

The Justice of GOD

العدل الالهي

Objectives >>>

Students should:

Lesson 1

- The concept of justice as 'giving each their rights'
- The meaning of Allah's Justice
- Allah's Justice in this world, and in the Hereafter

Lesson 2

- Discuss the concept that Allah tests us and then rewards or punishes us accordingly
- Discuss the concept that God tests those whom He loves

Lesson 3

- The importance of a person being just and fair to others
- The importance of watching our own actions and being just to ourselves

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

LEVEL 1

Lesson 1: The Justice of Allah (SWT)

Reviewing the Pillars of Islam

These five beliefs are:

- There is one Unique God- in Arabic this is called *al-Tawhīd*
 - التوحيد
- God is Just- *Al-'Adl*
 - العدل
- God sent us Prophets to guide us- *Nubuwwah*
 - النبوة
- God sent us Imams to guide us, the Imams continue the message of the prophets- *Imamah*
 - الامامة
- The Hereafter: after we die, we will be brought back to life and face the consequences of our actions – *al-Ma'ād*
 - المعاد

In our previous lessons, we discussed the Unity of Allah and some of the attributes of Allah (SWT). In this lesson, we will discuss another important attribute, which is the Justice of Allah. As followers of the Ahlul Bayt, we believe that Allah (SWT) is Just. We will discuss the meaning of justice and in particular Allah's Justice in this unit.

Being just means to give someone their right. For example, if I borrow a toy from my friend, I am being just by making sure I return it in the same condition he gave it to me. That is our friend's right, and by fulfilling it we are being just.

Another example is in the classroom. Imagine you all did an Islamic Studies test and some of you got 10 questions wrong, some got 5 wrong and some got zero questions wrong. The teacher collected your papers and gave all of you 100% - is that fair? No, it is not fair or just. Each child should be given a mark according to their ability and hard work.

We also need to make sure that we are fair and just to the people we deal with. An example would be our parents. They do so much for us every day - being just and fair to them would mean to give them all the respect, love and help they deserve and more!

ALLAH (SWT) IS JUST

One of the attributes of Allah (SWT) that we believe in as Muslims is that he is Just ('Ādil). He has given us the free will and the choice to do whatever actions we want to do. However, He has also told us that we will be rewarded for whatever good deeds we do and be punished for whatever bad deeds we do. For example, if we disrespect our parents we will surely be punished for it and if we treat them with respect and love then surely we will be rewarded.

Allah (SWT) has promised this to us in the Holy Qur'an:

وَلَا يَظْلِمُ رَبُّكَ أَحَدًا

"...and your Lord is not unjust to anyone." (18:49)

JUSTICE V EQUALITY

It is important to know the difference between justice and equality. Let's look at an example. Zainab and Jamila are training for the school athletics carnival. Zainab trains for two weeks, doing sprints with her dad at the park every day, and eating healthy food only. Jamila eats lots of junk food and does not train at all. On the day of the carnival, Zainab wins the race and Jamila comes last.

If Jamila and Zainab both receive a winning trophy- this is equality, but not justice.

If Zainab receives a trophy and Jamila receives a participation ribbon only, then this is justice.

Allah (SWT) is just- this means that He gives all humans what they need to succeed, but then He gives extra success to those who work hard to achieve bigger goals.

This can happen in this world, where a person who works hard comes first in their class test, wins their race or wins an art competition. It also happens in the *Akhira* (the Hereafter) where a person who had faith and good deeds goes to Paradise, and the other who did not have faith and did evil deeds does not enter Paradise.

JUSTICE AND MERCY

Allah (SWT) is Just, but also Merciful. This means

- A person who does not care about pleasing Allah and following His commands will be dealt with by God's justice. Such a person will get punishment for their evil deeds.
- A person who did try to please Allah, and tried their best to follow His commands will be dealt with by God's Mercy. For example, a person who tried their best to pray on time every day, will be rewarded by Allah (SWT) for praying on time, even if there were some days every now and then, where they delayed their prayer. As long as we try our best to follow God's commands, He will complete our actions for us through His Mercy.

MEMORISATION ACTIVITY

وَالْإِحْسَانَ بِالْعَدْلِ يَأْمُرُ اللَّهُ إِنَّ

"Surely Allah commands justice and goodness..." (16:90)

JUSTICE IN THE HEREAFTER

As Muslims, we believe that after we die we will be raised back to life in the Hereafter. What happens to us in the Hereafter is a direct reflection of what we do in this world.

Look at this example. If you are passing along a mountain and say something aloud, you will hear your own voice again after a moment. It will echo or resound.

You will hear once again exactly the same thing that you have said. For example, if you have said aloud 'good', the echo will be 'good', but if you have said 'bad', you will once again hear the word, 'bad'.

This is similar to our actions. If a person does good Allah (SWT) will be pleased with that person, and will give that person many more blessings. However, if a person does evil deeds and harms others, Allah (SWT) will not be pleased with him and may punish him either in this world or in the Hereafter.

In the Holy Quran Allah (SWT) says:

"So whosoever does good equal to the weight of an atom, shall see it. And whosoever does evil equal to the weight of an atom shall see it." (99:7-8)

HEAVEN

Allah created heaven for the people who do good. He created the heaven wider than the width of the sky and the earth. In heaven there are beautiful trees and fruits, rivers flowing with pure sweet water, honey and milk and different kinds of foods and meats, which people will enjoy.

HELL

The justice of Allah (SWT) is that He will treat every person according to his or her deeds. The people of heaven have earned their place because of their good deeds. Those who were evil will be punished in Hell where they will be locked up like criminals. The people of Hell will be punished with unimaginable kinds of punishment which cannot be described. They will shout out from the heavy punishment but they will find no one will help them.

Review Questions:

Q1: Justice means:

- a. Giving everyone their right
- b. Being fair
- c. Both a & b

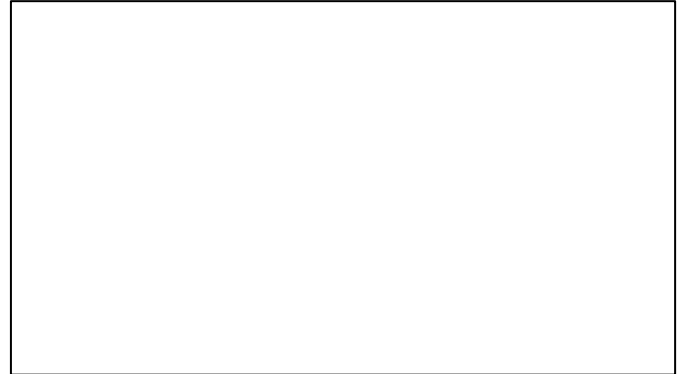
Q1. Allah has created Heaven and Hell so that:

- a. He can do business with His creatures
- b. Everyone can be rewarded or punished fairly
- c. All can live in peace

Class Activity

Draw a picture that shows justice in one box and another picture that shows someone being equal in the other.

JUSTICE



EQUALITY



Lesson 2: Allah Tests Us

In our last lesson, we learnt:

- The meaning of justice as giving someone their right
- We should also be just and fair to others
- God is Just and fair as mentioned in the Qur'an

In this lesson we will learn more about the ways in which Allah is Just. Part of Allah's Justice is that He tests us. Allah (SWT) puts us in difficult situations in our life. If we react by keeping our patience and faith, we improve as people, and we get rewards from Allah (SWT). If we react by losing our patience and faith, then we lose the potential for reward and might even be punished.

ALLAH TESTS US

Sometimes we feel that things are not working out the way we want them to work out. For example, we may really want a special toy, or we would really like to visit a theme park, but mum and dad cannot get us these things for some reason. We might feel sad because of this. Some children get upset and throw tantrums when they do not get what they want.

However, a good Muslim child should not throw tantrums. When things in life get tough, it is because Allah (SWT) is testing us to see how strong our faith is, and how patient we can be.

We may not be getting things we want because our family is going through a hard time. Allah (SWT) is putting us through this because He wants us to learn patience and He wants our faith to increase. When the test is over, we will be stronger people.

Depending on how we react to the times when Allah (SWT) is testing us, we will either get rewarded or punished by Allah (SWT). So if we lose faith and hope and stop praying to Allah (SWT) we will be punished. Examples of losing faith are when we throw tantrums, shout, get into fights with our siblings and so on. If we stay patient and keep our faith, Allah (SWT) will reward us. Examples of keeping our faith and patience are remaining polite and helping our parents and siblings.

ALLAH (SWT) TESTS THOSE THAT HE LOVES

Through the tests we have in life, we strengthen our faith and get closer to Allah (SWT). Therefore, Allah (SWT) tests those that He really loves so that they earn a place closer to Allah (SWT). This is one of the reasons we find that a lot of our prophets faced tests throughout their lives.

Prophet Noah (as) had to build an ark to save the believers from a flood that was going to take over the city. He had to leave his son behind as he was not a believer.

Prophet Muḥammad (saw) was sent to a community of ignorant people where he had to teach them about Islam. They would make fun of him and call him a crazy man but the Prophet stood firm and strong!

Prophet Ayyoūb (as) is another prophet who had a very difficult test. This prophet had a huge farm and was very wealthy. He also had a big family, and he was a healthy and strong man. However, Satan caused all his farm to be destroyed. He was expecting the Prophet to start complaining and getting angry. But Prophet Ayyoūb (as) did not do this- he remained patient. Then Satan caused the Prophet's family to all die, except his wife. Again, Prophet Ayyoūb (as) remained so patient. Finally, Satan affected Prophet Ayyoūb's (as) health, and the Prophet was ill for many years. Again, he never complained or lost patience. He kept his trust and faith in Allah (SWT). Finally, after so many years of being tested, once he had shown Allah (SWT) that he would never lose faith, Allah (SWT) gave Prophet Ayyoūb (as) back his wealth, his health and even his family.

These stories show us that Allah (SWT) tests us because He loves us, and if we stay patient, He will give such great rewards that we could not even imagine.

Sometimes, when we are being tested, we do not realise that God is being Just and Merciful to us. This simple story gives us a small example of how supposedly bad things (tests) can in fact be a mercy for us.

STORY TIME

In a town lived a doctor, a jeweller and a thief.

In the morning, they all prayed to Allah to increase His blessings on them.



That day, the thief wanted to go and rob the jeweller. Instead he fell ill and had to visit the doctor.

The jeweller did not make any business at all that day, because it rained and all his customers stayed at home.

The thief fell ill – so it seems he was treated unfairly by Allah.

The doctor got an extra patient – the thief- so it seems he was treated fairly by Allah.

The jeweller lost business because it rained; so it seems Allah treated him unfairly.

So, was **Allah just** to all of them? Allah keeps a balance between the needs of all of His creatures. He gives them in this world what is best for each one of them.

Now let us study the story again...

The doctor did get blessings from Allah because he got an extra patient.

The thief was blessed by Allah because his illness saved him from stealing, which is a big sin.

The jeweller was also favoured by Allah because even though he did not do much business, he was not robbed.

Each of these three will get their rewards or punishment in Heaven or Hell, too.

This story is an example of Allah's Justice and Mercy in this world. Even if we don't see it in an obvious way sometimes, Allah (SWT) is always being fair and kind to us.

MEMORISATION ACTIVITY

فَإِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا {5} إِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا {6}

“Surely, with the hardship, there is ease. Surely with the hardship, there is ease” (94:5-6)

ACTIVITY

Find a partner in the classroom and tell each other of a time that you felt something happened that was unfair and see if you can see any good reason that it may have happened.

Review Questions:

Q1: Allah (SWT) tests us:

- Because He loves us
- So that we can see how strong we are
- Both of the above

Q2. In the story of the thief, doctor and jeweller, Allah was just and merciful to:

- The thief
- The doctor
- All of them

Lesson 3: Practising Justice

GOD'S JUSTICE

Memorisation Activity

Allah (SWT) promises to us in the Holy Qur'an:

فَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ خَيْرًا يَرَهُ
وَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ شَرًّا يَرَهُ

“Whoever does good equal to the weight of a small ant, shall see it. And whoever does evil equal to the weight of a small ant, shall see it.” (99:7-8)

This verse is telling us that whatever good we do in this world (even if the action is as small as an ant) we will surely be rewarded for it. Similarly, whatever bad deeds we do we will be punished for them. For example, if we tease or hurt our little brother or sister, something bad will surely happen to us, and if we are kind and generous to our brother or sister then surely something good will happen to us. This is the justice of Allah (SWT).

PRACTISING JUSTICE

Just as God is Just to us, we also need to be just and fair to others.

Justice means giving every person the right they deserve. Let's look at an example

At school, you struggle, study and work hard the whole year. At the end of the year, you get a great report card. The teacher gives you a reward, and your parents take you out for a treat. This is an example of a person being given their right- we call this Justice of fairness.



Allah is the Most Just and fair. Not a single good deed, no matter how small, from anyone goes by without Allah rewarding that person. Similarly, no bad deed is hidden from Him, and we will be punished if we do not repent. Allah rewards and punishes us in this life, but more importantly, He rewards and punishes us in the Hereafter, after we die.

Those who believed in Allah and did good deeds, go to Paradise. Those who rejected Allah and did bad deeds, go to Hell.

WATCHING OUR DEEDS



God also wants us to be just to ourselves. We can be just to ourselves by watching our deeds, and making sure we are not doing anything that would harm us later.

Let's listen to this story about a boy called Ahmad. He used to steal sweets from the Corner shop and hide them in his room. One day his friend, Habib visited him and saw all the sweets in his room.

Now Ahmed was terrified. Would Habib tell anyone at school what he had seen? How would Ahmed then face his family at home and friends in the mosque? He could not sleep at night as he worried about everybody finding

out about his stealing. What a strange boy! He was more scared of his friend than he was of Allah.

Allah sees all that we do and say, and there will be a day when we will have to face all our actions. So at the end of every day, we should judge ourselves and ask: 'what good things did I do today?' and 'what bad things did I do today?'

Activity

Think about all the good things and all the bad things you done yesterday and write down the total in each box. Try your best to make your good actions more and your bad actions less.

GOOD	BAD

Review Questions

Q1. In the Hereafter, those who have done good things in this world:

- a. Will be miserable and get punished
- b. Will regret, feel sad and helpless
- c. Will get rewards and be happy

Q2. Think and then Answer:

- What should Ahmed say and do to the owner of the Cafe?
- In the Hereafter, will Ahmed be forgiven for stealing the sweets from the Corner Cafe?