

"THE METAPHYSICS OF PRESENCE": FROM PARIS TO PERSIA

Mahdi Shafieyan*

*Asst. Prof. Dr., Faculty of Foreign Languages, Imam Sadiq University, Iran
aliteraturist@yahoo.com

Abstract

Probing the French philosopher Jacques Derrida's comment on the metaphysics of presence with its old and Western background—although his emphasis at the beginning was on the concept's Western tradition, later on he claimed the applicability of his idea to the world philosophy—from Mulla Sadra's (1571-1640) viewpoint reveals some points of leakage. Narrowing down the concept of the "metaphysics of presence" into difference which can "limitedly"—though paradoxically—refer to both deferral and difference in the Derridean terminology, the researcher in this study adopts the former meaning for his analysis because he has previously worked and written on the latter in another place. The sources of inspiration to deal with the subject come from the Iranian version of hermeneutics, which majorly focuses on what is technically called "from-text-to-text reading", taken primarily from Mulla Sadra's exegetical commentaries. Mention should be made that the researcher in this regard also benefits from a number of readings by the Sadra's explicators on the Iranian philosopher. The findings confirm that in spite of the fact that the concept of deferral is admitted in the Persian philosophy, it does not lead to absence, generally, and lack of meaning, specifically speaking. In other words, the contradictory meanings coming from various critiques that Derrida agreed on are negated via the researcher's approach, of course from one single point of view.

Keywords: Iranian philosophy, Mulla Sadra, Jacques Derrida, deferral, metaphysics of presence