



Explaining the characteristics of education in Islamic mysticism based on the anecdotes of mystical texts

Dr. Sayyedah Maryam Rozatian¹, Mahdi Mohammad Ghasemi²

1-Associate Professor of Persian Language and Literature University of Isfahan

2-PhD student in Mystical Literature, University of Isfahan

Abstract

The famous elders (Sheikhs) of Islamic mysticism are prominent masters of spiritual journey and each of them has raised many students and approached to the highest levels of knowledge. In most mystical texts, there are anecdotes that show mystics knew the spirits of their students and nurtured them with great insight. Analysis their education system can answer two basic questions; First, what are the outstanding features in the educational methods of elders of mysticism who have guided tens or even hundreds of eager disciples and seekers in the path of spiritual journey? And second, how the educational characteristics of the elders (Sheikhs) of mysticism are reflected in the anecdotes of mystical texts. The achievements of the research show that the observance of good temper, maintaining the sanctity of the ancient masters and current students, simplicity and humility, acting on his words, accepting criticism and most importantly, having effective methods of verbal and non-verbal communication; especially the question and answer method has had a great impact on the education of students in the path of spiritual journey. According to the anecdotes and sayings quoted in mystical texts, there are several ways for question and answer method, and the mystics used these methods to express mystical teachings.

Keywords: Islamic mysticism, Mystical texts, Education, Elders (Sheikhs) of mysticism