Shweta Vishwanathan, *Simply, Legal! Torts,* Eastern Book Company, Lucknow, 2021, Hardcover, Pages-188, Rs.245/-

Reviewed By Supriya[*]

Studying torts is like trying to find the keys to social harmony and justice especially when it comes to carelessness and damages. It is a voyage through the complex network of interpersonal relationships, where each move has an impact. Comprehending tort law enables people to effectively negotiate the intricate web of rights, obligations, and responsibilities that affect customers, professionals, and citizens alike. In contemporary times, the relevance of torts blazes like a blockbuster epic, casting a spotlight on the intricate dance between rights and responsibilities in our interconnected society. With this context adding to her own part of contribution in this Torts law Jurisprudence, Ms. Shweta Vishwanathan, a renowned Assistant Director, Sports Authority of India has made remarkable and timely publication of a book titled as *"Simply, Legal! Torts (2021)."*

The book at hand finds a special place alongside works that have already been published as Medha Kolhatkar's, '*Torts and Consumer Protection Act, 2019'* in 2022, Dr. S.R. Myneni's *Law of Torts & Consumer Protection* in 2020 and John Cooke's *Law of Tort* in 2019. It differs from other tort law literatures to explain the concepts, features, and intricacies of the core field of law in a clear, readable, and analytical way that is helpful for interpreting. The book is divided into seventeen chapters that cover a variety of topics including what constitutes a tort, legal damages and remedies that may be obtained under it, vicarious liability, trespassing, the idea of negligence, strict and absolute liability, and how torts relate to other laws before concluding.

The first question posed in the book is, "What exactly is torts?" This is answered succinctly with a picture of a girl named Ritu slapping a bystander, signifying damage to that person's reputation. The first chapter begins by outlining the importance of "reasonable care" and outlining the key components of a "tort." The second chapter includes visual representations of legal maxims such *Injuria Sine Damno and Damno Sine Injuria*, which are based on well-known cases like *Ashby v. White (1703)* and *Gloucester Grammar School, In re, (1410).* Afterwards third chapter discusses tort remedies, namely damages and injunctions, with the legal maxim "*Ubi Jus Ibi Remedium*" and different categories of damages for different wrongs.

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In the fourth chapter, the topic of general defences was covered. A humorous cricket match between Australia and India was used to illustrate the idea of "*volenti non fit injuria*" when a cricket ball struck a bystander.

Chapter Five focuses on the idea of vicarious liability in accordance with the maxim *Qui Facit Per Alium Facit Per Se*. It does this by clarifying the relationships between partners in a partnership firm, as well as those between a principal and an agent. In Chapter six, the topic of defamation is covered in general. It includes an explanation of the varieties of defamation, such as libel and slander, as well as the various defences that are asserted against it, including truth or justification and fair remark. The topic of fraud and negligent misstatements is covered in Chapter Seven, along with an explanation of new terminology like *tort of deceit, tort of malicious falsehood* and tort of passing off along with its exceptions. Besides, Chapter Eight breaks out the various forms of trespassing into three sections. The tort of trespassing on someone else's property and trespassing on land and its remedies including the right of re-entry, mesne profits, eviction action, etc. It is made clearer in the following Chapter nine (Malicious Prosecution) that a tort combines civil and criminal law. Explaining its five key components using the case of Mr. Hari who reports his servant for breaking and entering his store.

In this context, Chapter Ten addresses Nuisance, explaining to the public what constitutes a nuisance as well as its forms and components with the aid of seminal instances like *Christie v. Davey* (1893). The Tort of Negligence is covered in Chapter Eleven, with the well-known case of *Donogue v. Steveson* (1932) serving as an example and holding the manufacturer accountable for its negligence. It outlines the two categories of negligence (composite and contributory), the Bolam Test, and theories of alternative danger. Chapter twelve, which further discusses remoteness of damage and explains the *Novus Actus Interveniens* using the historic Wagon Mound case to illustrate the requirement of reasonable foresight! In-depth discussions of occupiers of dangerous premises and cattle trespass are covered in Chapter thirteen, which addresses the idea of keeper liability for goods, animals, and dangerous premises. The topic of Strict and Absolute Liability is covered in Chapter fourteen with *Rylands v. Fletcher (1868)* case.

In Chapter fifteen, "Death and Torts," the author raises an important query: "What happens if a tort is committed and the plaintiff or defendant passes away?" She explains how a personal right of action expires with the person based on the common law doctrine of *Actio Personalis*

Moritur Cum Persona! In order to make the laws of contracts and the Indian Penal Code easier to read, this Chapter Sixteen, on Tort Law, has a side-by-side combination of other laws. The book concludes with the last chapter seventeen with a section that explores the significance of tort law in holding people accountable for their civil actions. In addition, it provides some insight into other relevant laws like the Motor Vehicles Act of 1988 and the Consumer Protection Act of 1986.

The book is superbly written and beautifully laid out to explain the ideas and features of this foundational area of tort law. But the book's structure varies from chapter to chapter in terms of material and scope. Compared to chapters four and eleven, chapters three and twelve contain far less pages. In comparison to the quantity of noteworthy cases, the book placed greater attention on the theoretical portion. Unlike other books, it is written more in the form of speeches. In addition, compared to the previous volumes, the content is shorter and covers fewer themes. This book does not address all the emerging decisions and notions. Nevertheless, this book offers thorough and understandable views on several crucial areas of tort law through case laws from various jurisdictions explained in the context of India, as well as statutory legislation and norms. Every chapter concludes with a summary recap, which facilitates speedier revision. One of the best things about this book is the visual portrayal of the ideas along with a few instances. It is easy to understand for those who are not formally initiated into the legal profession, as well as for those who are novices in the field and possibly even for seasoned attorneys.

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Journal for Law and Justice
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