

Mahdawiyyah in a Global Age: The Passive Hope and the Active Presence

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Abstract:

In the first part of my paper, I am going to study the characteristics of the 21st century as the ramifications of the domination of humanism four centuries before. These characteristics that are related to our concern are:

- 1- The end of modernism and the serious critique of modernity as the critique of humanism, secularism, and technology.
- 2- The importance of environmental crisis and the upgrading attention to environmental ethics and the growing anxiety about the future of human destination.
- 3- The increasing inclination to religious life.
- 4- The more active presence of religions especially Islam all over the world than before.
- 5- The Islamic wakefulness among Muslims.
- 6- ...

In the second part of my paper, I will distinguish between globalization, as an inevitable process of accelerated development in human life, and globalism (and Westernism and Americanism), as an ideology that attempts to impose itself and its regional value on other people in the world. The emphasis on globalization is on the inevitability of the process and our passive attendance in a global age; while globalism shows that it is possible to play an active role globally.

In the third part of my paper, I will examine 12 opportunities and 10 threats of globalization for religions. I will also compare Islam with other religions in a global attendance and show its crucial role in the project of globalization.

In the last and main part of my paper, I will study two dimensions of Mahdawiyyah: the passive dimension and the active one. The passive dimension shows the hope for a just future, to which a lot of indications of globalization point. The active one emphasizes our active presence globally to pave the way for a just state of Imam Mahdi. In this respect, we must inevitably challenge those values of secular imperialism with its globalist strategists.

Finally, I will focus on our hopes on one hand and our duties in another hand for the reappearance of Imam Mahdi as the central message of awaiting Imam Mahdi.