

Sad al-Dharāʾiʿ: A Critical Analysis of Causal Reasoning in Shiʿi Legal Theory

This paper examines the logical structure and rational foundations of *sad al-dharāʾiʿ* (blocking the means) and *muqaddimāt al-ḥarām* (preventive prohibition) within Shiʿi *uṣūl al-fiqh*, analysing how these principles demonstrate systematic causal reasoning in Islamic legal theory. First, it explores how Shiʿi jurists developed a sophisticated framework of rational deliberation through principles such as *al-iʿānah ʿalā al-ithm* (assistance in sin), *iḥtiyāt* (precaution), and *sad al-abwāb* (closing the doors) without explicitly adopting *sad al-dharāʾiʿ*, revealing a distinct logical approach to prohibitive reasoning. The paper then analyses how these rational principles address contemporary ethical challenges, examining the logical relationship between causes and effects in modern contexts such as bioethics and environmental policy. Finally, it presents an alternative theoretical framework for understanding *sad al-dharāʾiʿ* within *Uṣūlī* thought, demonstrating how rational legal principles can adapt to contemporary challenges whilst maintaining logical consistency.



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