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Divine Legislation (*Tashri'*) and Its Role in Shaping a God-Centered Civilization

The Role and Purpose of *Sharia* in Building a Divine Civilization

Imagine a society founded on macro-level goals, such as achieving the highest global standards of welfare and financial prosperity. Could such a structure ever succeed without a comprehensive, specialized system to engineer the laws, principles, and executive guidelines required to reach its ultimate goal? It is undoubtedly impossible.

God, the Omniscient and Master Engineer of creation, created humanity for eternal life and everlasting bliss. Achieving this reality depends on humanity attaining an existential similarity to the Divine. To reach the station of divine deputyship (*Khalifatullah*) and manifest God's Most Beautiful Names (*Asma al-Husna*) in themselves, individuals must spend their worldly lives under the guidance of infallible mentors who have full knowledge of the human soul. These experts possess absolute knowledge of the soul's geometry, the dimensions of human existence, and eternity.

This profound truth can only manifest within a divine civilization under the guardianship (*Wilayah*) and leadership of an infallible guide. Such a civilization is driven by precise, fundamental goals. The core distinction between divine civilization-building and other civilizational models lies in its central focus: the true essence of humanity, inner purity, and the empowerment of the soul. The ultimate aim of a divine civilization is to liberate humanity from purely material and animalistic desires, elevating individuals to the lofty horizon of divine deputyship.

Attaining this station is impossible without an engineered structure and a precise system of laws tailored to every dimension of human existence. Here, the vital necessity of divine legislation (*tashri'*) in building a divine civilization becomes apparent. God Almighty established the *Sharia* (religious law) for humanity through His prophets, ensuring that the principles, boundaries, and laws of spiritual training permeate society through wise divine legislation.

If you seek a deeper understanding of the concept of *Sharia*, its function in engineering human life, and the strategic role of divine legislation in establishing a divine civilization, continue reading below.

Conceptual Analysis of *Sharia*

Lexically, *Shar'* signifies a clear, straight, and evident path—a term the Holy Quran uses exclusively for the path of divine guidance. The word *Sharia* also translates to a doorway, a threshold, and an accessible watering hole where one can effortlessly quench their thirst without ropes or tools.

Technically, *Sharia* encompasses two domains: the general and the specific.

The General Meaning of *Sharia*: This is synonymous with the entirety of “religion.” Expressions like the *Sharia* of Islam, Judaism, or Christianity refer to the complete system of guidance to which the prophets called humanity.

The Specific Meaning of *Sharia*: This offers a more precise and concrete definition, referring to the framework of obligatory laws, rituals, etiquettes, and regulations that God legislated through His messengers to govern human life. Because adherence to these divine commands is the wellspring of true life, spiritual purity, and eternal growth, it is termed *Sharia*—the life-giving source.

The *Sharia* of every Arch-Prophet (*Ulul'azm*) was abrogated by the mission of the subsequent law-bringing prophet. All people were then obligated to follow the new divine legislation. Adhering to a previous *Sharia* after a more complete one had been revealed lacked validity and was unacceptable.

Many fail to differentiate between “Religion” (*Din*) and “*Sharia*,” despite the fundamental distinction between the two.

Religion (*Din*): This is the singular divine path, the universal law, and the unalterable truth established for all nations throughout history. It is never subject to abrogation or change.

Religion remains uniform across existence ¹, representing the absolute truth of submission to the Lord.

Sharia: These are the secondary principles, detailed laws, and executive blueprints built upon the fundamental principles of religion. They adapt to changes in time, location, intellectual maturity, and the historical capacities of different communities. Consequently, multiple *Sharias*—such as those of Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad (Peace be upon him and his family)—have been established through divine legislation throughout history.

The Reality of the Divine System of Legislation

Lexically, the root of *tashri'* means to elevate and exalt something. For instance, raising the water level of a stream to make it accessible for creatures was called *tashri'*. In religious terminology, however, *tashri'* refers to the process of establishing and defining divine laws by God and His chosen representatives. Simply put, divine legislation translates the overarching truths and principles of religion into actionable laws, guidelines, and executive programs for human life.

The primary and exclusive source of divine legislation is the Holy Essence of God, who sends down truths and laws to the prophets through revelation. Following God, the prophets and divine successors hold the most critical role, bearing the responsibility of infallibly receiving, conveying, and clarifying this behavioral framework.

The process of divine legislation occurs through two primary channels:

First, direct legislation within the text of revelation, the Holy Quran, such as the explicit prohibition of usury and intoxicants.

Second, clarification through the life conduct and *Sunnah* of the Infallibles (Peace be upon them), which articulate the precise details, conditions, and sub-rulings of these laws.

Humanity requires the system of divine legislation to traverse the spiritual path without deviation, as the limited human intellect cannot independently extract the precise roadmap to bliss. For example, while the Holy Quran mandates the obligation of prayer, its detailed

framework and method of performance were established through Prophetic legislation and the teachings of the Ahl al-Bayt (Peace be upon them). Thus, *Sharia* comprises both the foundational legislation of a law and its executive details, which mutually complete one another.

In collective life, divine legislation lays the foundation for legal and juridical structures—such as financial obligations like *Khums* and *Zakat*, the administration of justice, the mutual rights of individuals and society, and the governance system—to realize a monotheistic society. By weaving divine laws into the fabric of social interactions, this legislative system solidifies society's monotheistic identity. Functioning as a comprehensive roadmap, it enables the journey from foundational faith to ultimate perfection and similarity to God.

The Function and Ultimate Goal of *Sharia* in Engineering Human Existence

To comprehend the role of divine legislation in civilization-building, we must re-evaluate our relationship with the laws of *Sharia*. When individuals experience friction, doubts, or mental conflicts regarding religious duties, it is often because they judge *Sharia* through the lens of their material, conventional ego. However, the laws of *Sharia* are a profound prescription for nurturing the true, supra-rational self. When this authentic, divine domain becomes the axis of life, it perfectly balances all aspects of a person's worldly and otherworldly existence.

The root cause of modern humanity's anxieties, spiritual crises, and dead ends is an existential imbalance and malnutrition of the different faculties of the soul. The structure of human existence consists of inanimate, vegetative, animal, intellectual, and supra-rational (human) layers. Overindulging the lower layers and focusing exclusively on animalistic or vegetative desires creates a severe spiritual imbalance. In this state, the material aspects grow disproportionately while the divine dimension of the soul is left stagnant and deprived.

Consequently, the only entity qualified to establish the guidelines, behavioral boundaries, and spiritual laws for the soul is the Creator and Engineer of human existence. Only He possesses absolute knowledge of the soul's intricate details, innate needs, paths to salvation, and causes of decline.

Divine laws align perfectly with humanity's *fitrah* (pure primordial nature). If accepting or practicing a divine command feels burdensome, it indicates that the illusory ego and base desires have overpowered the *fitrah*. *Sharia* does not negate the vegetative, animal, or intellective layers of existence; rather, it redefines them as subservient tools designed to facilitate the growth of the true self. The framework of permissible (*halal*), forbidden (*haram*), recommended, and discouraged acts is a precise regulatory system. It manages these lower dimensions so that human energy can be channeled toward blossoming the divine dimension.

This meticulous, targeted engineering brings humanity to a state of balance and inner peace, fully preparing individuals to assume civilizational responsibilities.

Divine legislation provides the essential moral, legal, and identity-based foundations required to build a divine civilization and the Noble Rule of the Righteous. This legislative system does not merely govern individual purity and monotheism; it breathes the spirit of brotherhood, self-sacrifice, justice, and collective monotheism into the societal body. The laws of *tashri'* liberate society from base materialism, hedonism, and intellectual arrogance, elevating it into an orbit of genuine human development and progress.

From a self-knowledge perspective, society and civilization act as a womb, nurturing humanity for a healthy birth into eternity. A civilization stripped of divine boundaries and regulatory laws, governed instead by carnal desires and man-made constructs, can never facilitate spiritual maturity or eternal bliss for its citizens. Therefore, the establishment of any genuine divine civilization relies entirely upon the comprehensive system of divine legislation.

References

¹. Quran, 3:19