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The Status of Reason

Question No. 20

What is the status of reason in Islamic State?

"Reason" enjoys a high status in Islamic thought and is one of the most important and essential sources for inferring religious laws and decrees. In other words, "reason" is not contrary to "religious law", but it is one of the elements and pillars of "religious law". Naturally, Islamic State must make use of "reason" in planning, legislation and administration.

It should be noted that it is definitive reason, and not speculative reason, that is regarded as one of the pillars of religious law. In administrative methods and practical issues of government, instrumental, speculative and empirical reasons (sciences) may also be used. Nevertheless, these kinds of rational instructions are used in cases wherein they are not in contradiction to religious instructions and high human values.[1]

1. For further information, see Hamid Reza Shakerin, Secularism (discussion on jurisprudential and scientific managements); Sayf Allah Sarami, the article entitled "Aql-e qat'i manba'-e istinbat-e qavanin-e jami'i va hukumat-e Islami", Hukumat-e Islami magazine, no.20, 6th year, 2nd issue, Summer 1380.

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