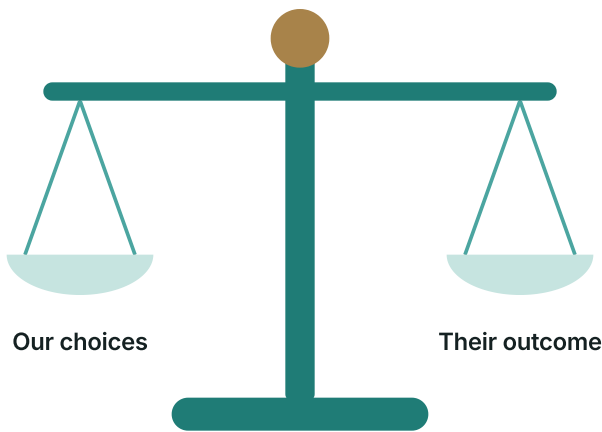


A just God. 'Adl.

God is perfectly fair. He gives us real choices, holds us responsible for them, and never wrongs anyone, not even by the weight of an atom.



A just God

God never wrongs anyone

Justice, called *'adl*, is one of the five roots of belief in the school of the Ahl al-Bayt. It means God puts everything in its proper place and never treats anyone unfairly.

"Your Lord does not wrong anyone" (18:49). When harm comes from injustice, it comes from people, not from God: "We did not wrong them; they wronged themselves" (16:118).

Why injustice is impossible for God

People are unfair for three reasons. None apply to God.

1

Not knowing

We sometimes wrong others because we lack the full picture. God knows everything, seen and unseen.

2

Needing something

We cheat to gain what we lack. God needs nothing; everything already belongs to Him.

3

Weakness

We give in to anger, fear or pressure. God is all-powerful and is never forced to act against what is right.

Are we really free?

Between two extremes, a middle path

Total compulsion



"Everything I do was forced on me."

The middle path



God gives us the power to act; we choose, and we are responsible.

Total independence



"God has no part in what I do."

What the Imams taught

Imam Ja'far al-Šādiq (‘a) summed it up: "There is no compulsion and no total handing-over; rather, it is a matter between the two." We truly choose, and God remains the source of every ability we use.

An everyday picture

Think of someone given a car, fuel and an open road. The gifts come from the giver, but where they drive is their own decision, and so is the responsibility. "Whoever wills, let them believe" (18:29).

"God bears witness that there is no god but Him, as do the angels and those with knowledge, upholding justice."

[Qur'an 3:18 · meaning in English](#)