

# The concept of Justice in Islam

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# Concepts to be discussed

- 1-What does the Qur'an say about Justice?**
- 2-What does Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) say about justice?**
- 3-Justice for who?**
- 4-The concept of immigration and diversity in Islam**

# Qur'anic verses relating to justice

**“O you who believe stand up for justice, as witnesses for God, even if it is against yourselves, or your parents or your kin; if he is rich or poor God will take care of them; Do not follow your vain desires for you are likely to depart from justice; and do not decline to affirm justice; and know that God is well-acquainted with all that you do.”**

An-Nesa'a (The Women) 4: 135

# Do not follow your likes or dislikes or your vain desires

- We are ordered by God to be just, **even if it is against ourselves or those whom we love**
- We are warned **not to follow our likes and dislikes** or our vain desires, because if we do we will wrong others and will not be just
- Even if we decline to perform justice we are wrong-doers
- God knows all that we do**, we cannot hide anything from Him

# Justice is close to piety

**“O you who believe stand up for God, as witnesses to justice; let not the hatred of others towards you make you unjust; be just, this is closer to piety, and be mindful of God, for God is well aware of all that you do.”**

Al-Ma'ida (The Table) 5: 7

# Let not the hatred of others make you unjust

- If we allow our emotions to reign then our judgment will be flawed
- To be just and not wrong others is part of piety and righteousness
- We should understand that God is aware of everything that we do

**Be just in dealing with others, and return what was entrusted to you to its rightful owners**

**“God does indeed order you to return what was entrusted to you to its rightful owners, and when you judge between people that you judge in fairness”**

An-Nesa'a (The Women) 4: 58

# Following our vain desires will cause us to deviate from the truth

**“If the truth had been in accord with their desires, truly the heavens and the earth and all beings therein would have been in ruin.”**

Al-Mumenoun (The Believers) 23: 71

**“God created the heavens and the earth for just ends, and in order that each soul may find the recompense of what it has earned, and none of them shall be wronged.”** Al-Jatheya (Bowling-down) 45: 22

**“Do you see such a one as taken for his god his own passion, could you be a disposer of affairs for him? Or do you think that most of them listen or understand? They are only like cattle: No they are further astray from the way.”** Al-Furqan (The Criterion) 25: 43 & 44

# Do not follow their vain desires but judge between them with justice

**“For that reason invite them to God, and stand upright and steadfast as you are commanded, follow not their vain desires, but say: “I believe in what Book God sent down, and I am commanded to judge justly between you; God is our Lord and your Lord; for us we are responsible for our deeds, as you are responsible for your deeds. There is no contention between us and you. God will bring us together and to Him is our final goal.”**

Ash-Shura (The Consultation) 42: 15

# Justice to whom?

Those usually wronged or discriminated against by the powerful and wealthy are:

1-The **Poor and needy**

2-Those **disadvantaged or vulnerable**: nowadays it is Muslims, Immigrants and Latinos. Years ago it was Jews & Catholics

3-**No discrimination** between men & women regarding human dignity and accountability

# The Qur'an calls for social justice

## Let not the rich enslave the poor

**“In order that it does not become a circuit for the rich (and powerful) amongst you”** Al-Hasr (The Gathering) 59: 7

**Charity in the Qur'an is regarded as a right for the poor and needy in our money**, as well as those related to us:

**“Therefore give to kindred his due right, as well as to needy and the wayfarer; this is best for those seeking the countenance of God, and it is these who will prosper”** Ar-Rum (The Romans) 30: 38

**Prophet Muhammad** (PBUH) said to his emissary sent to Yemen: (Take a charity from the rich among them, to be returned to the poor among them)

Narrated by Bokhari & Muslim

# Do not discriminate regarding skin color or ethnic background or faith

**“O mankind We created you from a pair of male and female, and made you into nations and tribes, in order that you may know one another (and work together); Indeed the most honored among you in the sight of God is the person who is most righteous (of service to others)” Al-Hujerat (The Apartments) 49: 13**

## **Men & women are equal regarding their human dignity, and in being responsible & accountable to God**

**“whoever works righteousness, man or woman, and has faith, verily to him We will give a life that is good and pure, and We will bestow on such their reward according to the best of their actions.” An-Nahl (The Bees) 16: 97**

**“And their Lord has accepted of them and answered them: “Never will I allow the work of any of you, be he male or female, to be lost; you are members one of another.” Al-Imran (The Family of Imran) 3: 195**

**“Whoever works evil will be requited accordingly, nor will he find besides God any protector or helper. If any do deeds of righteousness, be they male or female, and have faith, they will enter heaven, and not the least injustice will be done to them.” An-Nesa’a (The Women) 4: 123 & 124**

# God orders you to be just and to do good and forbids evil and transgression

**“Allah (God) commands justice, the doing of good, and giving to kith and kin; and He forbids all indecent deeds, evil and transgression; He instructs you that you may be admonished”**

An-Nahl (The Bees) 16: 90

# God is just and wrongs no one

**“Indeed God will not deal unjustly with any human being at all, it is man that wrongs his own soul.” Yunus (Jonah) 10: 44**

**“We shall set up scales of justice for the Day of Judgment, so that no soul will be dealt with unjustly in the least; if there be no more than the weight of a mustard seed, We will bring it to account, and enough are We to take account.” Al-Anbia’a (The Prophets) 21: 47**

# Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) sayings regarding justice and not wronging others

**(Help your brother, whether he was wronged or he was the wrong-doer)** They asked him how can we help him if he is the wrong-doer? He said: **(By preventing him from wronging others)**

Narrated by

**(Seek forgiveness from your brother now, before a day comes when money will not avail; if you have good deeds, it will be taken from you and given to him according to your injustice; if you have no good deeds, you will carry some of his bad deeds)**

Narrated by Bokhari & Muslim

# Types of judges

**Prophet Muhammad** (PBUH) said: **(Judges are of three types: one in paradise and two in Hell. The one in paradise is he who knows the truth and judges according to the truth. There is another person who judges wrongly despite knowing the truth, and there is the person who judges while ignorant and they are in Hell)**

Narrated by Abou Dawood & Hakim

# Each of you is a shepherd and a guardian

**Prophet Muhammad** (PBUH) said: **(Each one of you is a shepherd and a guardian and each is responsible for those under him. A leader is a guardian and is responsible and accountable for his flock; and a man is a guardian and is responsible and accountable for his household; and a woman is a guardian and is responsible and accountable for her husband and children)** Narrated by Bokhari & Muslim

# Do not judge when you are angry

**Prophet Muhammad** (PBUH) said: **(No one is to judge between two people when he is angry)**

Narrated by Bokhari & Muslim

# To give in charity and help those in need is part of justice. The concept of charity in Islam

1-We use our money during our life. The **real owner is God**

2-We have an **obligation to help the poor, the needy**, our relatives in need, those in debt and to help institutions that do good work in the community

**3-Charity corrects social injustice**

4-Charity stimulates the economy and creates jobs

5-There are **ethics & morals in giving charity**: Not to harm the feelings of those receiving the charity, and to give it in secret, and to give it early rather than late and to give the best of what we have

**6-Charity is more than just giving money**: the effort that we exert to help those in need of our help, and the guidance and example that we set and the kind words that we say are all acts of charity

7-We are **rewarded for our charity**; and our money does not decrease. If we do not give in charity we are punished

# The concept of Immigration in Islam

- 1-To immigrate to a **safe place where we can practice our faith** is an obligation that needs to be fulfilled
- 2-Muslims in a community are supposed to **help those coming to them** seeking shelter and a better life
- 3-All of **God's prophets did immigrate**, including Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad
- 4-Immigration is not just physical movement from one place to another. In its wider meaning it is **abandoning anything that God has made forbidden**

# Immigrate to save your faith from oppression

**“ When the angels take the souls of those who die in sin wronging their own souls, they ask them: “In what plight were you in?”. They say: “Weak and oppressed were we in the land”. They will be asked: “Was not the earth of God spacious enough for you to move around?” Such will find their abode in Hell, what an evil refuge”**

An-Nesa'a (The Women) 4: 97

# Help those immigrants coming to you seeking a better life and escaping from oppression

It is the **collective responsibility** of a community to help those immigrants seeking help

The **residents in Madinah** helped their immigrant brothers:

**“And those who before them had homes in Madinah and had adopted the faith, show their affection to such as came to them for refuge, and entertain no desire in their hearts for things given to the latter, but give them preference over themselves, even though poverty was their own lot; those saved from the covetousness of their own souls are the ones that achieve prosperity.”** Al-Hashr (The Gathering) 59: 9

**Prophet Muhammad** (PBUH) came to Madinah seeking help and support and protection and he was granted that by the Muslims in Madinah

# Why should we help those who need our help?

If we believe in God and understand his numerous blessings over us, then we should realize our obligation to help those who are poor, or needy, or weak and vulnerable, and those who need our help

It is our way of thanking God and acknowledging his blessings over us

**“If you count the blessings of God you cannot enumerate God’s blessings, for God is often-forgiving, most-merciful.”**

An-Nahl (The Bees) 16: 18

# All of God's prophets did immigrate seeking a safer place away from oppression

Abraham immigrated from Iraq to Palestine

Jacob immigrated from Palestine to Egypt

Moses immigrated from Egypt to Madyan

Jesus immigrated from Palestine to Egypt

Muhammad (PBUH) immigrated from Macca to Madinah

# The immigration of Abraham

**“He said: “I will leave home (immigrating) for the sake of my Lord, for He is exalted in might and Wise.”**

Al-Ankabut (The Spider) 29: 26

**“And We safely delivered him and Lut to the land that We have blessed for the nations.”**

Al-Anbia’a (The Prophets) 21: 71

# The immigration of Jacob (Israel)

Joseph requested that his father and family and tribe come to Egypt in safety fleeing from the famine that affected Palestine at that time:

**“Go with this my shirt and cast it over the face of my father, he will regain his eye sight; then come to me with al your family.”**

Youseff (Joseph) 12: 93

**“Then when they entered the presence of Joseph he provided a home for his parents with himself, and said: “Enter Egypt in safety if it pleases God.”**

Youseff (Joseph) 12: 99

# The immigration of Moses

**“He therefore got away therefrom, looking about in a state of fear. He prayed: “My Lord save me from people given to wrong-doing. Then when he turned his face towards Madyan he said: “I do hope that my Lord will show me the smooth and straight path”**

Al-Qasas (The Stories) 28: 21 & 22

# The immigration of Jesus & Mary

They left Palestine for Egypt seeking shelter

# The immigration of Muhammad (PBUH)

**“If you help him not (it is no matter) for God did indeed help him when the unbelievers drove him out, being the second of two; they were in the cave and he said to his companion: “Have no fear for God is with us”; Then God sent down his peace upon him, and strengthened him with forces which you did not see.”**

At-Tawba (Repentance) 9: 40

# Immigration is more than physical movement from one place to another

**Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (The Believer is the person who others trust him regarding their persons and possessions; and the Muslim is the person who others fear no harm from his tongue or hand; and the immigrant is the person who avoids whatever God did forbid) Narrated by Ahmad & Temidhi**

# Immigration in the cause of God is rewarded

**“To those who immigrate in the cause of God, after suffering oppression, We will give a goodly home in this world, but truly the reward of the Hereafter will be greater if only they realized.”**

An-Nahl (The Bees) 16: 41

# Diversity is willed by God

**“And among His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the differences in your skin color and your tongues; indeed in this are signs for those who know.”**

Ar-Rum (The Romans) 30: 22

**“If it was the will of your Lord He would have made mankind one nation; but they will not cease to differ, except those on whom your Lord bestows his mercy”**

Hud (Prophet Hud) 11: 118 & 119

**We should learn from our diversity and work together, rather than become isolated or hate each other**

It is the will of God that He created us different, in order that we may **learn from one another and work together**

What distinguishes one person from another is not his skin color or ethnic background or lineage, but his **character, behavior** and how he applies his faith and **helps those who need help**

We should not be afraid of those who are not like us, or isolate ourselves, or listen to bigotry or become prejudiced