

Arab Republic of Egypt

Ministry of Awqaf

Rajab 1, 1440 A.H./ March 8, 2019 C.E.

The Concept of Martyrdom Between Reality and Allegation

All praise is due to Allah, the Almighty, Who says in His Noble Book, "And do not say about those who are killed in the way of Allah, "They are dead." Rather, they are alive, but you perceive [it] not." I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger; may Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him and upon those who follow him to the Day of Judgment.

The Divine Law decrees that Allah, Glorified is He, chooses whomever He wants from His slaves to raise their degrees and ranks, to shower them with His Bounty and Generosity and to provide them with His Gifts and Mercy. No doubt that the rank of martyrdom is one of the highest degrees and ranks of Divine Selection ever to whomever from His slaves He, Glorified is He, grants. In this regard, He, Most High, says: "And whoever obeys Allah and the Messenger - those will be with the ones upon whom Allah has bestowed favor of the prophets, the steadfast affirmers of truth, the martyrs and the righteous. And excellent are those as companions;" and "so that Allah may make evident those who believe and [may] take to Himself from among you martyrs - and Allah does not like the wrongdoers."

In truth, Allah the Almighty has specifically granted several virtues to martyrs, including:

- The honor of place and companionship and the great reward and blessing prepared for them; Allah says: "... and the martyrs, with their Lord. For them is their reward and their light." What a great honor and companionship is this! They will have a perfect light that illuminates between their

hands! Masruq (May Allah have mercy upon him) said: "This status is for martyrs only; a point which is conclusively proved by the fact that the Prophet (PBUH) himself was keen on dying as a martyr in the Cause of Allah so that he would have this high rank. That is why he (PBUH) said: "By Him in Whose Hands my life is! I would love to be martyred in Allah's Cause and then get resurrected and then get martyred, and then get resurrected again and then get martyred and then get resurrected again and then get martyred," because of the great reward prepared by Allah, the Almighty, for martyrs."

- They are alive receiving their provision from their lord, but this life is not like ours; it is a life that is beyond human imagination. They are also alive in people's memory throughout the course of life. Allah says: " And do not say about those who are killed in the way of Allah, "They are dead." Rather, they are alive, but you perceive [it] not." In the same regard, it is narrated that Jabir bin 'Abd Allah said: "When 'Abdullah bin 'Amr bin Haram was killed on the Day of Uhud, the Messenger of Allah met me, and said: "O Jabir, shall I not tell you what Allah has said to your father?" Yahya said in his Hadith: "And he said: 'O Jabir, why do I see you broken-hearted?' I (Jabir) said: 'O Messenger of Allah, my father has been martyred and he has left behind dependents and debts.' He said: 'Shall I not give you the glad tidings of that with which Allah met your father?' I said: 'Yes, O Messenger of Allah.' He said: 'Allah never spoke to anyone except from behind a screen, but He spoke to your father directly, and He said: "O My slave! Ask something from Me and I shall give it to you." He said: "O Lord, bring me back to life so that I may be killed in Your cause a second time." The Lord, Glorified is He, said: "I have already decreed that they will not return to life." He said: "My Lord, then convey (this news) to those whom I have left behind." Allah said: "Think not of those as dead who are killed in the

way of Allah, Nay, they are alive, with their Lord, and they have provision."

- The distinctive reward prepared for them; Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: " The martyr has six things (in store) with Allah: He is forgiven from the first drop of his blood that is shed; he is shown his place in Paradise; he is spared the torment of the grave; he is kept safe from the Great Fright; he is adorned with a garment of faith; he is married to (wives) from among the wide-eyed houris; and he is permitted to intercede for seventy of his relatives." He (PBUH) also says: "Whoever is wounded while fighting in the way of Allah, will come on the Day of Resurrection with blood oozing from his wound having the color of blood but with the fragrance of musk."

Yet, we stress that the high rank is prepared only for the true martyrs, not those wrong ones. In actuality, we have two kinds of martyrs; true martyrs who die while defending his country against any aggressor and who sacrifices his soul for its sake, to protect its land and to protect whoever lives in it; those who do so for the sake of Allah, the Almighty. Countries and honor are not less dangerous or of lower rank than the soul, religion and money. That is why it is one of the ultimate objectives give due care by the purified Sharia. In this regard, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "He who is killed while protecting his property is a martyr, and he who is killed while defending his family, or his blood, or his religion is a martyr." Also, A person came to the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) and said: Messenger of Allah, what do you think if a man comes to me in order to appropriate my possession? He (the Holy Prophet) said: Don't surrender your possession to him. He (the inquirer) said: If he fights me? He (the Holy Prophet) remarked: Then fight (with him). He (the inquirer) again said: What do you think if I am killed? He (the Holy Prophet) observed: You would be a martyr. He (the inquirer) said: What do you think

of him (Messenger of Allah) If I kill him. He (the Holy Prophet) said: he would be in the Fire."

As for those who die for the sake of wrong like those who shed the bloods of the innocent unlawfully, terrorize citizens, threatens their security and safety, spread corruption and chaos in the earth, and terrorize the safe through committing suicide attacks and terrorist blasts that is totally rejected by religion and is not accepted by the mind- those cannot be regarded as martyrs; and to describe him as such is actually an unfounded allegation that is not but corruption of the scared text.

In this regard, Al-Azhar Al-Sharif's Statement issued in 23/02/2019 stressed that true martyrs are the ones who defend their countries against all aggressors and who sacrifice their souls to protect its lands, sky, citizens, and all whoever live in it; emphasizing thus they are not those who terrorize their fellow citizens, threaten their security and safety, and spread corruption in it.

It is crystal clear that one of the Muslim's duties is that he shall be faithful to his country, and to defend it with all the power he has, because country's love is part of the creed, a point which is supported by the Islamic creed and the Prophetic Sunnah, and which is agreed upon by people of sound nature and intellect.

Dar Al Iftaa issued numerous fatwas that describe such acts as terrorist ones, and carrying out these actions is a form of suicide which is one of the most heinous sins in the sight of Allah (Glory be to him), because the perpetrator of these actions is an ignorant who has killed himself. The Almighty Allah says, "And do not kill yourselves"; and our Prophet (pbuh) "Whoever kills himself with (an instrument of) iron, he will come on the Day Of Judgment with his iron in his hand, to continually stab himself in his stomach with it, in the Hellfire, dwelling in that state eternally." Imam Al-Nawawi in his commentary on Sahih Muslim, he titled this hadith as, The Section on the Prohibition of Killing Oneself, and That the

One who Kills Himself with a Tool, Will be Punished with that Tool in the Hellfire." Those people are subject to the Saying of Allah, "What about those whose evil deeds are made alluring to them so that they think they are good"?

We stress that the perpetrators of such suicide attacks are the adherents of the radical ideas such as Kharijites and their followers of the misguided groups who adopt the ideology of labeling the society as disbelievers, and kill all of its citizens.

The adoption of bombing, destruction, sabotage, assassination and suicide is forbidden in the Shari'ah without difference. All these actions are against the texts of Shari'ah which call for the preservation of one's soul, nation, and properties. Killing oneself, or attacking the lives of others, and causing corruption on earth all this is prohibited by the pure Shari'ah.

Islam has strongly affirmed the sanctity of blood and the necessity of protecting it. The Prophet (PBUH) started his farewell Sermon saying, (Verily your blood, your property and your honour are as sacred and inviolable to you all like the inviolability of this day of yours, in this city of yours and in this month of yours. You will soon meet your God and He will ask you about your deeds. So do not turn to disbelief after me by striking the necks of one another). Moreover, he (PBUH) said, (A believer continues to guard his Faith so long as he does not shed blood unjustly). Also, Abd Allah Ibn 'Umar said, "I saw the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) circumambulating around the Ka'bah and saying: 'How good you are and how good your fragrance; how great you are and how great your sanctity. By the One in Whose Hand is the soul of Muhammad, the sanctity of the believer is greater before Allah than your sanctity, his blood and his wealth, and to think anything but good of him'".

Islam forbade taking a human life – made sacred by Allah – except with legal right, and promised great punishment for this, as The Almighty Allah said, "If anyone kills a believer deliberately, the

punishment for him is Hell, and there he will remain: God is angry with him, and rejects him, and has prepared a tremendous torment for him”.

Now I ask Allah to forgive me and you!

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All Praise is due to Allah, Lord of the worlds, and may Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon the honest Prophet, and upon his Household, Companions and those who follow him to the Day of Judgment.

Brothers of Islam:

Achieving the great goals and noble objectives in this life requires sacrifices that suit to the sublimity of these goals and the greatness of these objectives. At the top of these sacrifice is sacrificing ones soul for the sake of Allah to defend homeland, its honor and dignity.

As we commemorate the Martyr's Day, we remind ourselves of those who sacrificed their souls for the Sake of Allah (Glory be to Him) and won His Pleasure from the courageous members of our Armed Forces, and policemen, and all dignified citizens who are facing the forces of terrorism, evil and darkness.

Those hero martyrs are the true martyrs. There is a big difference between truth and claim. Those heroes are the one who revived in us the spirit of dignity, chivalry and honor, and they managed to keep for Egypt its position and prestige. The defenders of the homeland still sacrifice their lives for the sake of their homeland against black and brutal terrorism, against misguided and misleading Takfiri groups. We are sure and confident in the victory the Almighty Allah for them.

We hope for ourselves to be martyrs for the sake of Allah and for our Homeland; why not? The Prophet (PBUH) said, "He who asks

Allah for martyrdom, Allah will raise him to the high status of the martyrs, even if he dies on his bed " .

Our duty during this stage of our dear country is to strive to protect and defend it against any enemy or danger that threatens its security and stability, and to work with our utmost power to continue the path of construction and development. Our religion is a religion that calls for life not for death; it is the religion of construction not corruption or devastation. We must all work together to deter any one who dare to attack our homeland which is subject to various schemes that aim to undermine Egypt, its land and people. Against these schemes stand the faithful sons of Egypt, sacrificing their lives, blood and properties to defend and protect its land. Egypt is the shield of Arabism and the heart of Islam. Thus, protecting it is a religious obligation and duty. Attacking Egypt is an attack of Islam and a means to weaken Muslims across the world. Let us all stand together to defend it against the mischief of corruptors, spoilers and spiteful .

O Allah, grant us martyrdom for your Sake, and give us sincerity and save our country from any harm and evil !