

Human Transcendence

Human transcendence is the journey of surpassing the narrow confines of one's own self to discover the divine essence within, and of integrating that essence into life through virtue, compassion, and love. It is not an ascent towards the heavens, but a descent into the depths, reaching the source of truth. It is the path of lifting the veils of selfishness, moving from "I" to "we," and from there to a consciousness of unity with all existence.

The transcendent person's love is vast, their understanding embraces all. Their wisdom is not for mere knowledge but to heal wounds, strengthen social justice, and cultivate hope. They do not confine their love within narrow boundaries; they know that genuine love multiplies through sharing and solidarity. Their knowledge is not for asserting superiority, but for transforming and making life more humane. They illuminate the light of knowledge for the benefit of humanity, guiding it through darkness. For those who have discovered truth, the power of love and the transformative breath of mercy are recognised.

A person living with this awareness embraces not only their inner world but also their surroundings, and ultimately, all of existence. Human transcendence thus ceases to be a personal journey and becomes a universal voyage. Truth is discovered through surpassing oneself and forging connections with others.

Hence, transcendence is not a climb toward the heavens; it is a descent into the depths of the soul. Ancient Syriac wisdom teaches that truth can only be unearthed from within. The image of God is not merely a light to be sought in distant skies; it is a jewel hidden in the silent chambers of the soul.

The horizon of a person confined within the narrow limits of their own self is no broader than their own shadow. Yet the divine essence within becomes visible once the veils of selfishness are lifted. As Saint Ephrem (306–373) said:

“Illuminate the image within your heart; there is no need to seek another light outside.”

Transcendence is not only an individual maturation; it is also a social awakening. For one who surpasses oneself perceives others as inseparable parts of their own existence. The “other” ceases to exist; there is only a brother, breathed into life by God.

Communities, like individuals, carry a soul. Yet a society that closes in on itself, pursuing only narrow self-interest, eventually loses its essence—that is, its spirit. Human transcendence is a force that breaks through such limitations, overcoming narrow nationalism, discrimination, and selfishness.

As Mor Yakub of Suruç (451–521) expressed: **“He who draws the boundary of love binds his own soul in chains.”** True freedom and unity, therefore, lie in love that transcends boundaries. Only through this path can a society attain harmony and peace that resonate deeply within its soul.

Human transcendence is not a destination but a profound state of renewal, rebuilt each day within life’s complex, often chaotic tapestry. Each day begins with hope reborn; each trial, each pain, each encounter tests and refines it. In this journey, true greatness is not in looking from above, but in humbling the heart and alleviating the burdens of others with love. The human spirit rises when it chooses to avoid the cold shadow of domination, embracing instead a complementary and enabling power. For genuine humanity does not lie in wielding power, but in living through love, amplifying unity and understanding.

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