



Principles of moral governance

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Al. Ilmo Sig. *[illegible]* Trone Como
Il Sig. Assoc. Emilio Della-Nave Auditore nel
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Volterra

WHAT IS SELF-CRITICISM?



[Handwritten signature]



SELF-CRITICISM

In terms of its idiomatic meaning is: **revealing your own faults, knowing their causes, and correcting their deviations.**

In this sense, it is a literal translation of the foreign expression (Auto Critique), Perhaps the most appropriate term for this is (self-accountability).





THERE ARE MANY TEXTS MENTIONED IN THE HOLY QUR'AN THAT COMMAND SELF-ACCOUNTABILITY, INCLUDING:

1- الآية الأولى قوله تعالى: ﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا بِقَوْمٍ حَتَّىٰ يُغَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنْفُسِهِمْ﴾ [الرعد:11]

1- Allah's saying : *"Indeed, Allāh will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves"* [Ar Ra'd:11]

How can a person change what is in him self if he/she does not hold him/her accountable and review what he/she has done?




2- الآية الثانية قوله تعالى: ﴿وَأَمَّا مَنْ خَافَ مَقَامَ رَبِّهِ وَنَهَى النَّفْسَ عَنِ الْهَوَىٰ ۗ فَاِنَّ الْجَنَّةَ هِيَ الْمَأْوَىٰ﴾ [النازعات:40-41].

Allah's saying : *But as for he who feared the position of his Lord and prevented the soul from [unlawful] inclination Then indeed, Paradise will be [his] refuge.* [An-Naji-at: 40-41] So, the ruler, who aspires to make Paradise his abode, is commanded to hold the soul *accountable* and to forbid it from what it likes and dislikes with all meanings of love and hate.


3- الآية الثالثة: قوله تعالى: ﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُونُوا قَوَّامِينَ بِالْقِسْطِ شُهَدَاءَ لِلَّهِ وَلَوْ عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِكُمْ﴾ [النساء:135]، أمرت الآية بالعدل، وبالشهادة حتى على النفس حين الوجوب، وهو عين محاسبة النفس أو النقد الذاتي/ محاسبة النفس.

Allah's saying : *[O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for Allāh, even if it be against yourselves] [An-Nisa : 135].* The verse commanded justice, and to bear witness even to the soul when it is obligatory, and it is the essence of self accountability or self-criticism.





Abu Bakr Al-Siddiq - may Allah be pleased with him - said in one of his sermons : “So fear Allah, servants of Allah, and watch Him, and get the lesson from those who went before you, and you should know that surely you will meet your Lord, and be rewarded for your deeds... So yourselves are yourselves” (It means, what was done by yourselves, the reward will be for yourselves).



ويقول عمر بن الخطاب -رضي الله عنه- "حاسبوا أنفسكم قبل أن تحاسبوا، وَزِنُوا
أنفسكم قبل أن تُوزنوا، فإنه أهون عليكم في الحساب غدًا أن تحاسبوا أنفسكم اليوم،
وَتَزَيَّنُوا للعرضِ الأكبر ﴿يَوْمَئِذٍ تُعْرَضُونَ لَا تَخْفَى مِنْكُمْ خَافِيَةٌ﴾" [الحاقة:18].

Omar bin Al-khattab -may Allah be pleased with him- says:
Hold *yourself accountable* before you are *held accountable*, weigh yourselves before you are weighed, for
it will be easier for you in reckoning tomorrow than you
would reckon yourselves today, and adorn yourselves for
the greatest show. It means: (Be prepared for the Day of
judgement) [on that day you shall be exposed to view-- no
secret of yours shall remain hidden] [Al Haqqah : 18].

