

L6

Topic: God's Justice

The five pillars of Islam

Tawheed (Unity of God)

Adalah (Justice of God)

Nabuwwah (Prophethood)

Imamah (12 Imams)

Qiyamah or Ma'aad (the Day of Judgment or eschatology)

Adalah or **Adl** (Arabic: عدالة) means **justice** and denotes the Justice of God. It is among the five Shia **principles of the religion**.

Allah is described by many attributes, but **just Adalah is chosen as the overarching principle** for the following reasons:

1. Adalah is so important that many **other attributes of God return to it**. In other words Adalah has a wide meaning as **putting everything in their right places**, so being The Most Merciful or The Sustainer get their meaning from Adalah.
2. At the beginning of Islam there was **a conflict regarding the meaning of justice**. A group of Sunni Muslims (Ash'arites) denied that God acts according to the justice. Therefore, the Shi'a put it in the principles of religion **to emphasize on justice**.
3. **Resurrection is related to the Divine Justice** as well as the mission of the **prophets** and the responsibility of the **Imams**.
4. Adalah in human society is an important element of **Social justice**.

The Meaning of Justice

The extensive meaning is “to put everything in their right places”; this sense of justice rules over all the universe and this is what the famous tradition of the Holy Prophet refers to, when he says, “It is by justice that all the heavens and the earth exist.” The other meaning of justice is the opposite of ‘oppression’ as “violating the individuals’ rights” in the sense that some people are given their rights and others are not.

The Difference between Justice and Equality

Equality is not a condition for justice; rather, rights, priorities and particularities must be considered, so sometimes equality is injustice.

The Cause of Oppression

1. **Ignorance:** Sometimes the oppressor does not know that he/she is oppressing and violating the rights of others.
 2. **Need:** If the oppressor has no need, he may not oppress the others.
 3. **Inability**
 4. **Selfishness, grudge and revenge**
 5. **Fear** of losing sovereignty
- ✚ None of the mentioned ugly qualities and deficiencies exist in God and therefore, **it makes no sense for Him to commit oppression.** He is a perfect being from which only goodness, justice and mercy can stem.