

The Role of Government & the Pursuit of Justice

by Ariel Bar Tzadok

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**God creates man, man creates governments. Both create laws.
Thus, right law must be agreeable to both man and God.**

Where does the authority of law and government come from? Who gives a small group of individuals the right to take control and to dictate to others how they must live? Is it that some people just get together and decide that everybody else has got to do this or behave like that? In spite of the “might makes right” argument, what requires “us” to have to listen to “them” when “they” make “their” laws?

Granted, we may fear the consequences of breaking “their” rules, but is it right that we should live in fear? What about freedom, the freedom to choose how to live? As long as one does not hurt another, what difference should it make how one lives? Yet, it does make a big difference. Law and government dictates much and leaves precious little room for dissent. So, again, let us ask, is this right? Is this moral? How did this get to be right? Who says? And what gave “them” the right to say so, in the first place?

In modern societies, based on the concepts of democracy, we elect officials to certain political bodies (congress, parliament) and expect them to then legislate laws that will govern us. Our involvement in the electoral process is our tacit agreement and consent to follow the laws that these lawmakers will enact, whether or not we personally agree with them. We say, this is how the system works.

We also say that if said lawmakers act in ways we disapprove of, we merely elect different officials to replace them. The new officials are then empowered to repeal the unpopular laws and to enact new ones, more in consensus with popular public opinion. In this way, the majority rules and the majority of people have rules to follow that they agree with and willingly consent to follow.

Yet, what about those who do not agree with such legislation? What if said popularly supported legislation is nothing of the kind? What if the majority does not agree with, nor approve of, the restrictions or regulations of specific legislation, they are nevertheless

obligated to follow it, because it is the law. And everyone knows that violating the law is morally wrong, even when the law itself is immoral! So, compliance is expected and demanded, regardless of the righteousness of said laws. Violations of said laws, even by those whose objections are moral and right, are nevertheless punished harshly. Compliance is not out of righteous agreement with the law, but rather through force, out of fear of reprisals and punishments (fines and imprisonment).

What happens when a group in government imposes legislation, supported by its constituents, but is at the same time hostile to other constituents? Democracy has been called the oppression of ruling class over those not in power. No one ever agreed to the democratic process being a tool to deny people personal freedoms or worse to impose legal burdens upon them that they are either unwilling or unable to bare.

What happens to the rule of law, when the burden of law becomes unbearable? The answer is clear. Revolution!

When man is not true to his fellow man, he cannot be true to God. When one does not walk rightly with God, one cannot by definition walk rightly with his fellow man. This explains why all secular and atheist cultures have been ruthlessly repressive, with violent governments oppressing their own people. Without respect for God, there is no respect for one's fellow men. This is why secular and atheistic societies are inherently unbalanced and unnatural. Without a moral compass as the common denominator for all men, no society can ever provide for the common good of everyone.

Needless to say, the oppressors who impose their rules demand that they be followed and claim the moral authority of the "rule of law" as their justification for imposing whatever burdens they choose. They expect everyone to submit. Those who refuse to submit are considered criminals and punished accordingly. Yet, when entire segments of the populace rebel against unpopular or unjust laws, rather than address social grievance, the authorities wield their power to impose their will, however unpopular, upon the rebellious masses. The populace at large is then condemned as criminal and punished accordingly, usually with ruthless violence and even more repressive law enforcement.

The rule of law is a social contract between peoples, those who govern and those who are governed. Once the governing class no longer represents large segments of the population, they no longer have the moral authority to rule over them, regardless of their legal mandate.

Laws, of the people and by the people have to serve the people. The people must be served by the law. The law is not there to be served by the people.

Either the law provides for the common good and respects the freedom and liberties even of those not willing to embrace it, or the law loses its moral authority. As such, the law becomes a hollow shell, enforceable only by the barrel of a gun, instead of by moral right and social justice.

When law is imposed and enforced by the barrel of a gun (a metaphor for all types of punitive law enforcement), such laws serve as chains that enslave the populace. Law and

government are supposed to protect the rights of the people, not steal such rights from them. When law is imposed and enforced by the barrel of a gun, what we have is a repressive society, a dictatorship. We become slaves to the very government that promised to protect our freedoms. Said government becomes the slave master, and its citizens become nothing more than its slaves. Not only is there no justice in this, there is outright evil in this. But what can slaves do to free themselves from oppressive, violent masters?

Governments create laws and people create governments, but fundamental human rights are not the creation of either government or the people. Fundamental human rights are an integral part of our humanity. Fundamental human rights are defined and demarcated in accordance to humanity's Creator. Only the Creator alone can establish and therefore define humanity's fundamental human rights. Leaving the Creator out of defining human rights and you strip human rights of their humanity. No human individual, government or law has the right to deny or take away that which God Himself has given equally to us all. When man robs his fellow man of that endowed in him by God, this is the surest way to create evil dictatorships that treat all citizens as slaves without any value or any rights.

One of the most basic human rights and responsibilities is the pursuit of justice. It is written, "Justice, justice, you shall pursue [it]," (Deut. 16:20). Before one can address the pursuit of life and liberty, one must demarcate boundaries as to how far one can go after this pursuit without violating the boundaries of one's neighbors who has equal rights to these pursuits.

Whenever there be a question of infringement upon the rights of one by another, a state of natural imbalance is created. Balance, therefore, must be restored. Laws and governments are created with the intent of maintaining these balances, yet as reality shows us, it is these very same laws and government that are often the greatest offenders and perpetrators of creating imbalance.

Justice is the pursuit of balance. When there is no justice, there can be no balance. Without balance, all of nature becomes unsettled. Literally, we disrupt the entire natural order of things when we act unjustly, thus creating imbalance in human society and in the world at large. Justice is the restoration of balance be it on the individual or global scale. This is why the Biblical edict commands us to "pursue justice" (Deut. 16:20). We are to run after it and capture it. Justice heals wounds between people and it also heals wounds between humanity and nature.

When government denies its citizens that which belongs to them by Divine right, then that government has become an agent of injustice. Such governments are executors of tyranny. It was therefore wisely spoken by Benjamin Franklin that rebellion to tyranny is obedience to God. These are not only wise words. This is not only good advice. Rebellion to tyranny is equal to and the same as obedience to God is a religious and moral obligation. It is a fundamental human right and obligation to resist and stand against repressive governments that deny fundamental human rights and that interfere in the daily affairs of the individual beyond government's limited Divine mandate.

The role of government is to establish justice, to keep the peace, and that is all. No government has a Divine mandate to do any more. And, no body of human beings

(congress, parliament) have the right to create governments or to establish laws that execute a mandate beyond that which God Himself has ordained. The pursuit of justice requires the opposition to tyranny. And tyranny is defined as any man-made laws, not ordained by God, that are imposed upon all men, regardless of circumstance. God does not do this, man has no authority to do this. Thus we have the moral and righteous obligation to oppose all unjust, imbalanced and freedom robbing laws. This obligation is incumbent upon every adult male and female human being, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, religion or any other distinguishing character.

Man rules best, when, like God, he stands supreme and independent. This is the Divine mandate. Human responsibility therefore begins and ends with the pursuit of freedom and independence, and this pursuit, when necessary must be directed against repressive and tyrannical government, who have no moral authority to be in power.

"I am God your Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage" (Ex. 20:2). God is the Lord only of those who are free from the house of bondage and the slavery of Egypt. It is therefore a prerequisite to accepting God as Lord for one to first emancipate himself from all types of slavery, to others and even to oneself.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government."

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