jalaluddin Rumi's epistemology, focusing on both practical and conceptual dimensions of his understanding of knowledge. Rumi, as a Sufi philosopher and poet, viewed knowledge not merely as an intellectual pursuit but as a transformative journey of the soul toward divine truth. The study analyzes key elements such as intuition (kashf), spiritual experience, love (ishq), and the limitations of rationality in Rumi's thought. It also examines the tension between conceptual reasoning and mystical insight, offering a philosophical interpretation of how Rumi reconciles experiential knowing with traditional forms of knowledge. The article contributes to a deeper understanding of Islamic philosophical mysticism and its relevance to contemporary debates in epistemology and spiritual philosophy.	Jalaluddin Rumi, epistemology, theory of Knowledge, Sufism, mystical experience, intuition (kashf), love (ishq), rationality and spirituality, islamic Philosophy.

Introduction

In the modern world, the process of knowing and understanding has become more important than mutual communication, the exchange of life experiences, and spiritual development among people. Jalal al-Din Rumi, as a poet and philosopher who emphasized the significance of spiritual knowledge and Sufi experiences in his works, is one of the foundational figures of contemporary Sufi philosophy. In his works such as the Masnavi and Diwan-e Shams, the process of discovering the inner world of the human being through the theory of knowledge is deeply explored. Rumi connects the process of knowing not only to intellectual understanding but also to spiritual experience and inner peace.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In Rumi's works, there are wide-ranging ideas not only on religious and Sufi concepts but also on how individuals can seek self-awareness, spiritual development, and inner tranquility. He emphasizes the importance of love and responsibility in the journey of self-discovery and spiritual growth. For instance, Rumi embraces the concept of sohbet (spiritual conversation), through which people increase their capacity for mutual understanding and acceptance. According to Rumi, love is not merely an

emotion, but a force that leads each person to self-knowledge and a deeper understanding of others. Through this, the process of spiritual growth and knowledge continues.

Through his writings, Jalal al-Din Rumi deeply comprehends not only the modern Sufi worldview but also human behavior and spiritual evolution. His works remain an unforgettable legacy that helps transform the human spirit. Reading Rumi's works encourages people to explore their inner world, find answers to life's essential questions, and establish a connection with the Divine.

In Jalal al-Din Rumi's works, the theory of knowledge holds great significance. Through these texts, he vividly portrays the process of spiritual growth and the attainment of true knowledge. Rumi discusses the essence and meaning of knowledge, the importance of spiritual search, and the role of self-awareness in human development.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

The theory of knowledge holds great importance in the works of Jalal al-Din Rumi. Through these works, he deeply describes the process of spiritual growth and the attainment of true knowledge. Rumi discusses the essence and meaning of knowledge, the significance of spiritual searching, and the role of self-awareness in human development.

Masnavi is one of Rumi's greatest works, consisting of stories and poems that encompass Sufi ideas and spiritual knowledge. In this work, the theory of knowledge is expressed through the following aspects:

Inner Knowledge of the Human Being: Rumi emphasizes that every individual has the capacity to discover immense knowledge and truths within themselves. The characters in his work often reach self-awareness through their inner conflicts and spiritual challenges. For example, in the Masnavi, characters achieve true knowledge as a result of their spiritual quests. **The Spiritual Path:** Rumi defines knowledge as a spiritual path. According to him, true knowledge begins only through self-awareness and inner searching. He states, «Knowledge is the opening of the heart and the discovery of the blessed connection with God.» Here, the process of knowing occurs through sensation, emotion, and intuition.

Experiential Knowledge: In the Masnavi, Rumi emphasizes the importance of experiential knowledge in his Sufi teachings. He asserts that without personal experience, spiritual knowledge cannot be truly understood. For instance, through the story of the character Shekhar, Rumi illustrates how external experiences bring about spiritual transformation and the acquisition of knowledge.

Diwan-e Shams is a work dedicated to Shams Tabrizi, in which Rumi sheds light on the process of acquiring knowledge related to the inner world and emotions of the individual. The unique aspects of the theory of knowledge in this work include:

Love and Knowledge: In Diwan-e Shams, Rumi reveals the deep connection between love and knowledge. Through love, individuals discover their true nature and perfect their spiritual knowledge. Rumi says, "Knowledge without love is like a house without an owner."

Inspiration and Revelation: Rumi pays special attention to the process of knowing that occurs during moments of inspiration. He describes the state of being filled with divine inspiration while composing his works. According to him, true knowledge is the state of discovering inspiration, granted to those who are spiritually fortunate.

Rumi acknowledges that initial knowledge and concepts can be derived from the external world. However, he emphasizes that the true meaning and secrets of knowledge can only be discovered through the exploration of our inner world. This is achieved through various experiences. For example,

the stories depicted in the Masnavi encourage readers to start from traditional knowledge and then move toward understanding their inner depths.

Reason: Rumi considers reason as one aspect of knowledge, but he does not place heavy emphasis on it. In the Masnavi, reason is described as a guide that shows the path, yet it is limited in achieving true knowledge.

Love: According to Rumi, love is the most important element in the process of knowing. He shows that love strengthens spiritual inner connection and helps attain intimate and personal knowledge. Love acts as a transformative force that empowers one's inner life.

Intuition: Rumi highlights the importance of intuition and perception. In Diwan-e Shams, he demonstrates how one can reach higher levels of knowledge through sensing truth and receiving inspiration. Discoveries, he says, emerge through inspiration, intuitive knowledge, and feelings arising from inner silence.

Rumi not only discusses knowledge itself but also reflects on the outcome that should be attained from true knowledge. In his works, the notion of ultimate truth is explored through the following points:

Discovering the Ultimate Truth: In the Masnavi, Rumi emphasizes the desire to discover ultimate truth amidst various internal upheavals and concerns. He includes the idea that individuals uncover true knowledge through stages of growth and by ascending to higher spiritual levels.

Mutual Recognition: Rumi invites individuals to explore both their internal and external worlds. He also emphasizes that people should avoid passing judgment on one another. In Diwan-e Shams, he calls for discovering authentic connections through rare, profound human interactions.

Connection with God: Rumi stresses how the process of knowing leads to the discovery of God. For him, true knowledge is manifested in direct connection with the divine realm and reflection upon God. Rumi's influence on modern life is the subject of great interest among scholars and educators. His theory of knowledge, spiritual search, and inward reflection introduces new dimensions to spirituality and psychology:

Mindfulness and Meditation: Rumi's ideas resonate with modern mindfulness practices and meditation techniques. He teaches acceptance of inner change and awareness of various emotions. His thought also inspires practices that contribute to spiritual well-being.

Spiritual Psychology: The spiritual insights of mystics like Rumi influence the field of spiritual psychology and deeper self-awareness. He helps individuals uncover their inner states and improves both intrapersonal and interpersonal relationships.

CONCLUSION

In Masnavi and Diwan-e Shams, Jalal al-Din Rumi powerfully expresses the theory of knowledge, spiritual transformation, and inner development. He emphasizes that knowledge must be attained through human connections, experiences, love, and inspiration. Rumi's works serve as a profound source for all humanity in the pursuit of true understanding and spiritual elevation.

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