

Justice

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During the take over of Mekka, a woman stole. The messenger (ppbu) decided to implement the punishment and cut off her hand. Her family went to Osama Ebn Zaid and asked him to mediate for her with the messenger (ppbu) so her hand does not get cut off. The messenger (ppbu) used to love Osama very much. When Osama mediated for the lady, the messenger (ppbu) became quite upset and said to him: **{Would you mediate against one of Allah's sentences?}**. The messenger (ppbu) then got up and addressed the people with a speech saying: **{Those before you were destroyed only because when a person of status stole they let him go, and when a person of low status stole they enforced the sentence on to him. I solemnly swear, if Fatima, Muhammad's daughter stole, I would have her hand cut off.}**

A man from Egypt came to Omar Ebn-Al-Khattab once and said: "Leader of the faithful, I had a race with the son of Amr Ebn_Al-A3as, the governor of Egypt. I won the race. But he lashed me with his whip. And he said to me: "I am the son of the honorable and the elite". Omar wrote to Amr ebn al-A3as summing him to attend and to bring his son along. When they did attend, Omar gave a whip to the man from Egypt and said to him: beat the son of the honorable and the elite."

During the rule of Omar Ebn A-Khatab, one high status Arab converted to Islam and went for Hajj. While doing the *Tawaf* walking round Kabba, an ordinary common man stepped on to his *Ihram* cloth. He turned round and hit him hard across the face. The man complained to Omar Ebn Alkhattab who summoned the man who allegedly committed the assault. Omar told the common man to hit who assaulted him back across the face. Surprised the man said: are we both equal in that respect? Omar said: Yes, Islam has made you equal.

It has been told that a man was fishing and caught quite a big fish, and he was absolutely delighted with that. On his way home to his family, he was seen by the city mayor who saw the fish and forcibly took it. The fisherman was saddened, and complained to Allah and made a *duaa*. He asked Allah to show him Allah's power against this man in return for his aggression. The

city mayor went back to his palace. As he was handing the fish over to his servant to cook, his finger got caught into the fish mouth and was bitten. The finger got painful doctors were brought to attend him. He was told that he was poisoned by the fish and the finger has to be immediately severed or amputated. After the finger was cut off, it was found that the poison has gone to his arm and to the rest of his body. He then remembered his wrong action towards the fisherman. He searched for him. And when he found him he quickly went to him asking for his forgiveness in order for him to be saved by Allah. The fisherman did forgive him.

The cousin of the Messenger (ppbu) Imam Ali and also his son-in-law, while he was the Khalifa of the nation, one day had a disagreement with a Jew over a suit of body armor. They went to court and Ali said to the judge: This Jew took my body armor. The Jew denied that. The Judge asked Imam Ali for witnesses. Imam had his son Al-Husain as a witness and who affirmed that the body armor belonged to his father. The judge asked Imam Ali if he had another witness. Imam Ali said: No. The judge ruled in favor of the Jew. He decided that the body armor belonged to the Jew because Imam Ali had no other witness other than his son. The Jew said: "the Kalifa of all the Muslims stood against me before a Muslim judge in a Muslim court and the judgment went against the head of the nation and he accepted". The Jew continued: "Imam Ali, You were truthful in your claim. It is your body armor. It fell off your camel once and I picked it up, and I bare witness that there is not God but Allah, and that Muhammad (ppbu) is the messenger of Allah". Imam Ali gave him the body armor as a present in delight with him converting to Islam.

What is meant by Justice?

Justice is impartiality. Justice is giving others what is rightfully theirs and taking from them what they are obliged to give. Many verses in the Koran commanded justice and encourages justice, and calls to hang on to justice. Allah says: **{Allah commands justice, kindness, perfection, and donating to kin}** 16:90. Allah also says: **{and if you judge between people that you judge with justice}** 4:58. One of Allah's names and one of His characters is "**the Just**", all praise be to Allah.

Types of Justice.

There are numerous types of justice, amongst them are:

Justice amongst those are in disputes:

The messenger (ppbu) was great example in practicing justice. Two men from Ansar came to him in a dispute. They asked him for arbitration. He said to them that whoever wrongfully takes what belongs to his brother is in fact taking a piece of fire. They two men cried and both withdrew their claims for the benefit of the other.

Justice in measurements and scales:

A Muslim should be generous when measuring for others. And should practice justice and not under do people or short change them what is rightfully theirs. And should not take more than his or her fare share when buying by increasing the measure, nor when selling be reducing the measure. Allah Has given sever warnings to those who do that when He says in the Koran: **{Woe to those that deal in fraud (1) Those who, when they have to receive by measure from men, they over fill measure. (2) But when they have to give by measure or weight to men, they give less than due. (3) Do they not think that they will be resurrected? (4) On a Mighty, Day (5)}** 83:1-5. Allah also says: **{And establish weight (measuring scale) with justice and fall not short in the balance}** 55:9.

Justice amongst wives:

A Muslim man must practice justice with his wife and give her all her rights. And if a Muslim man has more than one wife then he must be just and fare with them in providing for them in food, drink, clothes, living accommodation, time of company and provision. The messenger (ppbu) said: **{whoever has two wives and had leaned towards or favored one over the other, then on the day of resurrection shall come with his half bent}**. Leaning which is warned against here is aggression against the rights of the wife. The messenger (ppbu) used to practice extreme justice when dividing anything between his wives, and he used to say: **{Dear God, this is my division in what I own, and do not hold against me division of what you own and I do not own}** (possibly meaning dividing his affection or attractions or feelings)

Justice amongst the children:

A Muslim must practice equality in treating his children, even when giving a kiss. And not to favor one of them with a present or a donation so they would not have ill feelings towards one another, and to avoid creating hatred and animosity between them.

Nu3man Ebn Basheer said: My father gave me present, but the my said I would not be happy until you make the messenger (ppbu) witness the giving

of this present. The father went to the messenger (ppbu) and said: I have given a present to my son from my wife Amrah and she asked me to have you messenger of Allah to witness that. The messenger (ppbu) said: {and have you given the rest of your children a similar present?} He said: No. The messenger (ppbu) said: "then fear Allah and practice justice with your children".

Justice amongst all people:

A Muslim is required to practice justice with all people Muslims and non-Muslims. Allah says: {And withhold not things justly due to people} 26:183. Allah also says: {and let not the hatred of others to you make you swerve to wrong and depart from justice. Be just: that is closer to Piety:} 5:8. Meaning not to practice aggression against you have dispute with because of hatred. On the contrary, justice is commanded with all people friends and enemies alike.

Benefits of Justice:

- Justice has a great status with Allah. Allah say: {and be just or be fair, for Allah loves those who are Just or those who are fair} 49:9. Abu Hurairah used to say: "One day's work of a just ruler with his people is better than a hundred years worship at home".
- Justice is safety for humans in this life. Once an envoy carrying a message from some king came to meet Omar ebn Al-Khattab only to find him asleep under a tree. He was surprised to find the ruler of the Muslim nation asleep with no guards. And he said about Omar: "Omar, you ruled through justice, which gave you security which allowed you to sleep".
- Justice is the foundation of ruling. One of the Muslim governors wrote to Omar ben Abdul-Azeez (may Allah be pleased with him) asking him for a large amount of money to build a wall round the region he was governing. But Omar wrote back to him saying: what good will the walls do? Fortify your country with justice. And clean its roads and streets from aggression.
- Justice provides safety and security to the weak and the poor and makes them pride and honor.
- Justice spreads love amongst people and between the rulers and their subjects.
- Justice stops a wrongdoer from aggression, and stops the greedy from feeding their greed. Justice protects the rights and protects the belongings and the honor.