

Religious Law

Meaning of Religious Law

Religious law means the set of rules given by God to guide human life. In Islam, this law is called *Shariah*, which covers every part of life, such as worship, family matters, society, economy, and justice. Since it is divine and not made by humans, it is superior to all man-made systems.

Religious law is basically Allah's rules for Muslims. It is called Shariah. It tells Muslims how to live, worship, deal with others, and run society. These rules are not made by humans but revealed by Allah.

Sources of Religious Law in Islam

The main source of religious law is the **Quran**, which contains Allah's commands. The **Sunnah**, which is the sayings and actions of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), explains and completes the Quran. Other sources include **Ijma** (agreement of scholars on an issue) and **Qiyas** (using reasoning to solve new problems by comparing them with old ones). These sources together keep the law both pure and adaptable.

Islamic law comes from the Quran and Sunnah. The Quran is Allah's book, and Sunnah is the life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). When new problems arise, scholars use Ijma (agreement) and Qiyas (reasoning) to find solutions.

Importance of Religious Law

Religious law is important because it provides complete guidance for Muslims in every aspect of life. It creates justice, fairness, and equality among people. It also unites Muslims under one system and protects them from outside influences. It makes rulers, scholars, and ordinary Muslims responsible to Allah. Without it, Muslim society would lose direction and unity. Religious law shows Muslims how to live properly in worship, family, politics, and society. It makes life fair and just. It also unites Muslims everywhere under one system.

Application of Religious Law in History

In early Muslim history, the caliphs used Shariah to govern fairly and establish justice. Muslim rulers appointed judges and courts to apply Islamic law in daily life. Even when Muslim empires declined, scholars tried to keep Shariah alive. During the Mughal and Ottoman times, religious law remained a symbol of strength and Muslim identity.

In Islamic history, Muslim rulers and caliphs used Shariah as the main law. They solved disputes, ran governments, and built societies with it. Even in difficult times, scholars kept it alive.

Challenges to Religious Law

Religious law faced many challenges during foreign invasions and colonial rule. Western powers replaced Shariah with their own legal systems. Some Muslim rulers ignored Shariah for political or personal gain. Innovations and wrong practices also weakened its role. Because of this, Muslim unity and identity suffered, but reformers worked to bring Shariah back into practice. Shariah was weakened when foreigners ruled Muslim lands and replaced it with their laws. Some Muslim rulers also ignored it. This harmed Muslim unity, but reformers tried to revive it.

Relevance for Pakistan Studies

The demand for Pakistan was directly connected with religious law. Muslims wanted a separate homeland where they could live freely under the Quran and Sunnah. The **Objective Resolution of 1949** and the **Constitutions of Pakistan** confirmed that laws must be based on Islam.

Religious law is important for Pakistan because it gives the country its Islamic identity and ensures that politics, society, and law follow divine principles.

Pakistan was created so Muslims could live by Islamic law. Our constitution says Pakistan's laws must follow the Quran and Sunnah. This keeps Pakistan's identity Islamic.