

Lecture (3)

What is a Legal Rule ?

A legal rule is a rule which regulates the social conduct. It is an abstract general rule. It arranges relations among people. It is binding on everybody. The authority punishes anyone who disobeys it. There is a legal rule for stealing, for example. Anyone who steals should be punished.

A legal rule regulates life in the society. It imposes justice. Some legal rules apply to everybody in the society, like the rules of transportation and stealing. Other legal rules apply to some people only. An example is the rule which arranges the work of the lawyer, or the work of the merchant.

A legal rule is abstract: it does not prefer one person to another. It is just in its application.

There are three kinds of duty in life: duty towards God, duty towards oneself and duty toward the society. Religion arranges mainly duty towards God. Morals regulate duty towards oneself. Legal rules regulate duty towards the society. There are sanctions on any person who disobeys a legal rule. He may go to prison. He may be killed. He may also pay money.

Answer these questions:

1. What does an authority do to a person who disobeys a legal rule?

The authority punishes anyone who disobeys it.

2. What does a legal rule impose?

It imposes justice.

3. Do all legal rules apply to every member in a society?

Some legal rules apply to everybody in the society, like the rules of transportation and stealing.

4. What kind of duty does a legal rule regulate?

There are three kinds of duty in life: duty towards God, duty towards oneself and duty toward the society.

5. Is there one kind of sanctions?

There are many sanctions on any person who disobeys a legal rule.

Key words:

- Morals مقاييس الأخلاق**
- Sanctions عقوبات**
- Despotism جائرة**
- Divine سماوي**
- Helpless عاجزة**
- Abstract مجرد**