



Justice in Transportation Justice in Prophetic Narrations

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Abstract: *In this essay, we have sought to assay the social effects of justice administration in the society, the necessity of observation of this divine virtue by all human individuals, justice in dealing with the enemies and various applications of justice in social and individual life, each one of which will have positive results in the course of betterment of people's individual and social life conditions.*

Key Words: *Social Justice, Justice Administration, Justice Application, Justice with the Enemies, Social Stability, Social Prosperity, Equality, Decline of Discrimination*

INTRODUCTION

We would like to investigate the social effects of justice, the necessity of observation of this divine virtue by all the individuals, justice in dealing with the enemy, and various applications of justice in individual and social life. As to the social effects of justice, one can allude to stability of society, stability and power of government, reformation of people, and prosperity and abundance in society. If these principles serve as the foundations of a society, we can expect the growth and sublimation of all human individuals in all the aspects of their lives. As to the necessity of observation of justice, we have to note that this observation can uproot social discrimination and replace it with equality of opportunities and conditions. In other words, it brings about social equilibrium. Fairness reawakes the hopes for reformation and development in the oppressed man who is now treated fairly.

Social Effects of Justice:

Social Stability:

One of the consequences of justice administration is regulation of sound social relations. Since human individuals have common needs whenever justice is administered, no one would allow anyone to oppress others. Then all the people's rights are observed. The outstanding example of this issue in transportation is encouraging people to observe justice in the insurance law. According to Dr. Zoqi, professor of transportation at the University of Sciences and Researches, we will no longer witness extra sufferings of the people who have car accidents and their individual rights are neglected. The accident compensation that is paid will cover the losses and prevent from more sufferings.

The Prince of Believers (peace be upon him) states, "God has coined justice as the foundation of human creation and a means for its purification of oppressions and sins, and a relief for Islam" [1]. In his autobiography, Ayatollah Khansari writes, "this is to say that justice administration purifies people of the oppressions and sins, and attracts people to Islam and encourages them to fight for Islam and this tiles the path for further developments. Oppression denotes someone's being deprived of his individual rights. Administration of justice by the rulers warns the oppressors that if they cross the lines they will be severely punished. This also encourages the laity to pursue the path of righteousness and leave the vices and evils aside because if they also turn to sins and vices they will face tough consequences. Administration of justice convinces people to turn to Islam and this helps the latter to push its agenda and wins great feats. People are

seeking for wellbeing and administration of justice paves the ground for this wellbeing and this is the true success for Islam” [2].

People’s Reformation:

When justice is administered by the authorities, people’s life conditions are improved. If public transportation system is equipped by modern technologies and its furnishings are reformed along with development of the infrastructures of personal transportation network, the poor citizens can plan their various activities in the society in a better way.

Imam Ali (peace be upon hi,) states, “people are reformed by justice” [3].

Stability and Power of Government:

One of the other consequences of the administration of justice in society is the stability and power of government and authorities. For example, if the authorities of a city take positive steps for finding solutions for the transportation problems and try to keep the supply and demand in urban services in balance, people will surely support them to complete their projects and plan for new projects.

Imam Ali (peace be upon him) states, “a government’s stability is hinged upon the administration of just traditions” [4].

Moreover, the Holy Prophet of Islam states, “justice is good but it is better to be administered by the statesmen; benevolence is good but it is better to be seen from the rich men; piety is good but it is better to be observed by the men of knowledge; patience is good but it is better to be adopted by the poor; repentance is good but it is better to be done by the youth; modesty is good but it is better to be observed by the women” [5].

Prosperity and Abundance:

One of the other good consequences of administration of justice is the descent of divine bounties and prosperity of the cities. Because God has promised the believers in his book that justice is nearer to piety and since divine bounties are the rewards of pious people then observation of justice results in abundance of divine bounties and social prosperity. These two valuable effects have been mentioned in a narration of Imam Ali (peace be upon him): “justice increases the divine bounties” [6] and “nothing builds and makes the cities prosperous like the justice” [7].

Applications of Justice:

As to the applications of justice, we can allude to various cases such as giving testimony for the truth, justice based judgment, acting according to the principles and leaving the sins, supporting the truth, respecting other people’s rights and properties. Here we substantiate the first two cases via Islamic narrations.

Giving Testimony for the Truth:

Imam Sadeq (peace be upon him) considers this principle as part of the truth of belief: “part of the truth of belief is giving priority to the truth even if it is against your interests” [8].

Justice Based Judgment:

One of the most important things that should be taken into serious account as to justice is the issue of judgment between people. If this judgment neglects the path of justice and fairness it will be away from truth and the conditions will be tougher when one side is the judge’s friend and the other is his enemy and in such case even the slightest deviation can result in unrepairable damages.

As the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) states, “truth is heavy and bitter while the false is light and sweet!” if someone bears this heaviness and tastes that bitterness he is surely a decent man. Imam Ali (peace be upon him) states: “the best man is the one who judges based on justice” [9].

Conclusion

Based on the previous considerations the following conclusions can be drawn:

- 1- Justice administration in the area of transportation will have various consequences that are resulted from the correct judgement of the authorities regarding the social conditions of society and citizens. For example, we may need a considerable budget for equipping the public transportations with the necessary requirements of the handicapped citizens or furnishing the neighborhoods with the necessary transportation means for people with lesser mobility but if we do not take serious actions in this regard a sophisticated gap will grow among the citizens which in turn may result in various social, ethical and economic plights. Thus the incapable citizens will not succeed to handle their social affairs and this will cause them various spiritual, mental and economic problems.
- 2- Administration of justice in transportation area ensures the health of citizens. A striking example of this is development of public transportation instead of personal transportation. Of course, one should

take it into consideration that this development requires planning without which the justice itself would be exposed to serious threats, e.g. when part of a street is allocated for BRTs this would reduce the costumers of the neighboring businesses. This also may cause serious problems for the necessary transportations like ambulances and handicapped people's vehicles. Then before handling a project a plan has to be drawn with utmost precision.

- 3- Justice has to increase the welfare and security of all users of transportation vehicles. If the authorities set limitations for other modes of transportation without providing the necessary and efficient software and hardware this is itself a sheer violation of the principle of justice. For example, if in a city public transportation vehicles are few and this makes the interval time of their passing longer than expected and also the access to other transportation vehicles is limited this would expose people's life and property to serious threats like pocket picking due to the crowd. It is needless to say that in such cases personal vehicles can be more useful for solving people's problems.

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