

## Embracing the Sacred Trust: Said Nursi's Sufism as a Pathway to Climate Resilience and Environmental Stewardship

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### ABSTRACT

This study explores the contributions of prominent Muslim scholar Said Nursi to addressing climate change. Through a qualitative analysis of his works, the research reveals Nursi's view of nature as a divine verse requiring respect and preservation. His emphasis on humans' responsibility as caliphs on Earth to maintain balance and harmony aligns with contemporary environmental concerns. Nursi's teachings on simplicity and moderation offer practical guidance for reducing human impact on the environment. The study concludes that Nursi's ethical and spiritual framework provides a holistic approach to climate change, offering a valuable perspective for developing more comprehensive and sustainable strategies.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Earth's climate is changing at an unprecedented rate, and the scientific consensus is that this change is primarily driven by human activities (Abbass et al., 2022; Mann, 2009; Trenberth, 2018). The main driver of this global climate change is the increased release of greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide, into the atmosphere (Arora et al., 2018; Karl & Trenberth, 2003). These emissions primarily result from the use of fossil fuels for energy production, transportation, and industrial processes (Karl & Trenberth, 2003).

In addition to energy-related emissions, urbanization and changes in land use patterns also contribute to climate change on local and regional scales (Karl & Trenberth, 2003). The planet's ability to absorb these greenhouse gases is diminishing, leading to the depletion of the global ecosystem (Jha & Dave, 2023). The impacts of climate change are wide-ranging and increasingly tangible. The Earth is undergoing warming, leading to changes in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, droughts, and floods (Karl & Trenberth, 2003). These changes in climate patterns have significant consequences for the environment, ecosystems, and human societies (Trenberth, 2018).

For example, the melting of seasonal and perennial snow and ice can lead to sea level rise, which threatens coastal communities and ecosystems (Karl & Trenberth, 2003). Additionally, changes in precipitation patterns can disrupt agricultural production, leading to food insecurity and economic challenges for communities that rely on agriculture (Trenberth, 2018).

Despite the progress made in monitoring and understanding climate change, there remain significant scientific, technical, and institutional challenges in effectively planning for, adapting to, and mitigating the effects of climate change (Karl & Trenberth, 2003). Uncertainties remain regarding the rates and magnitudes of future climate change, making it difficult to precisely plan for and respond to these changes (Karl & Trenberth, 2003).

In conclusion, the global climate change crisis is a pressing issue that requires a comprehensive and coordinated response from governments, businesses, and individuals. Addressing the root causes of climate change, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, while also developing strategies to adapt to the inevitable impacts, is crucial for safeguarding the environment and protecting vulnerable communities.

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges facing the world today, and it is clear that a comprehensive and holistic approach is needed to address this complex issue (Lombard, 2012). One crucial aspect of this approach is the recognition of the role that spirituality can play in addressing climate change. Spirituality can be a powerful driver of pro-environmental behavior, as it can instill a sense of interconnectedness and a deep appreciation for the natural world (Afsar et al., 2016). When individuals develop a spiritual connection with the environment, they are more likely to feel a sense of responsibility and a desire to protect it (Afsar et al., 2016). Moreover, spirituality can provide a source of optimism and motivation in the face of

environmental challenges, which is crucial for fostering the social cohesion and engagement needed to implement meaningful solutions (Zelenski et al., 2023).

The integration of spirituality into business and organizational practices can also have significant benefits. Incorporating a spiritual perspective into business operations can lead to a broader, long-term focus and foster greater competitiveness and sustainability (Thaker, 2009). This is because spirituality can cultivate qualities such as compassion, ethical decision-making, and a focus on the common good, which are essential for creating environmentally and socially responsible business practices (Raco et al., 2019).

By adopting a holistic approach that recognizes the role of spirituality, individuals, organizations, and society as a whole can work together to address the complex challenge of climate change. Through the lens of spirituality, we can develop a deeper understanding of our interconnectedness with the natural world and a stronger commitment to protecting it for current and future generations.

The challenge of addressing climate change has become an increasingly urgent global concern, requiring a comprehensive and multifaceted approach. One often-overlooked aspect of this challenge is the potential contribution of spiritual and philosophical traditions, such as Sufism, in shaping a more holistic understanding and response to the crisis (Obaidullah, 2017; Chanza and Wit, 2016).

Scholars have highlighted the historical entanglement of religion and sustainability discourse, noting that many facets of the modern academic system have, in fact, perpetuated unsustainable practices (Johnston, 2016). In this context, Islam's spiritual, moral, and legal values offer valuable insights for sustainable development, particularly in multi-religious or multi-cultural societies (Grine et al., 2013). The Islamic tradition emphasizes the interconnectedness of the divine, human, and natural realms, underscoring the importance of a holistic worldview in addressing complex challenges like climate change (El-Bassiouny, Wilson, & Esmat 2017).

Sufism, as a mystical branch of Islam, has a long history of emphasizing the unity of all existence and the role of the individual in maintaining this balance (Bsoul et al., 2022). Sufi teachings on the sanctity of nature, the importance of simplicity, and the need for spiritual and ethical development can provide a complementary framework for climate action. By integrating Sufi principles with scientific and policy-driven approaches, a more comprehensive strategy for tackling climate change can emerge. This holistic perspective can empower individuals and communities to make more conscious choices, foster greater environmental stewardship, and cultivate a deeper sense of responsibility towards the planet and future generations (Grine et al., 2013).

Ultimately, the incorporation of Sufi and other spiritual insights into the climate change discourse has the potential to enrich our understanding of the issue, inspire more meaningful and sustainable solutions, and contribute to a more harmonious and resilient global society (Bsoul et al., 2022; Obaidullah, 2017).

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Said Nursi was a prominent Islamic scholar, teacher, and author who lived in the Ottoman Empire and the early years of the Republic of Turkey during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Nursi's life and work were shaped by the turbulent political and social changes of his time, as the Ottoman Empire declined and the modern secular Turkish state emerged.

Nursi was born in 1876 in the village of Nurs in eastern Anatolia. He received a traditional Islamic education as a child, studying the Quran, Islamic jurisprudence, and other religious sciences. Nursi demonstrated exceptional intellectual abilities from a young age, and he quickly became known as a prodigy, memorizing the entire Quran by the age of 14. Nursi's educational journey eventually led him to study at various religious schools and engage with the intellectual and religious debates of his era.

Throughout his life, Nursi was a vocal critic of the secularization and Westernization policies implemented by the new Turkish republic under Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Nursi resisted these changes and sought to preserve the role of Islam in public life. As a result, he faced persecution and imprisonment by the Turkish authorities on multiple occasions (Ihsan et al., 2023). However, Nursi's steadfast commitment to his religious principles and his tireless efforts to educate and inspire his followers left a lasting legacy that continues to impact Islamic thought and practice today.

Nursi's educational approach combined traditional Islamic scholarship with a focus on character development and moral education (Ihsan et al., 2023). He emphasized the importance of developing a strong faith (iman) as the foundation for ethical behavior (akhlaq) in the face of the challenges of modern life. Nursi's prolific writings, known as the Risale-i Nur collection, have been widely studied and interpreted by scholars and followers alike, providing a unique perspective on Islamic thought and spirituality.

The life and work of Said Nursi offer valuable insights into the complex interplay between religion, politics, and social change in the modern Muslim world. Said Nursi has left an indelible mark on the development of Islamic thought. His ideas and teachings have had a profound impact on the way Muslims approach and understand their faith in the modern world.

Nursi's primary focus was on strengthening the foundations of Islamic faith and promoting a deeper understanding of the Qur'an and Islamic principles (Ihsan et al., 2023). He believed that the key to reviving the Islamic world lay in a renewed commitment to spiritual and moral values, and he dedicated his life to educating and inspiring the Muslim community (Esposito & Voll, 2001).

One of Nursi's central ideas was the concept of "iman" or faith, which he saw as the cornerstone of Islamic ethics and morality. He emphasized the importance of cultivating a strong and unwavering faith in God, and argued that this was essential for the development of sound moral character and ethical behavior (Ihsan et al., 2023).

Nursi's educational philosophy was also a significant aspect of his thought. He believed that education should be a holistic process that not only

imparts knowledge but also nurtures the spiritual and moral development of the individual. This approach, which he termed "informal, formal, and nonformal education", was aimed at producing individuals who were not only knowledgeable but also committed to the service of their faith and their community (Ihsan et al., 2023).

In addition to his work on education and ethics, Nursi also made important contributions to the integration of Islam and science. He believed that there was no inherent conflict between the teachings of the Qur'an and the discoveries of modern science, and he worked to demonstrate the compatibility between the two (Said & Hanapi, 2019).

Nursi's ideas and teachings have had a lasting impact on the Islamic world, and his work continues to be studied and discussed by scholars and thinkers around the globe (Günther, 2006). His legacy as a defender of Islamic faith and a champion of moral and spiritual renewal has solidified his place as one of the most influential Islamic thinkers of the modern era.

Said Nursi made significant contributions to the understanding and practice of Sufism within the Islamic tradition. Nursi's perspective on Sufism was rooted in his deep reverence for the divine and his commitment to spiritual enlightenment and renewal (Andrabi, 2015).

Nursi's conceptualization of Sufism emphasized its grounding in the Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad. He saw Sufism not as a separate path, but as the very essence of Islam, a means of living and embodying the teachings of the religion (Algar, 1976). For Nursi, Sufism was about cultivating a profound love and devotion to God, as well as a spirit of service and compassion towards all of humanity (Andrabi, 2015).

Nursi's writings on Sufism reflect his belief that the path of the Sufi orders (tariqahs) should be firmly anchored in the foundational principles of Islam. He was critical of those Sufi traditions that he felt had become overly esoteric or divorced from the mainstream teachings of the religion (Algar, 1976).

At the same time, Nursi recognized the important role that Sufism had played in the transmission and adaptation of Islamic teachings across diverse cultural contexts. He acknowledged the contributions of Sufi scholars and orders in helping to spread and localize Islam in various regions, including the archipelago of Southeast Asia.

Nursi's vision for Sufism emphasized its potential to serve as a unifying force, bringing together different segments of the Muslim community through its message of love, compassion, and spiritual unity (Ali Andrabi, 2015; Babayev, 2009). His teachings on Sufism have continued to influence contemporary Muslim thinkers and practitioners, who seek to reconcile the mystic and the rational dimensions of the Islamic faith.

The global climate crisis has prompted urgent calls for innovative approaches to address the pressing environmental challenges facing humanity. In this regard, the eco-theological perspective of the renowned Turkish Muslim scholar Said Nursi (1877-1960) offers a unique and valuable contribution. Nursi's teachings emphasize the inherent interconnectedness between the natural world, the divine, and human responsibility, presenting a framework

that can inform and inspire sustainable solutions to climate change (Fisher & Utt, 2007; Suteja, 2009; Goulah, 2015).

Nursi's conception of the natural world as a vast "book of the universe" reveals his profound reverence for creation and the divine wisdom reflected within it (Fisher & Utt, 2007; Begum et al., 2021). He viewed the natural environment not merely as a resource to be exploited, but as a sacred trust that humans are charged with safeguarding and preserving (Begum et al., 2021; Suteja, 2009). This ecological sensibility is rooted in Nursi's understanding of human beings as "vicegerents" on Earth, entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining the delicate balance of the natural order (Bsoul et al., 2022).

Nursi's teachings also highlight the spiritual dimension of environmental stewardship, calling on individuals to cultivate an "eco-ethical consciousness" grounded in a deep reverence for the divine and a sense of interconnectedness with all of creation (Goulah, 2015; Fisher & Utt, 2007; Suteja, 2009). This moral and spiritual orientation can serve as a powerful counterweight to the prevailing anthropocentric worldview that has contributed to the current environmental crisis.

Moreover, Nursi's emphasis on the principle of balance and moderation in human activity offers valuable insights for mitigating the impacts of climate change (Bsoul et al., 2022). He cautioned against excessive consumption and resource exploitation, underscoring the need for a more harmonious and sustainable relationship between humanity and the natural world.

By integrating Nursi's eco-theological perspective into efforts to address climate change, policymakers, educators, and climate activists can tap into a rich reservoir of spiritual and ethical resources to cultivate a more holistic and inclusive approach to environmental sustainability (Bsoul et al., 2022; Fisher & Utt, 2007; Begum et al., 2021). As the global community grapples with the existential threat of climate change, the wisdom of thinkers like Said Nursi can provide a crucial counterpoint to the technocratic and reductionist approaches that have often dominated the discourse, offering a more integrated vision of human-nature relations grounded in reverence, balance, and divine stewardship.

With the background explained above, the main aim of this research is to explore in depth the contribution of the thoughts and perspectives of Said Nursi, a leading Muslim thinker, in overcoming the challenge of climate change through the ethical and spiritual approaches outlined in his works.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The research method used in this research is a literature study using a qualitative approach. This allows researchers to carry out in-depth analysis of Said Nursi's works and understand the contribution of his thinking in overcoming climate change through the perspective of ethics and spirituality.

The data was collected through a critical analysis of the works of Said Nursi, particularly those related to environmental ethics and spirituality. This involved a thorough examination of Nursi's writings to gain a deeper

understanding of his perspectives on how ethical and spiritual principles can contribute to addressing climate change.

The data analysis technique used is content analysis to identify and interpret key concepts related to environmental ethics and spirituality in Said Nursi's works. Apart from that, contextual analysis was also carried out to understand Nursi's thoughts in the socio-historical and intellectual context of his time.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### *Nature as God's Verse*

Said Nursi developed a profound and holistic understanding of the relationship between the natural world and the Divine. Nursi's perspective was firmly rooted in the Islamic worldview, which considers the study of nature as a means to deepen one's relationship with the Creator. In his writings, Nursi emphasized that the natural world, in all its magnificent complexity and order, serves as a profound "ayat" or "sign" of the existence, attributes, and wisdom of God.

Nursi's perspective on the natural world is deeply influenced by the Quranic view that the study of nature should not be done merely for its own sake, but as a way to draw closer to the Divine (Golshani, 2007). The Quran repeatedly calls upon believers to contemplate the wonders of creation as a means of strengthening their faith and understanding of the Creator. Similarly, Nursi saw the exploration of the natural world as a spiritual endeavor, one that could lead the sincere seeker to a deeper recognition of the power, wisdom, and unity of God (Farooqi, 1992).

Nursi's worldview rejected the rigid separation between the spiritual and material realms that has characterized much of modern thought. Instead, he saw the natural world as a vast "book of the universe" that, when read with insight and contemplation, could reveal the handiwork of the Divine (Dabbagh et al., 2022). Through this lens, scientific inquiry was not viewed as an end in itself, but rather as a means of gaining a deeper understanding of God's creation and the signs of His existence (Sabra & Nasr, 1968).

Nursi's vision of the natural world as a repository of divine signs had profound implications for his understanding of the human role in the cosmos. He believed that by studying and reflecting upon the wonders of nature, human beings could cultivate a profound sense of awe, gratitude, and humility before the Creator (Ullah, 2018). This, in turn, could inspire a life of meaningful service and worship, as humanity recognizes its place as a custodian and steward of God's creation.

Ultimately, Said Nursi's perspective on the natural world as the "ayat" or "signs" of God represents a holistic and spiritually-informed approach to understanding the natural sciences. By integrating scientific inquiry with a deeper contemplation of the Divine, Nursi's thought offers a powerful antidote to the prevailing materialist and reductionist tendencies in much of modern academia.

### ***Interconnection between Humans and Nature***

Said Nursi significantly contributed to the understanding of the relationship between humanity and nature. Through his profound insights and extensive writings, Nursi has illuminated the intricate web of connections that bind the human condition to the natural world.

At the heart of Nursi's perspective lies the fundamental premise that the universe and all its components are created by a divine, all-knowing power (Sabra & Nasr, 1968). Nursi emphasizes the sacred dimension of the cosmos, where every element, from the largest celestial bodies to the smallest particles, bears the imprint of the Creator's wisdom and design (Ihsan et al., 2023).

Nursi's conception of the human being is central to his understanding of the human-nature relationship. He views humans as the "most valuable and big fruit in the 'tree of the universe'", endowed with a profound capacity to reflect the divine names and serve as Allah's vicegerent on earth (Asroor & Sahin, 2020). This elevated status, however, comes with a great responsibility: to seek knowledge of the Creator through the study of the universe and to act in accordance with the divine trust placed upon humanity (Ihsan et al., 2023; Rouzati, 2020).

Nursi's interpretation of the human *fiṭrah*, or innate nature, is crucial in this regard. He asserts that humans are inherently inclined towards the recognition of the divine and the contemplation of the natural world (Asroor & Sahin, 2020). By cultivating this innate disposition, individuals can deepen their connection with the Creator and discern the profound signs of divine unity and wisdom that permeate the universe (Rouzati, 2020).

Nursi's perspective on the human-nature relationship stands in contrast to the intellectual atheism that he saw as a growing trend in the modern era (Ihsan et al., 2023). Instead, he proposes a worldview that acknowledges the sacred and interconnected nature of the cosmos, where the human being is not merely a detached observer, but an integral part of the grand design, tasked with understanding and honoring the divine trust placed upon them.

### ***The Ethics of Simplicity and Balance***

Said Nursi developed a comprehensive theological and philosophical framework that emphasized the importance of simplicity and balance in various aspects of human life. Nursi's teachings on ethical conduct, or *akhlaq*, were grounded in his broader understanding of the relationship between the human being, the Divine, and the universe.

Nursi viewed the human being as the "most valuable and big fruit in the 'tree of the universe'", endowed with immense potential and capacities bestowed by the Infinite Creator. Accordingly, Nursi stressed that the human being has a sacred duty to fulfill in this world, which requires a deep contemplation of one's origin, purpose, and final destination (Asroor & Sahin, 2020).

Central to Nursi's ethical teachings is the concept of *iman*, or faith, which he saw as the foundation of *akhlaq* or virtuous conduct. Nursi argued that true faith in the Divine necessarily leads to a balanced and proportionate approach

to the various elements of the universe, from the largest to the smallest, from the inanimate to the animate (Ihsan et al., 2023).

This principle of balance and proportion is reflected in Nursi's emphasis on the virtue of simplicity or moderation (*iqtisad*). Nursi contended that the human being should avoid the extremes of either extravagance or deprivation, and instead strive to maintain a harmonious equilibrium in their relationship with the material and spiritual realms (Ihsan et al., 2023).

Nursi's vision of ethical conduct was also shaped by his understanding of the sacred and intimate relationship between the Divine and the human being. Nursi believed that the human being could come to know the Divine through the contemplation of the Divine names and their manifestation in the universe (Rouzati, 2020). This spiritual connection, Nursi argued, should inform and guide the human being's actions and choices in the world. In summary, Said Nursi's ethical teachings emphasized the importance of simplicity, balance, and a deep spiritual connection with the Divine as the foundations for a meaningful and virtuous human life.

### *Respect for All Creatures*

Said Nursi has provided a profound understanding of the importance of appreciating all living creatures. He considered humans to be the most valuable and significant part of the "tree of the universe," reflecting the divine names and attributes of Allah. Nursi emphasized that humans have been entrusted with a noble duty as the vicegerents of Allah on earth, and have been bestowed with immense potential and capacity to fulfill this responsibility.

Nursi's interpretation of the *Risālah al-Nūr*, or the Epistles of Light, highlights the intricate relationship between Allah, humans, and the universe (Asroor & Sahin, 2020). He viewed the cosmos and all its elements, from the largest to the smallest, as being created with a specific purpose and proportion by Allah (Ihsan et al., 2023). Nursi believed that the universe has a sacred dimension, where every part of creation reflects the divine attributes and is interconnected in a profound way (Ihsan et al., 2023).

This perspective on the intrinsic worth and sacredness of all living beings is rooted in Nursi's understanding of the Quranic teachings. He emphasized that the Quranic emphasis on the significant relationship between Allah and His creation, particularly humans, has been a source of inspiration for many great Muslim thinkers. Nursi reminded his audience that the divine names are the means by which Allah makes Himself known, and that humans are called upon to develop a deep understanding of the Creator through His names (Rouzati, 2020).

Nursi's vision of the human being as a "traveler and guest of Allah" who is entrusted with a noble duty underscores the importance of appreciation and care for all living creatures (Asroor & Sahin, 2020). This notion of the interconnectedness of all creation and the responsibility of humans to act with compassion and fairness towards all life is a central aspect of Nursi's thought (Fallah et al., 2015).

In a world increasingly marked by environmental degradation and the exploitation of natural resources, Nursi's teachings on the inherent worth and sacredness of all living beings offer a timely and compelling perspective. By cultivating a deep sense of appreciation and reverence for all of Allah's creation, Nursi's thought calls upon us to adopt a more holistic and sustainable approach to our relationship with the natural world.

### ***Spiritual Responsibility***

Said Nursi emphasized the profound concept of spiritual responsibility as a central tenet of his philosophical and theological framework. Nursi's vision of the human being's role in the universe is one of a sacred and noble destiny, where individuals are understood as the "most valuable and big fruit in the 'tree of the universe'". Nursi's interpretation of the Quranic concept of human nature, described using the interchangeable terms of 'ruh' (spirit) and 'nafs' (self), underscores the innate spiritual dimension of the human being (Asroor & Sahin, 2020).

Nursi's perspective on spirituality departs from the limited understanding of it as merely a subjective, abstract, and personal concept. Rather, he conceives of spirituality as an independent and well-defined scientific domain, with profound implications for various fields such as healthcare, education, and beyond (Machouche et al., 2019). Nursi emphasizes that the human being is a "reflection of the names of Allah" and a "glorious verse or sign in the universe", bestowed with immense potential and capacity to fulfill a noble duty (Asroor & Sahin, 2020).

This understanding of the human being's spiritual responsibility is closely tied to Nursi's conception of the relationship between God and His creation, particularly the human being. Nursi views the human being as a "traveler and guest of Allah" entrusted with the responsibility of gaining knowledge of the Creator through His divine names and signs (Rouzati, 2020). This intimate relationship between the human and the Divine is a central theme in Nursi's thought, underscoring the vital importance of spiritual development and the fulfillment of one's sacred duty (Heydari et al., 2016).

Nursi's comprehensive vision of the human being's spiritual responsibility serves as a powerful reminder of the profound significance of the spiritual dimension in the contemporary era, where it is often overlooked or marginalized. By highlighting the intrinsic connection between the human, the Divine, and the universe, Nursi's thought offers a compelling framework for understanding the true purpose and destiny of the human being.

### ***Contemplation and Reflection***

Said Nursi developed a profound and multifaceted philosophy that centered on the idea of contemplation and reflection as essential components of the human experience and spiritual growth. At the heart of Nursi's teachings lies the belief that the human being is a profoundly valuable and significant creation, endowed with immense potential and capabilities that must be cultivated through a deep engagement with the divine signs present in the universe.

Nursi's perspective on the relationship between God and humanity is rooted in the Quranic emphasis on the intimate connection between the Creator and His creation, particularly the human being (Rouzati, 2020). He sees the divine names as the primary means by which God makes Himself known to mankind, and therefore encourages his followers to strive to know the Creator through a careful study and contemplation of these divine attributes (Rouzati, 2020). This notion of gaining knowledge of God through His names and signs in the universe is a central theme in Nursi's writings, as he believes that it is through this process of contemplation and reflection that the human being can fulfill their role as the vicegerent of God on earth (Rouzati, 2020).

Nursi's ideas on the sacred nature of the cosmos and the intricate relationship between the divine and the natural world are also deeply influential in his philosophy (Ihsan et al., 2023). He rejects the notion of intellectual atheism, which he sees as contradictory to the Quranic worldview that imbues the entire universe with a sacred dimension. Instead, Nursi emphasizes the idea that every aspect of creation, from the smallest particle to the largest celestial body, is a manifestation of the divine will and power, and that it is the human being's responsibility to engage in a profound contemplation of these signs (Asroor & Sahin, 2020; Ihsan et al., 2023).

In this context, Nursi views the human being as the "most valuable and big fruit in the tree of the universe," a being endowed with immense potential and capacity to connect with the divine and fulfill their role as the vicegerent of God on earth. He encourages his followers to constantly reflect on the purpose of their existence, their relationship with the Creator, and their responsibilities as travelers and guests in this world (Asroor & Sahin, 2020).

Nursi's emphasis on contemplation and reflection is not merely a theoretical construct, but a practical approach to personal and spiritual growth. He believes that by cultivating a deep and sincere engagement with the divine signs in the universe, the human being can not only deepen their religious wisdom and insight, but also guide all aspects of their life towards the "immortal happiness" promised in the Quran (Abu Libdeh, 2015; Asroor & Sahin, 2020). In this way, Nursi's philosophy of contemplation and reflection becomes a cornerstone of his broader vision for the spiritual and moral upliftment of the individual and society.

### ***Contribution of Said Nursi's Thoughts to the Climate Crisis Problem***

Said Nursi has developed a profound understanding of the natural world and its intricate relationship with human spirituality. His insights can offer valuable contributions to the pressing issue of climate change, which demands a holistic approach that combines scientific, ethical, and spiritual dimensions.

Nursi's conception of the universe as "the Book of the Universe" (Ihsan et al., 2023) emphasizes the inherent sacredness and divine purpose behind all natural phenomena. He believed that the cosmos, from the grandest celestial bodies to the smallest particles, is a manifestation of God's creative power and a means of conveying divine messages to humanity (Sabra & Nasr, 1968).

Nursi's perspective on the interconnectedness between humans and nature is particularly relevant to the climate crisis. He viewed humans as the "most valuable and significant fruit of the 'tree of the universe' (Asroor & Sahin, 2020), endowed with a unique capacity to comprehend and steward the natural world. Nursi's understanding of human beings as "travelers and guests of God" in this world (Asroor & Sahin, 2020) implies a profound sense of responsibility and reverence towards the environment, which should guide our actions and lifestyle choices.

Nursi's emphasis on the virtues of simplicity, moderation, and balance (Ihsan et al., 2023) offers an ethical framework for addressing the unsustainable patterns of consumption and production that have contributed to the climate crisis. By cultivating a mindset of contentment and appreciation for the natural world, individuals and societies can reduce their ecological footprint and promote more sustainable practices (Bsoul et al., 2022).

Furthermore, Nursi's teachings on the importance of contemplation and reflection (Asroor & Sahin, 2020) can encourage a deeper understanding of our place within the natural world and foster a sense of wonder and reverence that can inspire pro-environmental behaviors.

By integrating Nursi's perspectives on the sacredness of nature, the interconnectedness between humans and the environment, and the spiritual call to environmental stewardship, we can develop a more holistic and sustainable approach to addressing the challenges of climate change (Fisher & Utt, 2007). This approach, grounded in Islamic principles and Nursi's unique insights, can complement scientific and technological solutions, and contribute to a more harmonious and balanced relationship between humanity and the natural world.

Nursi's teachings emphasize the intrinsic sacredness of the natural world and the responsibility of humans to act as stewards, rather than exploiters, of God's creation (Wersal, 1995). From this foundation, Nursi's thought offers concrete pathways for addressing the pressing issues of climate change and environmental degradation. Firstly, Nursi championed the need for moderation and restraint in human consumption, rejecting the unsustainable patterns of overconsumption that drive resource depletion and pollution (Bsoul et al., 2022). By cultivating a spirit of gratitude and contentment, individuals and societies can reduce their environmental footprint and foster a more harmonious relationship with the natural world.

Secondly, Nursi emphasized the importance of protecting and preserving ecosystems, recognizing the intrinsic value of all living beings and the delicate interdependence of natural systems (Kula, 2001). This perspective aligns with the urgent need to safeguard biodiversity, restore degraded habitats, and mitigate the impacts of climate change on vulnerable ecosystems.

Lastly, Nursi's teachings underscore the critical role of environmental education and awareness-raising in catalyzing pro-environmental behaviors (Begum et al., 2021). By instilling a sense of reverence for nature and a commitment to stewardship, Nursi's vision can inspire individuals and

communities to adopt more sustainable practices and advocate for policies that prioritize ecological well-being (Bsoul et al., 2022).

In a world grappling with the profound challenges of climate change and environmental degradation, the insights of Said Nursi offer a compelling and timely perspective. By integrating Nursi's principles of moderation, ecological protection, and environmental consciousness, Muslim and non-Muslim communities alike can work towards a more sustainable and just future.

Nursi's environmental ethics revolve around the concept of the "Book of the Universe," which sees the natural world as a divine text that reveals the attributes and signs of the Creator. This perspective instills a sense of reverence and responsibility towards the environment, recognizing it as a sacred trust that must be protected and nurtured (Bsoul et al., 2022; Grine et al., 2013).

Moreover, Nursi's emphasis on balance and moderation in human interactions with the environment aligns with the principles of sustainable development. He advocated for the rational use of resources, the importance of environmental protection, and the need to consider the long-term consequences of our actions on future generations (Bsoul et al., 2022; Kula, 2001).

Integrating these principles of environmental ethics with current environmental policies could contribute to a more holistic and sustainable approach. For instance, legislation focused on environmental protection, the rational use of resources, and the fostering of environmental awareness and stewardship could be informed by Nursi's teachings (Bsoul et al., 2022).

Furthermore, the emphasis on popular participation in decision-making processes and the unity of human destiny with the natural world could be leveraged to enhance the inclusivity and long-term viability of environmental policies (Bsoul et al., 2022). By weaving Nursi's environmental ethics into contemporary policy frameworks, a more comprehensive approach to sustainability can be developed, one that harmonizes spiritual, ethical, and practical considerations (York & Becker, 2012; Lowry et al., 1951). This integration could lead to the cultivation of sustainable persons, individuals who embody the values of environmental responsibility and stewardship, and who can drive long-term behavioral changes towards more sustainable practices (York & Becker, 2012). Ultimately, the convergence of Nursi's environmental ethics and current environmental policies has the potential to create a more holistic and sustainable approach to addressing the pressing ecological challenges of our time (Fisher & Utt, 2007; Bsoul et al., 2022).

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on in-depth literature analysis, several key findings can be concluded as follows. First, Said Nursi sees nature as a "verse" or sign of God's greatness and wisdom. In his perspective, nature is not merely a resource that can be exploited, but a sacred trust that must be guarded and preserved. This view emphasizes that every element of nature has a sacred dimension that reflects the greatness of the Creator. By understanding and contemplating the wonders of nature, humans can deepen their faith and gratitude to God, and develop a greater sense of responsibility towards the environment. Second,

Nursi emphasized the close relationship between humans and nature, where humans are seen as God's representatives on earth who have a great responsibility in maintaining the balance of nature. This concept emphasizes that humans have a central role in maintaining the harmony and balance of the ecosystem as part of worship and devotion to God. By recognizing this relationship, humans are expected to develop a deeper ecological awareness and act as responsible guardians of the environment. Third, Nursi criticized excessive consumption and unsustainable exploitation of natural resources. He encouraged the principle of balance and moderation in human activities as an effort to reduce negative impacts on the environment. This approach is relevant in the context of climate change mitigation, where sustainable consumption patterns can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and maintain ecosystem balance.

Fourth, Nursi emphasizes the importance of spiritual awareness in environmental management. He invites individuals to develop a deep ethical and spiritual awareness, which can encourage pro-environmental behavior. By having spiritual awareness, individuals will feel more responsible for protecting and preserving nature as part of their devotion to God.

#### **ADVANCED RESEARCH**

Based on the findings of this study, further research is needed to examine how Nursi's ethical and spiritual principles can be integrated into environmental policies and natural resource management practices. This could include developing educational programs and awareness campaigns that incorporate spiritual aspects into environmental conservation efforts.

In addition, collaboration between environmental scientists, theologians, and community leaders is also needed to develop a holistic approach to addressing climate change. This approach can combine scientific knowledge with spiritual and ethical insights to create more comprehensive and sustainable solutions.

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