

Q1: Discuss in detail the Plato's Concept of justice

Ans: Introduction: Plato's ideal empire is based upon justice. According to him justice is fundamental right of every man. Ideas of any man cannot be correct until it does not contain the fundamental elements of fidelity, truth and justice.

Justice is an important aspect for all human beings.

People of any country cannot enjoy a healthy and wealthy life without the mutual cooperation and having the right of justice.

1. Division of population

Plato divided the population into three classes in which high class is of philosophers, second class is the people having the military capability and third one are those who are professionals or belong to the labour class.

In these three classes, some classes are deprived of some privileges. For example, labourers have no right to interfere in military affairs and the soldier have also no right to dream to become King.

As for as justice is concerned, it should be equally provided to all classes without determining any status.

2. State as a Body

Plato, while explaining his theory declared that the state functions as a body. As all part of body are connected with each other and are harmonised in such a way that when someone feels pain in any part of his body the pain is felt in the whole body. Accordingly, we can say that the state is a body and people are its organs. If any organ of the state is in trouble then the whole state will be disturbed and cannot function properly.

To remove the trouble of any organ of the State, all the resources of the State should be utilised, and for this very purpose every organ of State should be looked after, so that the whole body of the State may function quiet rightly and may not suffer further.

Prof. G.H. Sabine write in his book namely "A History of Political Theory"

"justice is a bond which holds society together in harmonious union of individuals, each of whom has found his life work in accordance with his natural fitness and training"

3. Attempt for justice yourself.

It is the responsibility of each class of people to watch its fundamental rights, and if justice is not provided to them, they may unite themselves against institutions, individuals and the rulers, and approach to law authorities. Every body should know that justice can only be achieve by struggling hard and according to the proficiencies in their respective fields of each class. If somebody feels any discrepancy in his profession then it is clear that he will be treated otherwise, as a punishment of indisposition is according to the requirement of justice. Therefore to spend a better life and to achieve fundamental rights it is necessary that every person should perform his duties with absolute honesty. If anybody has to suffer a loss due to non-completion of his duty then it is not beyond the requirement of justice.

4. Geographical Division

Beside this, geographical location of the country should also be kept in mind. If a country is a vast then it will be very difficult to provide the same kind of justice there.

Important Features of Platonic Theory of justice

(i) Non-interference in other Affairs

Theory of justice is dependant upon the spirit of non-interference. The view of the Plato was that every man should do that job which is according to his natural ~~not~~ inclination. The interference in other's affairs is not only against the requirements of justice but ~~one~~ also cause of chaos and irreparable loss.

(ii) Specialization of Duties

Plato view was this that administration of an ideal state should be specified and every man has no concern to interfere with the other's affairs.

(iii) Principles of unanimity

Plato's Theory of justice is based on principles of unanimity and integrity. According to Plato, which state is formed with suitable unanimity balance in which justice demands administrative unity and these are three communities of society i.e. labour, soldier and rulers.

(iv) Opposition of the individuality

Plato does not consider individuality. According to this theory, the individual should not think about that he is alone but he should think about himself as part of the whole.

(v) Service to Humanity

Plato does not consider justice as formal and external thing but he considered it as a quality of soul and speciality of mind. Justice means service to mankind and service to humanity indicates towards such social congregated individuals whose services have been performed.

(vi) Universal Justice

Plato's Theory of justice is connected with the universal justice. His theory of justice relates to all the duties of an individual and not

only for legal duties of an individual.

Criticism on Plato's Theory of justice

ii) Application of Plato's Theory

Plato's Theory of justice cannot be applied on modern States. In Plato's era, there were civilian States. The population of such State were very less than that of today's States as the population of today's States have reached to millions. This is quite impossible, according to medical point of view, that such a great population may be divided into three formal classes and groups and each group or class may be divided into separate and specific affairs.

iii) The formula of performing Duties has no Importance
The formula of performing duties is not important that it can be merged into the word justice. on one hand, this formula confines an individual in his own sphere of duties while on the other it does not offer any suggestion to prevent this likelihood probability which can come into existence, in spite of confining opposite natures in the sphere of their own duties.

iii) Morality and law

Plato has mixed up morality and law together while putting forward theory of justice. Whereas they both are different things in nature. laws are those apparent orders which in any organised society specify the practical form and determine the ways of human acts, whereas moral rules relate to those imaginations and thoughts which in context of principles, regulations and orders work as motivator. Plato has created confusion between moral responsibilities and legal duties.

iv) Plato's idea of communism

Plato due to his theory of justice put forward the theory of communism with relations to wives and property, which is totally against the human psychology and altogether ignores the fullness of the natural desires of human soul.

v) Guarantee of Proper Growth

Platonic theory of justice based on a man or a job and therefore not individually and collectively provides the guarantee of proper growth.

(vi) Active and flexible

Platonic theory is not active and flexible. It conferred a person in his life time a specific job and for whole life binds himself irrevocably for the same job.

vii. Collectivity of Plato's Theory of justice

The Platonic theory of justice absolutely leads to collectivity

Conclusion

From the above discussion we can say that if we collectively understand the original meaning of the Plato concept of justice then many useful things come to an end. Though Platonic theory of politics is theory of his moral discipline and the same is his theory of justice and his theory of morality on the basis of which persons of moral discipline spend their lives. Plato has neither imagined legal state which is based on legal duties nor he has thoughts that legal duties, rights and duties and to keep their relations intact is justice

The word which Plato has used for justice is in meaning more near to the morality or sacrifice