

Justice: Legal or Ethical

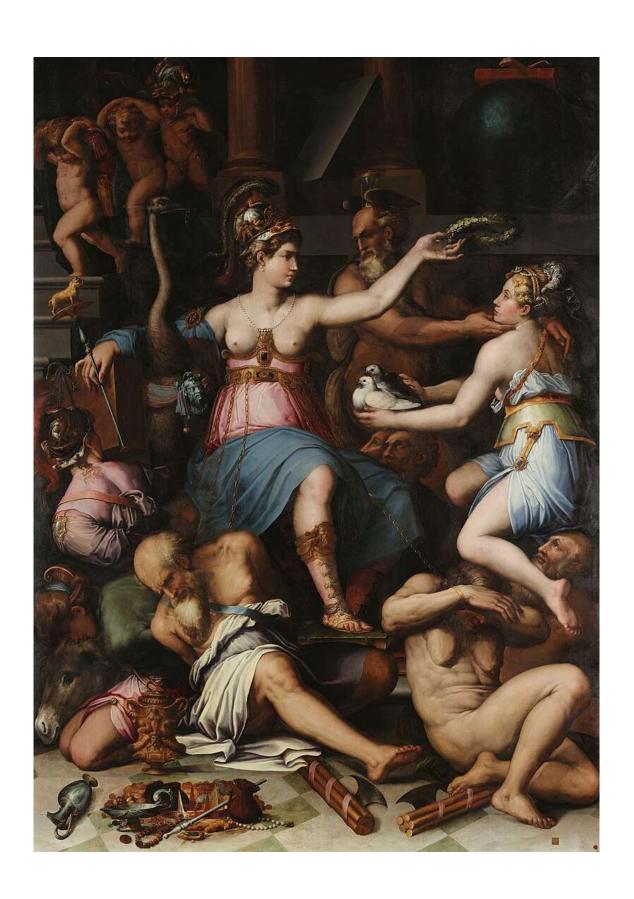
The lecture aims to discuss the foundation of Justice—whether it is determined by the legal course of action or by Moral laws. The speaker, first, highlights the change in the Image of lady Justice blind folded etc, and compares the recent change in the image of the Lady Justice with open eyes etc. She goes on to discuss the intricacy and complexity of the justice and suggested that justice must be supplemented by the moral laws which may not be according to the book of law, but it should always incorporate the moral aspect of the Justice, because law and morality overlaps and criss-cross the path of Justice.

However, one often expects a Judge to be objective and independent of all kinds of subjective and objective influences, but it is often found that it is practically not violable, leaving the accused in a traumatic state. Even if it is supposed that justice is delivered after a long 20 and 40 years after, the speaker rejects and did not consider it as a kind of "pure Justice"

In this connection the Indian concept of Dharma is also mentioned which is often used in both legal and moral sense together. Finally, it is left to the "Good Will" of the Judge to pronounce the judgement in favour of either party based on his insight which none other than the judge only knows in a better way.

At the end of the lecture "The allegory of Justice" A Painting by <u>Giorgio</u>

Vasari (1543) is shown with various obstacles in between the delivery of the justice.



The semi-nude feminine personification of Justice occupies the center of the painting. Three putti carry weapons down the stairs to arm and defend Justice.

Her right arm, draped in a rich blue mantel, rests upon an ostrich. Because of its long neck and the slowness of its digestion, the ostrich warns of the need to face all challenges with patience. With her left hand, Justice bestows a laurel crown upon the head of Truth. Truth holds two doves within her hands, which are a symbol of innocence.

Time, personified as an old bearded man, gently caresses the chin of Truth, who is thus presented to Justice to our left. Time's head is surmounted by an hourglass and wings. Both symbols suggest that truth is revealed by time.

From the waist of Justice, seven chains cascade down, binding the personifications of seven vices below her. Here we see Corruption, personified as an old man with a beard, stooped over in fixation upon something below him. The object of his gaze is a pile of treasure, as Corruption desires money, jewellery and the symbols of power instead of true justice.

To our left of Corruption is the vice of Ignorance, who is kneeling above the head of a donkey. Above Ignorance is Cruelty, who turns her back to us, unconcerned with the strife of the innocent.

The two faces of Treason and Fear appear below the two doves held by Truth. Falsehood and Slander thus appear below Truth, being visually and symbolically crushed by her weight. Below the right hand of Justice are the fabled 12 tablets of Romulus, founder of Rome and father of ancient religion.

Atop the sceptre held by Justice's right hand is a hippopotamus - an animal that kills his mother and father without any care, similar to a just judge who does not forgive a neighbor. The laws of Moses, called the Torah or Pentateuch, are presented in a red binding above the globe. And below the right foot of Justice are two volumes, one green and the other red, representing civil and canonical institutions.





