



IMAGINING JUSTICE IN BALTIMORE

Part 4: Water Justice in Islamic Tradition(s) Discussion Questions

Water as Mercy

What is the Qur'anic understanding of water in creation?

What does it mean for water to be 'a mercy'?

What is the relationship of water and scripture? What is the significance of this understanding?

Relationship of Humanity to Creation

What is the purpose of humanity in the Qur'anic context? What are the implications of this for the relationship of humanity to creation?

What is the relationship of God's mercy to humanity's role?

Qur'anic Concepts of Justice

What stands out for you in the examples of justice in the Qur'an? How do these help us understand the Qur'anic concepts of justice? What might be applications for our current moment?

How do the Qur'anic concepts of justice address both individual relationships and how the larger society is governed? What is the significance of this understanding?

In what ways might the idea of "mutual consultation" be important in addressing issues of justice?

Noah: What Happens When Justice is Ignored

How do you reconcile the ideas of “water as a mercy” and the ways in which water also can be destructive?

How do you see the story of Noah pulling together the themes of water as mercy; the relationship of humanity to creation; and what happens when justice is ignored by those who live in a society?

What is the significance of Noah’s initial appeals to the leaders of his society? What different forms do these take?

What do you see as happening in a society when justice is not established?

Applications for a Just Society

What do you understand as the intertwined nature of God’s mercy, reason for creating humanity, and justice in society?

In what ways do you agree / disagree with the statement, “ You cannot have justice without having compassion”?

Who do you see as being responsible for making sure people have access to water? How do we hold those people accountable to ensuring that access?