



Attainment of Benefit & Removal of Harm

As Goals of the Shariah

Recap of Week 1

- **Maqasid al-Shariah – The objectives/goals of Islamic Law.**
- **Allah is Most Wise so His Law must be based on Divine Wisdom.**
- **Primary Goal of the Shariah – Attainment of Benefit and Prevention of Harm.**
- **Shariah was revealed to protect the five necessities – religion, life, intellect, wealth and family.**
- **Not all of the Shariah is rational, a small portion of it is Ta'abbudi.**



The Primary Goal of the Shariah

“All of the Shariah revolves around the attainment of Maslaha and the removal of Mafsadah” – Ibn Ashur

Defining Maslaha

- **Maslaha – That which produces benefit for people at a collective and individual level. (al-Shatibi)**
- **Maslaha Ammah – Public Benefit**
- **Maslaha Khassah – Individual Benefit**
- **Public Benefit takes precedence over individual benefit in most cases.**
- **The commandments and recommendations of the Shariah revolve around the attainment of benefits. Each of these benefit us in some way or another.**
- **These benefits could be spiritual, physical, emotional or monetary.**

Examples of Maslaha

- **We pray five times a day to preserve our faith.**
- **Zakah is obligated for the public welfare of the poor.**
- **Jihad is sometimes needed to protect the state and its citizens.**
- **Education is prioritized in Islam because it is a form of public benefit.**
- **In marriage, there are several benefits for the entire family.**
- **The permissibility of business benefits society as a whole.**

Defining Mafsada

- **Mafsada – harm, evil, corruption, sin**
- **Mafsada is anything that corrupts society or causes harm, on both an individual and societal level.**
- **The Shariah was revealed to minimize and prevent harm, so that humans can live in peace and safety.**
- **However, the total avoidance of harm is impossible.**
- **Sometimes a small harm is tolerated to prevent a greater harm.**
- **Sometimes an individual harm is tolerated to prevent a public harm.**

Examples of Mafsada

- **The spread of zina is a form of Mafsada that threatens the preservation of honour and lineage.**
- **An interest-based banking system is a form of Mafsada that causes imbalance and injustice in the economy.**
- **Drugs are prohibited because they cause harm to the individual and their families.**
- **Divorce is a type of Mafsada that is tolerated because prohibiting it can lead to a great Mafsada.**

Benefits of knowing this concept

“The best of you is the most beneficial of you to humanity.”

- **We must do everything we can to avoid harming ourselves and others.**
- **It is easier to avoid sin when you are aware of the harms that they cause.**
- **There is more motivation to do good deeds when you are aware of their benefits.**
- **Everyday decisions can be weighed on a scale of Mafsada and Maslaha to ensure we make the best decisions.**



Q & A