



Progressive Islam in Practice

SHARI'A & ISLAMIC FAMILY LAW PT 5

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IF GOVERNMENTS DON'T APPLY ISLAMIC LAW, WON'T PEOPLE FALL AWAY FROM ISLAM?

No. Current Islamic Law systems are not *Shari'a*, so they are not truly Islamic in the first place. What's more, whether or not their governments use Islamic Law, individuals should practice Islam and follow their understanding of *Shari'a*, by choice and conviction—not out of fear of persecution by the government.



IF GOVERNMENTS DON'T APPLY ISLAMIC LAW, WON'T PEOPLE FALL AWAY FROM ISLAM? II

The earliest Muslims did not live under *Shari'a* law, yet they are considered to be more devout than all successive generations. Their choices were guided purely by faith, not fear of legal action or persecution. Today, Islam is growing in nations that do not have "Islamic" governments, which proves that an absence of Islamic law doesn't impact one's ability to be a devout Muslim.



IS THERE A PLACE FOR HUMAN WILL IN ISLAM?

Yes. There is a Hadith of the Prophet (PBUH) that says “All actions are judged according to intention, and each person receives credit or blame according to her or his intention.” Human will is the foundation of all religious responsibility. That is why children and people with severe mental illness are not considered religiously responsible in Islam. Human will is the very thing that sets people apart from other living things, according to Islamic sources. It allows people to make choices and to interpret how they should live their lives.



IS THERE A PLACE FOR HUMAN WILL IN ISLAM? II

Human will also guides people to make moral choices, whether or not laws demand these choices or forbid them. In Islam, when people choose to do the morally right thing, it is more highly rewarded than when they are forced to do the right thing. Moreover, the Qur'an teaches that there is no compulsion in religion and that people should not be forced to follow any part of Islamic teachings. Force takes away a person's choice and prevents them from being able to get closer to Allah (SWT) through their own choices based on their faith.



DOES HUMAN WILL PLAY A ROLE IN LAW?

Yes. Human will is a fundamental part of law on all levels.

- Laws exist to limit human will
- Human rulers exercise their wills when they create laws
- Human rulers exercise their wills when they choose how to enforce laws
- Human judges exercise their wills when they interpret laws
- Human beings in all walks of life exercise their wills when they decide whether or not to follow laws

