

Accountability “Criterion for Ideal Society” Analytical Review of Semitic Religions

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Abstract

All the advanced countries and civilized societies of the world have suitable laws for human life and effective accountability system. This is the reason why those countries and societies provide the best lifestyle to their residents. Similarly, if the teachings of the religious scholars of all religions are studied, the fact becomes clear that all religions not only teach accountability but also encourage it so that the society does not suffer from disorder, indiscretion and corruption.

The religious teachings and the impression of immortality prove that the presence of an effective and active system of accountability in the country and society does not allow man to have his free will and desire; rather he begins to live as a responsible person on earth because he understands that his actions are recorded and written accordingly. The human being does understand that their actions are not without results. It is fact that he believe that every human action has an effect, whether that action is good or bad. Its results will be show to man, and he will surely get the reward for his actions.

It is the matter of consideration that if every human being believes on the existing of accountability system would never violate the laws and defined norms of the human society.

Everyone will hold themselves accountable to the law because no one is above the law. Rulers cannot imagine that they can usurp or limit and suspend the rights of their subjects, no matter how much their power is threatened? Because they know that they will be asked about what they did? Due to the concept of accountability, the ruler can sacrifice their authority even their life, but he cannot dare to violate human rights. In this article the basic concept and teachings of world major religions i.e. Judaism, Christianity and Islam have been discussed in detail.

Keywords: *Accountability, Criterion, Stability, Sustainability, Ideal Society, Semitic Religions*

Accountability "Criterion for Ideal Society" Analytical Review of Semitic Religions *Background*

All the institutions that a person establishes for the arrangement of their social life, civilization and culture are based on the society because the individual is considered as the first and basic unit of the society and man likes to live together and the life of a isolate or single person is incomplete. Many of the needs of his life are connected with each other, which cannot be fulfilled by a single person, but need the help and support of others.

Due to each other's help and protection and need, human beings have been bound in many strong relationships with each other while living in the society. This is the reason that in the society, if he is someone's father, then someone is his father. Someone is his relative and someone else is his. Some are smaller than him and some are older than him.

In this article review, the principles on which a peaceful and successful society is formed, which should be the basic characteristics and qualities of any welfare society, have been discussed in detail in the light of the teachings of the major and famous religions of the world, i.e. Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

The Religion of Judaism:

In the teachings of Judaism, this fact is clearly described that every person will be held responsible for his own actions and deeds and the disobedient will be punished in Hell. The religion of Judaism urges accountability and claims that accountability is a necessity for viability, even beyond the realm of business. Many of the greatest tragedies in human history are rooted in a lack of accountability. This is why in the realm of politics, elections are held regularly enough to hold political ideas and ideologues to account. In the realm of science, journals and reports are prepared by the most experienced of scientists and subjected to peer-review, to hold theories and experiments to account. Even in our own history, the prophets held the kings to account! Nathan said to King David...:

"Why have you flouted the command of the Lord and done what displeases Him?" ¹

In this regard, in the tenth chapter of Psalms, it is stated that:

"The wicked person thinks that he is not held accountable. Because of this, he commits evil and mischief and kills the sins in hidden places and traps the poor in his net. They think that there is no God. Or God has forgotten, He will never see my bad deeds." ²

But according to the teachings of the Holy Book (Gospel), this is a crude fantasy of the wicked, because Allah Almighty will not leave any wicked person unpunished, but his deeds will be repaid from him and he will be made to suffer the punishment of Hell because of his bad deeds and the rights of the poor and needy Will be avenged. So in one place it is said in the psalm;

"The wicked will go to Patal (Hell)." That is, all those neither nations who forget God, because the poor will not be forgotten forever, nor will the hope of the poor be broken forever." ³

It is mentioned in another place;

"He will set traps for the wicked. "Fire and brimstone shall be part of the bowl of fire". ⁴

After mentioning the disobedience of Bani Israel, the punishment for these people will be given in that way which has been described in Deuteronomy. As it is said:

"They provoked me to anger with their false words, so a fire was kindled in my anger that will burn to the bottom of Hades, and will consume the earth with its produce and set fire to the foundations of the mountains. I will heap calamities upon them and make my arrows cease upon them. They shall be consumed by hunger, and shall be devoured by the fierce heat, and by the fierce death: I will leave upon them the teeth of beasts, and the poison of the insects that crawl upon the earth." ⁵

In the Old Testament, human beings have been described as saying that;

"O young man, you are happy with your youth and walk in the path of his heart. But remember that God will bring you to court for all these things. "

The same fact is described in another place in the same manner:

"Drawers' commands from God. This is the duty of man because God will bring every act to everything with a hidden thing. " ⁶

After mentioning the evil deeds in the psalm, he said

"O Allah's forgotten! Think of it Do not let me spread you and no one is going to be released ... The one who keeps his conduct is right will show God's salvation." ⁷

The above specifications give a clear concept of the existence of accountability in the teachings of Judaism that human beings will not be free about their wealth, but to be questioned, which is an effective motivator for the protection of human rights and the establishment of a welfare society.

The Religion of Christianity:

In the teachings of the Christianity, the Prophet Jesus Christ describes about accountability in Matthew when He stated that every idle or careless word we speak will be discussed by God to each of us on the Day of Judgment. Jesus stated this to convey that it is important to be accountable with our tongues and words, which can make or break others and ourselves, because on the Day of Judgment, God will remind us of these words and show His happiness or displeasure.

It has been described furthermore that the resurrection for the actions of the worldly life of human beings is stated that a court will be established for the sake of humanity. In which the obedient will be sentenced to punishment and disobedience. For Christians, the people who are persecutors will be resurrected. The humanity will be called for gathering. The Jesus Christ will come to the clouds with the frightening. Then they will be in the glorious body, while other wicked will be put into the fire. The Prophet Jesus Christ warns their followers of this way of the horrors of the resurrection as stated as under:

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"At the end of the world, the angels will come out and the shades will separate from the curse and put them in the fire furnace there will cry and grind them." ⁸

As per statement of the Prophet Jesus Christ, the Day of Judgment and the Day of accountability are referred to as ***"the Day of Judgment-***" He will judge in righteousness in the presence of all and men and angels, and his final judgment will be just damnation to everlasting punishment for the wicked and a gracious gift of life everlasting to the righteous.

As it is said in the Holy Bible:

"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, in order to save his life, that wicked person shall die for his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, or from his wicked way, he shall die for his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul." ⁹

"Jesus Christ described this Day of Judgment as a time when people of different nations and time periods would rise together, and He said that it would be more tolerable for those who had not heard His message or seen His sign". ¹⁰

He said those hearing Him were more accountable even than the people of wicked Sodom: ***"For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the Day of Judgment than for you"***. ¹¹

"What did He mean, 'more tolerable'? If this time of judgment was only a time of sentencing, and all receive the same penalty as sinners—eternal death —"¹²

then 'more tolerable' doesn't make sense. But the concept of judgment in the Bible is broader than just condemnation. In fact, Christians are being judged now,
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so it is a process and it can have a positive outcome. And every human being will be judged. So being judged doesn't always refer to being condemned."¹⁴

In Matthew 13, Jesus tells another farm-related story: *Jesus told them another parable:*

"The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

The owner's servants came to him and said, "Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?"

"An enemy did this," he replied.

The servants asked him, "Do you want us to go and pull them up?"

*"No," he answered, "Because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn".*¹⁵

From the above explanations, the fact becomes clear that the teachings of Jesus Christ (peace be upon him) have clear concepts of accountability for human actions, which is an effective force for preventing people from disobeying God and protecting people's rights.

The Religion of Islam:

The prime objective of Islamic law based upon entire blessing play an important role in construction and re-in formation of the human society.

A society and nation can perish and drowned due to its cruelty and crimes. According to the scholars the basic reason of this issue is illiteracy and get for away from religious teachings while fearless from God and from the Day of Judgment, social injustice, instability, lack of accountability and intolerance are also considered as major factors.

According to Islamic teachings, Allah almighty has made man the best of creations and distinguished him from all other creatures by virtue of his intellect.

The Holy Qur'an has used various methods to make him aware of the investigation and accountability of the Hereafter. Therefore, Allah almighty has said in His holy book Al-Qur'an as under:

Translation: "And if Allah had willed, He could have made you [of] one religion, but He causes to stray whom He wills and guides whom He wills. And you will surely be questioned about what you used to do". ¹⁶

In another place, Allah almighty says in His Holy book:

"And do not pursue that of which you have no knowledge. Indeed, the hearing, the sight and the heart - about those entire one] will be questioned." ¹⁷

It is clear from the Qura'nic specifications that on the Day of Resurrection, a person will be asked about his deeds and a person will have to give an account of his every action. A person who thinks that there will be no questioning on the Day of Resurrection is his delusion. The Holy Quran has declared this crude fantasy impossible. Allah almighty says:

***But no! In fact, you deny the 'final' Judgment,
While you are certainly observed by vigilant,
Honorable angels, recording 'everything'.*** ¹⁸

Allah almighty describes in another place in His Holy book:

"Man does not utter any word except that with him is an observer prepared [to record]." ¹⁹

In this world, it has been observed that here some powerful and influential criminals get rid of the legal grip on the basis of wealth or recommendation from the grip of virtual kings. Allah Almighty has made a clear announcement for such people that only their own actions will be useful for accountability in the Hereafter. No amount of money can save someone, no recommendation will work and no manpower can save him from the accountability of the Hereafter. In this regard, Allah almighty has said in the Holy Qur'an:

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“Fear the Day when no one shall avail another, when no intercession will be accepted, when no one will be ransomed, and no criminal will receive any help”.²⁰

Allah almighty talks about the reality of the transient life of this world. Several descriptive words are used to reveal to us its true nature. After that, Allah warns us to remember that the life of this world is nothing but a “deceptive enjoyment”.

That is, in reality, the same thing that happens to everyone and everything during the life of this world. The young, beautiful face becomes wrinkled and haggard; the lustrous hair becomes limp and grey; the strong bones become brittle, and strong muscles give way to weakness; the eyes lose their sight; the erect spine becomes bent. Moreover, every inanimate thing also goes into decline: the architecturally sound mansion becomes depleted and worn over the years, erosion causing its dilapidation and ruin; the clothes lose their newness, shine and glory, withering away; ‘new’ technology loses its value and becomes obsolete and unwanted; the flashy vehicle goes out of vogue and ends up in a junk yard as rubble. The list is endless.

Allah almighty describes the reality of this world in the following verses in His Holy book as:

“Know that the life of this world is only play and amusement, pomp and mutual boasting among you, and rivalry in respect of wealth and children, as the likeness of vegetation after rain, thereof the growth is pleasing to the tiller; afterwards it dries up and you see it turning yellow; then it becomes straw. But in the Hereafter (there is) a severe torment (for the disbelievers, evil-doers), and (there is) Forgiveness from Allah and (His) Good Pleasure (for the believers, good-doers), whereas the life of this world is only a deceiving enjoyment”.²¹

Moreover, Allah almighty has said in His Holy book that you all will be called for accountability on the Day of Judgment as he says as under:

Tell ‘them, O Prophet’, “Do as you will. Your deeds will be observed by Allah, His Messenger, and the believers. And you will be returned to the Knower of the seen and unseen, and then He will inform you of what you used to do.”²²

Death is one of the few indisputable facts of life. Regardless of faith, race, status or age, the certainty of death is universally accepted; the question of what happens afterwards has been debated throughout history. Islam teaches that one’s life doesn’t end on earth; rather, it is followed by the eternal life of the hereafter.

Conclusion

Accountability refers to the processes, rules and structures that hold the population and public officials legally responsible for their actions and impose sanctions if they violate the law. Accountability is essential if the systemic threats to the rule of law are to be organized.

Accountability makes you reliable by highlighting your goals and effectively enforcing you to best your past self. It teaches you to assume responsibility for your actions by putting you through personal challenges.

In the same manner, on the Day of Judgment, God will weigh everyone’s good

and bad actions according to His Mercy and His Justice. Those who fulfilled their purpose in life and lived righteously will enter an eternal paradise of pure bliss.

In contrast, those who die in a state of transgression against God or oppress others will be led to Hellfire. Despite all of God's blessings, they neglected their ultimate purpose of leading their lives in accordance with His Will and Guidance.

In this regard the government requires exercising its power in accordance with well-established accountability system and clearly written rules, regulations, and legal principles and taking action against every culprit beyond any religious, political and political affiliation.

References

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Psalm 11:6⁴

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Sermons 1:3:00⁶

Psalm, 5: 1,3⁷

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Matthew 11:23-24¹¹

Romans 6:23¹²

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