01. Joseph Raz is a leading legal philosopher of our time. For almost fifty years he has been tirelessly teaching and writing on a wide range of philosophical issues.

02. Through thorough analyses, his works deepen our understanding of the nature of law, legal reasoning, and the relationship between law, morality and freedom.

03. He excels and specializes in legal, moral, and political philosophy; every articulation and theorization of his is dedicated to critical thinking of fundamental issues.
Raz's way of legal philosophy

Raz was described a mountaineer who's climbed almost every mountain in the range of concepts in law, politics, and morality, paying the closest scrutiny along the paths, thus portraying a holistic scene of the world of ideas for those who follow his footsteps.
Raz on the nature of law

Why should people obey law?

1. Law necessarily claims authority.

2. The existence of law is based on social facts, not dependent on its morality.

3. The existence of authority is for the purpose of social coordination.
Illustration of Raz's concept of law - Part 1

Raz assumes that:
Every legal system in force has de facto and legitimate authority.

- law (mediator)
- authoritative directives
- social sources

Let me tell you what to do.
The problem we are facing here is...
Illustration of Raz's concept of law - Part 2

Can we cross, even on a red light?

Dependent Reasons
Common sense says...

Pros
We can

I am running out of time!

Cons
We can not

There's no car in sight!

Don't do that!

It's very dangerous.

Law (mediator)

= Traffic Safety Regulations, Punitive Regulations concerning Road and Traffic Safety...etc

First-order reasons for action
everyone may have different reasons.

Second-order reasons
(exclusionary reasons)
when serving public interest in road safety, the law excludes various first-order reasons.
Raz's theories lead us to see law as it is, enabling us to reflect on the essence of law and legal institutions.