



## The Justice of GOD

### Objectives العدل الالهي

#### Students should:

##### Lesson 1

- Understand the concept of justice
- Understand God's Justice in this world and the Hereafter

##### Lesson 2

- Discuss why God tests us in our life
- Discuss the rewards of tests

##### Lesson 3

- Discuss the importance of practising justice
- Discuss how we can be just to ourselves by taking ourselves to account for our actions

## FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

## LEVEL 2

### Lesson 1: What is Justice?

#### Reviewing the Pillars of Islam

These five beliefs are:

- There is one Unique God- in Arabic this is called *al-Tawhid*  
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'ad*  
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.

Justice means to give every person and thing their right, or what they deserve. Allah (SWT) describes Himself as being Just. He gives those who do good deeds the reward they deserve, and those who do evil deeds the punishment they deserve.

## ALLAH (SWT) IS JUST

In our lives, we have a choice to perform good actions or perform bad actions. If we choose to do right actions such as prayer, giving charity and going to the mosque Allah (SWT) will reward us out of His justice. However, if we choose to do the wrong actions such as lying, stealing or disrespecting our parents we will be punished for it.

### 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)

## JUSTICE V EQUALITY

It is important to know the difference between justice and equality. Let's look at an example. You are out with your family on a bushwalk. You have a younger sister who is only 3 years old. Halfway through the walk, your sister gets tired. Your dad picks her up and carries her for a part of the way. In the meantime, you are still walking and not being carried. Is your dad being unjust? Of course not! Your father is picking up your sister because she is younger and gets tired more easily, while you are older and stronger, and can walk without needing to be picked up. This is an example where two people are not treated equally, but are still treated fairly.

## JUSTICE AND MERCY

Allah (SWT) is Just: meaning He gives everyone what they deserve. However, Allah (SWT) is 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

## JUSTICE IN THE HEREAFTER

Allah (SWT) is just to us both in this world and in the Hereafter. The Hereafter is the world that we enter after we die in this world. Let's listen to this conversation about the Hereafter:

Sajeda is only eight years old. Since her grandmother's death a week ago, she has been thinking continuously. Then one day she asked, “Mum, Why do we live? We all grow, turn old, and older and then one day we die. Do we work, eat, sleep and grow older just to die? It seems pointless!”

Mum understood what Sajeda was trying to say; that at the end of our lives we die, all alone with nothing to show for all our efforts!

“No my dear child,” said Mum.

“My child, all your good deeds, prayers, obedience and hard study will get rewarded here and also in the Hereafter as well! This world is like a farm for hereafter.

All our good deeds are like echoes that will bounce back and bring us rewards. But the bad deeds will have bad returns and leave us sad in the hereafter.

A lazy farmer cannot have very good fruits for sale. He will then feel sad and wished he had made a better orchard. He may not have any profit.”

## JUSTICE IN THIS WORLD

Allah (SWT) is just towards us in this world also. He rewards those who do good deeds with good, and those who do evil with evil. Let's look at a story that shows us how our good deeds come back to us.

When Prophet Musa (as) left the arrogant Pharaoh, he reached the land of Madyan, far away from Egypt. He had no idea where he would find shelter in the desert for the night.

He came to a well where people were drawing water for their animals. He saw two girls waiting for their turn to draw water. Prophet Musa (as) felt bad for these girls who were not getting a turn to water their sheep. "Our father is an old man and we have to draw water for our sheep," the girls told him. He helped them by taking the sheep to the water and letting them drink, and then guiding them back to the girls. He did not ask for any rewards or payment.

Later, one of the girls returned: "my father has invited you home so that he can pay you for your kindness to us."

Prophet Musa (as) was certain that God would look after him. He realised God was returning his good deed to him. He went to the home of the girls, and when he got there, their father invited him to work for him and live with them. A short while later, Prophet Moses even married one of the girls.

This is how God rewarded Moses in this world for his kindness and help to the girls.

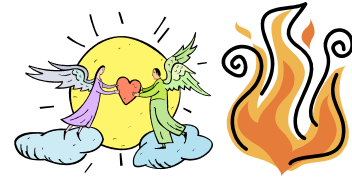
Allah has given us a brain to understand what is good and what is evil; so we can ourselves choose to do good actions and avoid evil ones. Allah gives rewards or punishments in this world and in Hereafter according to our deeds. He is never unfair or unjust to us.

## HELL AND HEAVEN

When we die our life doesn't come to an end. We go from this world to another world- which we call the **Hereafter**, where we will be questioned for all our deeds. We will be **rewarded or punished** for all our good or bad deeds!

We will stay in the hereafter forever. Those who do good deeds will go to **Heaven** and live in comfort and pleasure. The Qur'an says that there will be orchards laden with fruits and cool streams flowing underneath. One can recline on silk sofas and enjoy cool drinks in peace. There will be seven gates to heaven. The greatest blessing there will be the love of Allah. The blessings and comforts of Heaven are better than the pleasures of this

world. There will be no shortcoming of any sort. In Heaven, there will be peace forever!



Those who go to **Hell** will be punished for their evil deeds in this world. Hell is a place of disgrace and punishment. The people there will go through great torture! There will be hot flames...those in it cannot drink cold water; they will get boiling, dark black murky liquid. They will be fed "zaqqūm" (fruit from a cursed tree which will choke them). The greatest punishment of Hell is the anger of Allah!

## **REWARDS IN THE HEREAFTER**

Now let's look at a story about a wise man called Bohlūl.

One day this man was sitting on the bank of a river, making sand palaces. The king's wife walked by and was surprised at what Bohlūl was doing.

He said he was: "building a paradise"

She asked if these palaces were for sale. He said they would cost her 100 dinars. She began to think Bohlūl was crazy. She gave him a bag of 100 dinars.



Zubayda went away and Bohlūl distributed the money among all the poor around him.

That night, in a dream, Zubayda saw a big garden; she had never seen such a huge and beautiful garden before. All the houses and palaces were seven stories high and made of coloured jewels. Streams were flowing alongside. There were beautiful trees around and maids and boys were standing ready to serve. Zubayda was given her receipt written in gold ink, and was told that this is the garden she had bought from Bohlūl.

When she awoke, Zubayda was very happy. She related her dream to Harūn. Soon, he summoned Bohlūl to the palace. When he arrived, Harūn said:

“Here, take these 100 dinars from me and sell me one of your palaces like the one you gave to my wife Zubayda.”

Bohlūl laughed aloud! He said, “Zubayda bought the palace without looking at it and without knowing about the reward. But you have heard about it and so you want to buy it; I’m sorry. I won’t sell it to you.”

Zubayda had paid 100 Dinars out of kindness to Bohlūl and he in turn had distributed all of the dinars to the beggars, who were overjoyed. Zubaydah got the pleasure of helping Bohlūl in this world. But Allah rewarded her with real palaces in Hereafter.

This story shows that Allah (SWT) is Just, because He rewards good deeds with good things in the Hereafter. It also shows Allah’s Mercy, because He multiplies the rewards for good deeds.

### Class Activity

Draw a picture of the following actions in the correct box.

- Mum gives chocolate to her boy for behaving badly
- Teacher gives zero marks for everyone who did the test – even though some got a lot of questions correct.
- A girl returns book to the library in the same condition she received it.
- A criminal is put into jail for a crime he committed
- 

Just	Unjust

## Review Questions

### Q1. Allah’s Justice means

- Rewarding good deeds with good things, and evil deeds with punishment
- Giving every one the same things in the Hereafter so they are equal

### Q2. Allah’s Mercy means:

- He multiplies the rewards of good deeds that are done sincerely
- He forgives all evil deeds

## Lesson 2: Tests from Allah (SWT)

Have you ever wondered why you have to take an exam at school? What is the point? You go to school and learn everything you have to – why do you have to take a test?

We need to sit exams so that the teacher knows whether we have learnt what we were supposed to learn. Often the one who passes the test, especially when very difficult, gets a really nice award.

Similarly, Allah (SWT) tests us in our lives so that we can see how strong our faith is. We always pray and say that we believe Allah (SWT) but He tests us to see if we really mean it! When we pass these life tests, just like a school exam, we are rewarded greatly.

### TESTS SHOW US HOW STRONG WE ARE

One day, Ahmad got this shiny new watch his uncle had brought for him from his journey. His uncle told him that this was a very special watch. It was so strong that if he dropped it, it would not break, if he put it in water it would not spoil and if he swung it around it would work better!

A few weeks passed and Ahmad was very happy about his new gift but he started thinking about what his uncle told him about the watch, surely his uncle was just saying that, can a watch really be that special? He decided to test the watch. First he took it to the top floor of his school and threw the watch down!! When he came down to see it was still working and did not have

even a scratch! Next he decided to go swimming with it and again the watch became more shiny and brighter! Finally, he swung it around and around and around and when he checked the watch was working even better! Ahmad was very happy that his Uncle had given him a really special watch! He thought to himself “if I had not tested this watch, I would never know what it could really do and it would not be as good as it is!”

Just the same way that Ahmad tested his new watch, Allah (SWT) in His Wisdom tests us in a similar way, so that we can know how strong and good we can become. He puts us through various tests and those who are strong and truly believe in Allah come out of the test better and stronger.

### TESTS IN OUR LIFE

Let’s look at an example of a test we may face in our life: you really want to go to your friend’s birthday party. At the party, there is music so your parents do not allow you to go. If you miss the party, all your friends are going to make fun of you at school! However, due to your strong faith and belief in Islam, you refrain from going to the party and stay at home. You have passed this life test and Allah (SWT) is going to reward you immensely out of His justice.

When experiencing such life tests, patience is very important. Although, it may seem very hard right now, in the large scale of things these tests are just to make our soul better.

### Class Activity: Discussion

What are some of the tests you have faced in our life?

What are some tests you are facing now?

How should we deal with these tests?

Teacher’s Note: the discussion should touch on difficulties related to school, bullying, friendships, peer pressure, dealing with siblings, family disharmony and poverty.

## ALLAH (SWT) TESTS THOSE THAT HE LOVES

Let us go back to the example of a school exam. Say you sit a lot of exams and you pass with brilliant marks each time. Due to this, you become the teacher’s favourite student and are the highest in your class. Similarly, Allah (SWT) tests those that He loves so that they can earn a place close to Him in the Hereafter

For this reason, our prophets were tested a great deal during their lives. For example, Prophet Muḥammad (saw) was sent to a community of ignorant people to teach them concepts of Islam. They used to call him a mad man and make fun of him. They hurt his family and friends, and sometimes they even threw rocks at him! Yet he remained strong and kept his faith in Allah and Islam.

Another example of a test can be seen in the life of Hajer. Hajer was the wife of Prophet Ibrahim (as). She had a baby son, Prophet Ismail (as). Allah (SWT) ordered Prophet Ibrahim to take Hajer and her baby to a barren desert land where there were no people. As surprising as this order was, Prophet Ibrahim (as) did not question it. He took Hajer and the baby to the desert and said his goodbyes. Hajer was not left alone in the desert, with a thirsty crying baby. She was sitting on a hilltop. She decided to go and look for water. She ran from the hilltop she was on to another hilltop. She could not find water, so she ran back to the first hill, and still could not find water. She went back and forth seven times until after she had given up, a well of water miraculously appeared near her baby. She was very relieved and began to feed her baby son.

Hajer was still alone in the desert, but at least now she had water. Soon, people started coming, group after group, to use the water that had suddenly appeared in this well. Soon, Hajer and Prophet Ismail (as) were no longer alone.

This well is the well of Zamzam, which is still there today. The place where Hajer was is Mecca. Hajer was rewarded for her patience in many ways. She was given a son who was a Prophet of Allah (SWT). Her action of running between the two hilltops is repeated by millions of Muslims every year when they offer Hajj or Umrah. She is remembered by millions of people every year till now.

This is an example of the great rewards a person can achieve when they are patient in the face of the tests that Allah (SWT) sends their way.

### Class Activity: Find- a-word

H K E Q B J I T E Q V W P L Q  
 F I B S I B U C D H C D B U D  
 S T B H R P I S R W R C I O S  
 T M U A I F L Z T T U I T K F  
 E N H X I X T Y R I W D B X L  
 T I O R P Z N Q O A C W V S Q  
 M H C A O D E D R A W E R P T  
 X A T Q H L M N X J U Z F R R  
 S I A I J O H S X P H T R O Z  
 H M K J A W S U U M S Y J P C  
 E Q E W H F I H Q X M F T H A  
 D Q I X W M N Y X O O T K E R  
 A C I J Q L U D X M W S B T N  
 O B R S H F P P A T I E N C E  
 J F H C L H K R A N Y T Q R J

FAITH  
 IBRAHIM  
 JUSTICE  
 NUH  
 PATIENCE  
 PROPHET  
 PUNISHMENT  
 REWARD  
 SACRIFICE  
 TEST

### Review Questions:

**Q1: When going through tough tests in life we must try and be:**

- a. Stubborn
- b. Patient
- c. Clean

**Q2: Through life tests our faith becomes:**

- a. Weaker if we remain patient
- b. Stronger if we remain patient
- c. stays the same if we remain patient

## Lesson 3: Practising Justice

We have learnt that justice means to give every person and thing their right, or what they deserve. Allah (SWT) is Just to us, and in the same way that God is just to us, we should be just to everyone and everything in our life.

Being just to my parents, for example, means to respect and obey them. This is the right they have, and giving them that right means I am being just towards them.

My teachers have a right too. I need to listen to them and follow their advice on the subject they are teaching me. If I do this, then I have been just to them.

Being disrespectful to my parents and teachers means I am being unjust.

### Class Discussion

Split up into 4 groups. Each group should write down examples of justice and injustice when it comes to the following 4 groups of people

- Friends
- Younger siblings
- Older siblings
- Neighbours

### AN EXAMPLE OF JUSTICE

Sajjad’s best friend at school is Zain. Sajjad has another classmate named Abbas. One day during lunchtime Sajjad saw Zain bullying Abbas. He took Abbas’s ball again and again, and when Abbas tried to take it back, Zain teased him and called him names. Soon, the two boys started fighting.

What is the just thing for Sajjad to do here?

Would it be just if he helped his best friend and stood up for him?

Or would it be just if he broke up the fight and asked Zain to apologise to Abbas?

Remember, being just means giving everyone what they deserve. It does not matter how much we like or dislike the person. The important thing is to give them their right, or what they deserve.

**MEMORISATION ACTIVITY**

الْمُفْسِدِينَ يُحِبُّ اللَّهُ إِنَّ

“Verily, Allah loves those who act justly” (5:42)

**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. Malik’s parents have told him that while he is allowed to have a smartphone, he cannot use it after 8 o clock at night. Malik is supposed to leave his phone on the dining table at 8 o clock every night and go to bed.

One night, Malik got bored and decided to sneak back to the living room without his parents seeing, and to take the phone back to his bedroom and play games on it. The next night, he did the same thing, and stayed up even later. In the morning, he looked tired. His mum asked him why he looked tired. Malik got scared and lied to his mum, saying that he was feeling a bit sick.

That night, Malik snuck out and took his phone again. An hour later, his mum came in to the bedroom and saw him secretly playing with his phone. She was very upset with Malik. He had disobeyed his parents and had lied to his mum.

He started to cry and apologised to his parents. Malik’s mum told him that they accepted his apology, but that he also had to apologise to Allah (SWT), because He had lied. Malik felt very guilty, and asked Allah (SWT) to forgive him in his heart.

Allah (SWT) 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?’

If we did good things, we should happy and thank Allah. If we did bad things, we should ask Allah (SWT) to forgive us. This is a good way of being just to ourselves.

**Activity**

**Make a list of all the good actions and all the bad actions you have done yesterday. Make yourself a promise that you will shorten your list of bad actions and increase your list of good actions.**

GOOD	BAD

**Review Questions**

1. **What does being just to ourselves mean? What is a good way of doing this?**
  
2. **What does being just to other people mean? Give an example.**