

Q. No. 1

Discuss in detail the Plato's concept of 'justice.'

Answer 1. Introduction

Plato was the idealistic political philosopher. He was the strong advocate of justice. Plato's justice was ^{not} the justice provided through judicial procedure according to constitution. In fact Plato's justice was the search of truth.

According to Plato: "Justice is to pay someone its due. It means that justice is the opportunity of doing work according to one's capacity and capability."

2. Search of Justice

Plato was a part of Athenian military. After the defeat of army in the civil-war and due to political unrest Plato left army. He devoted himself in search of justice. In order to define justice he gave the description of an imaginary dialogue.

3. Defining "justice" through imaginary dialogue in Plato's Republic.

Plato used his famous device of "dialogue" in order to define justice. Just because he was the student and follower of Socrates, he formed an imaginary scenario in which Socrates is questioning about justice from the participant. The setting was at the house of Cephalus, an old wealthy man. Socrates asked that what is justice? Cephalus answered that according to him

justice is telling the truth and to pay one's debt. Polymarchus, second participant in the dialogue and the son of Cephalus agreed with his father. He said justice is to pay someone his dues. Socrates interpreted it and asked whether he wanted to say that justice is giving reward to loyal friend and harm to enemy. Polymarchus agreed with this interpretation. But Socrates rejected this definition and argued that if you give harm to the enemy it will become more dangerous and disastrous in the future. Thymarchus was the third participant in the dialogue. He said that "Justice is the interest of strongest one". He said that ^{strongest} elite or political person has always used justice to exploit inferior and for his benefit. But Socrates rejected this "individualistic" approach. He argued that one cannot get progress by considering his interest away from the whole. Person's interest is the part of whole or community. If it hurts the whole it will ultimately influence the part.

Socrates rejected all these definitions because they define justice apart from the soul. But according to him, "justice is the part of soul". Thus, Plato draws the interpretation of justice from this dialogue.

4). Defining justice from the interpretation of dialogue.

Plato draws the interpretation of justice from the dialogue and describes "The Plato's Republic". He said that if justice is not telling a truth, pay one's debt and approach of the stronger one. Justice is the part of a soul. According to him there are three main forces of human being. By discovering the truth of these forces one can reach to the justice. Because human makes the community, therefore, by discovering the truth about three forces of human beings, one can reach to the justice in society or community. These three forces are instinct, appetite and courage.

a) - Force of the divide the society on the basis of these three forces.

a) - Force of appetite

Three forces are present in every human but they are present in the varying amount. One of these is predominant in everyone. Those who have dominant force of appetite or desire lives their life to satisfy their desires. Plato classified them as the lower class. They are artisan class and larger number of the community. Their main function is to provide the community with material requirements. This was the Plato's justice

to perform one's duty job
b). **Force of Courage or Bravery.**

Those who have courage or bravery as the dominant force of their hearts are included in the second class of the community. They are smaller in number than the artisan class but larger than the wisdom class. They should be included in the guardian military of the state. Their job is to protect the state from foreign attack.

c). **Force of Wisdom.**

Those who have dominant force as the wisdom of mind in their attitudes. They are the superior. They are the ruling class and few in numbers. They are the guardian of the state and are above the law. They are born to rule and they are the law.

d). **Approach of Specialization**

He used the approach of specialization to discover the truth that which force is dominant in the particular person. This should be done through the scheme of education.

5). Role of Education in "Plato's Justice".

Plato considered education as the most important tool, that is playing a role in the justice. He was the advocate of public education. It should be controlled by the state itself. The most productive use of education is to identify the members of the specific class on the basis of their specialization. Everyone has the right to educate. There are two types of education.

a) - Elementary education.

This education is upto the 18 years. After this, two years of military education is also included. After 20 years of education, a screening should be done. Those who will survive will be able to get advance studies. Who will fail, they will join military.

b) - Higher education.

It includes 15 years of education. First 10 years the subject will be Mathematics and astronomy. In the later 5 years they will be given the task of finding the "truth". They will be introduced with reasoning or philosophy. After once again screening will be done. After

scrutiny they will further be provided with the practical education of 15 years more. At the age of 50 they will be able to rule the state. They are the philosophers king. This was the justice according to Plato to give someone his due according to his abilities.

6)- Plato's justice in Profession.

According to him justice is the division of population into three classes and assigned them respective tasks on the basis of their specialization. They are not allowed to interfere in others specializations. Artisan class should not desired to become a ruler. According to Plato this is the justice that they are doing their specific jobs.

7). Plato's justice through Communism.

Plato introduced communism. That Ruler class and the Military class are not allowed to keep properties, wives and childrens. If they keep them, they will become selfish and become ignorant from the responsibilities of administration. It will be beneficial for the stability

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of state that they will not be able to keep properties while on the other hand, artisan class was allowed to keep property and family. Because they have aptitude as the dominant trait. They should keep it. In this way, Plato has done justice with all three classes.

8) - Conclusion :-

Justice to Plato is giving everyone the opportunity to work according to their specific dominant force. If everyone is performing the allocated job, then they are doing justice with themselves and as well as with the society. He argued that justice should be done through the scheme of education on the basis of specialization approach. Therefore, Justice according to Plato is to pay someone his dues.

