



Idea of Justice: Eastern and Western

JUSTICE AS MORALITY

By: TANISHA BALIYAN

M.A.English,IGNOU

Abstract:

Justice and morality are fundamental conceptions that form the soul of human societies and go hand in hand. Whenever and wherever, Justice is served right, morality ascertains its existence. This paper sheds light on the intrinsic relationship between Justice and Morality. The paper begins by defining Justice and morality, later examining various theories on Justice as morality, drawing on the insights of historical philosophers.

The paper delves into the nexus between Justice, morality and legal systems, unearthing instances where laws might deviate from moral doctrines, leading to moral predicaments. Contemporary issues: the death penalty and climate justice, shall be discussed to illustrate the intricacies faced while balancing moral imperatives in the pursuit of Justice.

Ultimately the paper asserts that as societies grapple with convoluted challenges, comprehending the inherent bond between Justice and morality becomes ever more pressing for composing a fairer and more ethical world.

INTRODUCTION

In the extensive gallery of human values, justice is a chef-d'oeuvre—a convoluted mosaic assembled from the flavours of fairness, righteousness, and equity. Envision this mosaic as a radiant stained-glass window, allowing the light of moral principles to surge through and smudge the globe with tints of ethical clarity.

Like a master artisan, the connotation of justice shapes each shard of glass with precision. Each piece illustrates a facet of the collective conscience—a mirror reflecting the pursuits of treating others as we wish to be treated. As these segments come together, they construct an awe-inspiring portrayal of equilibrium, where rights and responsibilities centralise in congruous symmetry.

Now, consider justice as morality, an enchanted forest where the trees of virtue advance towards the heavens, their roots plunging deep into the soil of mortal conscience. Each tree symbolises a moral principle, wobbling in the breezes of ethical dilemmas and societal expectations. The forest echoes with the melodies of empathy, compassion, and honour, carried by the gentle current of human values.

This brings us to the understanding that justice and morality are intertwined in a way as the ecosystems of forests. Where morality provides the wellspring of codes, while justice, like a river, carries those principles forward, fostering the terrains of social interactions. How the tainted glass window captures the sunlight's essence, justice grasps the soul of moral aspirations, bathing society in its brilliant glow.

As we traverse the maze of existence, these analogies remind us that justice and morality are not just abstract notions—they are the lenses through which we view our actions and the footing on which societies are constructed. They are the congruous interplay of doctrines and motions, the ray that navigates our path, and the forest that harbours us in the complex maze of human interaction.

This maze of aisles converges in societal architecture, creating the nexus between justice, morality, and legal systems. Envision this nexus as a benign ecosystem where three different ecosystems intertwine and interact, shaping the terrain of human conduct and societal consonance.

Justice, a steadfast lighthouse, stands towering, throwing its radiant beam across the waters of human interactions. Its light exemplifies the aspirations of righteousness and equilibrium, steering ships of ethical principles through the tempestuous sea of legal sophistication. Like a stellar constellation, morality sprinkles its stars of virtue and conscience, guiding those helming the expansive stretch of societal decisions.

Nevertheless, as in every complicated ecosystem, imbalances may occur. Legal systems, an intricate drapery woven from the ropes of ordinances and regulations, sometimes weave patterns that diverge from the moral constellations and the beacon of justice. These divergences can lead to moral predicaments akin to delicate blooms caught between the currents of conflicting tides.

Envision these moral predicaments as fragile glass sculptures caught in a bewitching dance of light and shadow. Instances arise where the lawful edifice, whittled from societal necessities, occasionally rambles from the compass of morality's authentic north. The tendrils of legality sometimes stretch, entangling with the roots of ethics, yet occasionally capturing branches that lead to unknown, morally ambiguous territories.

In this intricate dance, concoct a symphony of hierarchies. Justice, a splendid conductor, endeavours to harmonize the orchestra of legal systems with the choir of moral values. However, amidst the crescendo, a dissonance arises—a reminder that even the considerable intricate symphonies can stutter when elements are out of tune.

Like a delicate ecosystem, harmony in this nexus demands persistent wariness and care. The engineers of legal systems must be prudent of the tender blooms of morality, ensuring that their constructions nurture rather than curb ethical growth. The moral compass, a valid north for individuals and societies, adorns the path to navigate through the intricate maze of preferences, ensuring that the bases of justice remain sturdy and resolute.

In the complex ballet of justice, morality, and legal systems, we are choreographers navigating a dance's delicate steps that seek equilibrium. Our task is to discover the symmetry that allows each element to flourish and resonate so that moral predicaments get transformed into poignant threads woven into a fabric of fairness and ethical enlightenment in the lavish drapery of human existence.

PLATO AND ARISTOTLE

Ancient philosophers, Plato and Aristotle had distinct outlooks on the relationship between justice and morality.

Plato regarded justice as correlated to personal morality, where balanced souls led to a fair society. Aristotle pursued justice through temperance, treasuring virtues like courage and honesty and steering between extremes for a just life. Their ideas edify the connection between inner virtue and societal harmony.

Envision their justice theories as two towering trees rise side by side. Let Plato's justice theory be an elegant olive tree, its branches advancing upward like outstretched arms striving for wisdom from the heavens. This tree casts a shadow that speaks of the ideal Republic—a cooperative society where individuals uncover their place like leaves in ideal symmetry. Just as the olive tree's branches harbour fatigued wanderers, Plato's theory anticipates a just society where guardians, rulers, and producers contribute to the shared good, driven by reason and virtue.

Beside it stands Aristotle's justice theory, a sturdy oak tree with sprawling branches loaded with fruit of moral insight. This tree signifies the Ethical Golden Mean—a balance between excess and deficiency, where virtues prosper. Just as an oak tree's roots intertwine with the earth, Aristotle's theory anchors justice in fairness and proportionality, clasping the notion that individuals receive their due, tempered by reason and equity.

As the sun sets, casting hues of contemplation across the garden, these trees converse. Plato's olive tree visualises a harmonious society where justice is like the orchestra conductor, orchestrating a symphony of well-ordered spirits. Aristotle's oak tree reflects on justice as the culmination of virtues, where individuals, like dancers in a grand ball, uncover balance in their actions, neither swaying too far in one frontage nor the other.

Both trees deliver shade to the fatigued wanderer, inviting philosophers, thinkers, and seekers to rest beneath their branches and contemplate the convoluted interplay between justice and human flourishing. Just as the olive and oak stand as witnesses to the expiration of time, Plato's and Aristotle's ideas continue to shape our understanding of justice—a testament to the unremitting quest for an ethical and harmonious society.

JOHN RAWLS AND AMARTYA SEN

John Rawls emphasized fairness through the "veil of ignorance" and lowered inequalities for societal well-being.

Amartya Sen concentrated on fostering individual capabilities and functions, aspiring to remove hindrances to individual development. Their theories propose unique philosophies on justice and equality.

We can understand their concept likewise:

In the expansive landscape of philosophical inquiry, two distinct constellations emerge: the Justice Theory of Rawls and the thought universe of Amartya Sen. Envision these constellations as celestial storytellers, each presenting an uncommon narrative that shapes our acquaintance of societal fairness and human well-being.

The Justice Theory of Rawls is like a compass directing travellers through the moral wilderness. It paints an image of a "veil of ignorance," where individuals stand shrouded, oblivious of their social privileges. Behind this veil, they prepare a just society—much like architects of an ethical utopia. Rawls' theory is a constellation of fairness, with each star conveying a principle of justice: liberty, equality, and the opportunity for all to prosper.

The theory's North Star, "the original position," leads us to build structures that aid the least advantaged, a cosmic beacon of redistribution and social safety nets. The stars align to endorse inequality only if it profits those at the footing—a testament to Rawls' dedication to balancing fairness and individual liberty.

On the other hand, Amartya Sen's thought universe is a constellation that twinkles with the shimmering light of capabilities. Imagine each star depicting a human potential—a capacity for education, health, social interaction, and more. Sen's theory beckons us to regard not just the dispersal of resources but the power to convert resources into valued functions.

In this cosmic portrayal, the stars of Sen's theory pulsate with the urgency of addressing inequalities in capabilities. Like a gravitational pull links celestial bodies, his philosophy accentuates the interconnectedness of human well-being. It advocates that enhancing human freedom and abilities is the authentic marker of development.

In the sky of the philosophical quest, these two constellations converse. Rawls' justice theory strives to ensure a just distribution of resources, while Sen's capabilities approach illuminates how those resources decrypt into actual well-being. The cosmic dance between them illustrates that justice is about ensuring a fair share and enabling individuals to live lives they treasure.

Thus, philosophers, thinkers, and seekers of truth gaze upon these constellations, each offering a distinct lens through which to contemplate the exquisiteness of justice and human flourishing. Just as the night sky inspires awe and wonder, the interplay of Rawls' and Sen's ideas invites us to the voyage beyond the perceptible horizons of fairness, equality, and well-being, charting our course toward a more just and fulfilling world.

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

When scrutinising modern discourse, two critical issues stand out: the conclusion of Capital Punishment in the justice system and the demand for fair treatment in Environmental Affairs. These issues showcase the intricacies of balancing moral imperatives in seeking justice, clarifying that ethical standards and the desire for justice are closely intertwined.

Within the domain of the final sentence, the scales estimate equity teeter under the weight of moral questions. Striking a balance between retribution and esteeming human rights is problematised by the need to address egregious crimes while upholding the sanctity of life. The challenge emerges from weaving together these antithetic energies in a form that befits justice.

Moral winds intermingle with the call for ecological stewardship on the cusp of climate-related equity. The haste to preserve nature for present and future cohorts' brushes against economic interests and the sharing of resources. Herein lies the struggle—to strike a resonance harmonising with fairness and the requirement for sustainable cohabitation.

In both of these arenas, the endeavour to unearth balance is indisputable. Seeking justice necessitates crossing terrain wherein ethical obligations frequently oppose pragmatic deliberations. This excursion assesses our ability to harmonise warring principles while forging a route that pays heed to immediate and distant consequences.

Analogous to a tightrope walker steadying amidst uncertainty, tackling these matters demands prudence and foresight. The ballet of moral mandates necessitates introspection, dialogue, and the alacrity to distil our comprehension of justice while standing up to ever-evolving challenges.

Ultimately, these contemporary illustrations thrust into the spotlight the intricate equilibrium we strive to sustain—an equilibrium preserving moral compulsions while acclimating the practical intricacies of our multifaceted realm. Ultimately, pursuing justice necessitates navigating these intricacies with acumen and compassion, perpetually cognizant of the flimsy balance between our ethical principles and the nuances of actuality.

JUSTICE AND MORALITY: A FAIRER WORLD

In the labyrinthine corridors of our modern societies, we find ourselves entwined in convoluted challenges, like threads woven intricately into a drapery of complexity. In this intricate web of circumstances, illuminating the inherent bond between Justice and morality becomes a lantern guiding us through the shadows.

Envision this bond between Justice and morality as a golden thread, beaming with the values of fairness, empathy, and righteousness. As we guide the twists and turns of contemporary quandaries, this thread serves as both compass and anchor, steadying our course and ensuring that we remain aligned with the true north of ethical principles.

Like a skilled composer orchestrates harmonies from diverse notes, our collective effort to comprehend the connection between Justice and morality allows us to compose a symphony of fairness and ethical soundness. It is a masterpiece that produces a world that echoes with the chords of empathy, where the rhythm of equitable treatment reverberates in every decision, law, and policy.

This bond is the undercurrent harmonising our convictions and actions as an orchestra conductor synchronises the diverse instruments into a resonant melody.

As the world's challenges unfold, the understanding of the bond between Justice and morality shines ever brighter. It beckons us to cross the maze with courage, threading the complexities with this illuminating knowledge. It urges us to compose a world where fairness and ethics blend into a masterpiece of compassion, a beacon of hope for future generations.

CONCLUSION

Justice emerges as a guiding star in the grand theatre of existence, where challenges and ideals waltz in intricate choreography.

The hues of justice paint a canvas where the colours of rightness and the shades of righteousness blend seamlessly. Just as a conductor leads an orchestra, justice conducts a harmonious symphony where compassion, equity, and fairness create a unified melody.

From Plato to Amartya Sen, in philosophical introspection, ideas evolve like constellations in humanity's conscious cosmos.

These metaphors make us engineers of change, forming a more just globe.

Justice is the North Star, which guides us towards the right direction regarding the just and authentic way of living. Justice and morality go hand-in-hand and act like two sides of the same coin. This combination makes the lives of millions of people and other living creatures livable. Without these two principles, this earth would be in chaos.

REFERENCES

1. Theory of Justice- John Rawls
2. The Republic-Plato
3. Aristotle's Theory of Justice
4. Amartya Sen's Theory of Justice
5. Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy
6. Wikipedia