



The ultimate goal of Islam is to gain complete submission to Allah (tawhid) and to fulfil his duty. This motivation means Islam is a constant in each Muslim's life + influences their actions + decisions.

As a result, Islamic teachings on Bioethics (ethics concerning medical or scientific issues) are influenced by the continuity of Islam and are present in each Muslim's daily life. Such teachings are sourced ~~externally~~ through Jurisprudence; either directly from the Qur'an or Sunnah, or through consensus + analogy.

As said, Muslim's continually seek to gain a complete submission to Allah + a permanent consciousness of his presence + influence.

Islamic ethics as a whole are based around the ~~fact~~ idea that all humans are born with a natural instinct for good, yet must follow Allah's instruction in order to maintain this. This is where Islamic ethical teachings, and more specifically bioethical teachings come into play in a Muslim's life. Such issues dealt with include abortion, euthanasia + stem-cell research.

Abortion is an issue of great ethical importance both within society + in Islam. As a whole, abortion is generally condemned. The mother's body is seen to be the property of Allah ~~and~~ and the embryo a creation of Allah, "creation by the Almighty God; none, not even the mother has the right to dispose of it"



Similarly, ~~Islam~~ it is believed the fetus has rights to protection, lineage + inheritance which is unable to fulfilled if an abortion takes place.

Such teachings on abortion within Islam are taken from a variety of sources. The Quran + Sunnah hold great importance in describing the wrongness + sin of murder, as well as the power of Allah over the mother's body. Consensus is also used here, "it is the consensus of all fuqaha that abortion is a crime" (tajarriyah), as well as guidance from heads of schools of thought such as Imam Malik who condemns it.

Another much more modern issue for Muslim's is that of embryonic stem-cell research. In contrast to abortion, such research is allowed within Islam. Muslim's believe it is a societal duty to perform the research [Fard kifayah] and it is encouraged, "we believe it is ^{our} a societal obligation to perform such research" (Islamicinstitute). They also follow the belief here that the ~~embryo~~ fetus is not 'ensouled' until 120 days ~~but~~ after conception, thus proving able to be used.

Islam does not however, allow surrogate parenting, the adoption of embryos, nor the adoption of children due to the vital importance of inheritance, familial + lineage rights

which cannot be tracked through such actions. As the issue is far more modern than other bioethical issues, there are no scriptural or sacred writing references available. As a result, Muslims rely on guidance from important spiritual leaders as well as organisations as the Islamic Institute as previously mentioned.

Another bioethical issue of concern within Islam is that of euthanasia. As a whole, similar to abortion, Islamic ethical teachings condemn the use of euthanasia. Muslims are encouraged to maintain a positive + optimistic attitude to their pain or illness and to push through adversity. This belief is shown through the Qur'anic teaching "For those who suffer will truly receive reward without measure", wherein individuals are encouraged to outlast their pain to receive rewards.

This preference of a cure, or relieved pain over the finality of euthanasia is presented in teachings from the Qur'an, as well as prophetic sayings throughout the Hadith + Sunnah. The notion that Allah has control over when an individual will die is consistent throughout the texts, and forms the basis of Islamic teachings along with the belief that outlasting suffering is a test of a person's *umma* (faith).

Ethical teachings play a significant role in the life of each Muslim + their daily practices. The constant desire to achieve permanent consciousness + awareness of Allah, as well as complete submission provides the foundation for all Islamic teachings, especially those concerning ethics. Similarly, the belief/ notion ~~that~~ of the afterlife and the fact that all individuals will be called to account before Allah impresses the need for strict adherence to the ethical instructions of Allah in order to "enter paradise".

Bioethics, and the issues dealt with such as abortion, euthanasia + stem cell research, stem from key Islamic beliefs + teachings. Through consultation of the processes of Islamic Jurisprudence + therefore Qur'an, Sunnah, consensus + analogy; a Muslim is able to determine the 'right' or moral decision that can be made in accordance with their religion. Based strongly on non-violent foundations, the power of Allah as well as much more modern societal obligations for scientific pursuits; Islam ~~is~~ holds strong ethical teachings, especially concerning Bioethics which heavily influence the lives of adherents.