

Arab Republic of Egypt

Ministry of Awqaf

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The Merit of Martyrdom, the Status of Martyrs and the Philosophy of War in Islam

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, **“And the martyrs, with their Lord, will have their reward and their light.”** I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow their path to the Day of Judgment.

Martyrdom, in the cause of Allah has a great position and a noble goal. It is Allah Who chooses, from among His servants, whomsoever He wishes as martyrs, as He, Most High, said, **“[Allah] chooses martyrs from among you,”** and said, **“Whoever obeys Allah and the Messenger will be among those He has blessed: the Messengers, the truthful, the martyrs, and the righteous- what excellent companions these are!”** The Prophet (PBUH) said, **“I would love to be martyred in Allah's Cause and come to life and then get, martyred and then come to life and then get martyred and then get resurrected and then get martyred.”**

All sins of A true martyr, who dies in the cause of Allah for defending his land, honor, property, or homeland, are forgiven once the first drop of

his blood is shed. He is shown his seat in the Paradise, and his intercession will be accepted for seventy members of his family. The Almighty Allah said, **“Allah has purchased the persons and possessions of the believers in return for the Paradise- they fight in Allah’s way: they kill and are killed- this is a true promise given by Him in the Torah, the Gospel, and the Qur’an. Who could be more faithful to his promise than Allah? So be happy with the bargain you have made: that is the supreme triumph.”** The Prophet (PBUH) also said, “By Him in Whose Hands my soul is, No one is wounded in Allah's Cause, and Allah knows best those who are wounded in His cause, without coming on the Day of Resurrection with his wound having the color of blood but the fragrance of musk."

Even if martyrs die, they remain alive with their Lord rejoicing His grace and bounties. The Almighty Allah said, **“Do not think of those who have been killed in Allah’s way as dead. They are alive with their Lord, well provided for, happy with what Allah has given them of His favour; rejoicing that for those they have left behind who have yet to join them there is no fear, nor will they grieve; [rejoicing] in Allah’s blessing and favour, and that Allah will not let the reward of the believers be lost.”** Allah also said, **“Do not say that those who are killed in Allah’s cause are dead; they are alive, though you do not realize it.”**

Martyrdom has many forms, the most important of which are: martyrdom for the sake of one’s homeland to defend it and protect its lands and people seeking the pleasure of Allah. The Prophet (PBUH) said, “He who dies while defending his property is a martyr; he who dies in

defense of his family is a martyr; and he who dies in defense of his faith is a martyr." A man came to the Prophet (PBUH) and said, "O Messenger of Allah, what do you think if a man comes to me in order to appropriate my possession? He (PBUH) said: Do not surrender your possession to him. The inquirer said: If he fights me? He (the Prophet) remarked: Then fight (with him). He (the inquirer) again said: What do you think if I am killed? The Prophet observed: You would be a martyr. The inquirer said: What do you think of him if I kill him? The Prophet said: he would be in the Fire."

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; may Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his companions and followers:

In Islam, war is enacted to confront injustice and aggression. Islam is not a religion that loves fighting or blood shedding. Rather, it tries to prevent this as long as there is a way for doing so. In Islam, the permission to fight is limited and has certain conditions, as the Almighty Allah said, **"Those who have been attacked are permitted to take up arms because they have been wronged- Allah has the power to help them."** and says, **"Fight in Allah's cause against those who fight you, but do not overstep the limits: Allah does not love those who overstep the limits."** and says, **"But if they incline towards peace, you [Prophet] must also incline towards it, and put your trust in Allah: He is the All Hearing, the All Knowing."** The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Do not long for encountering the enemy and

supplicate to Allah to grant you security; but when you face the enemy show patience and steadfastness.”

Even in the war legislated by Islam to deter aggression, Islam explicitly forbids the destruction of inhabited places and the demolition of buildings. The Companions of our Prophet (PBUH) used to give directions for the armies leaders not to cut down trees, burn crops, attack farmers in their farms or monks in their temples, or kill women, children, or old people as long as they did not take part in the fighting.

How much do we need to stand by the side of peace, construction, not the side of war and destruction. Everything that calls for peace, construction and development of the universe goes in line with true religions, and everything that calls for killing, demolition and destruction contradicts all Divine religions, and even contradicts all morals, human values, norms and international covenants. This requires that all of us to work together to consolidate and strengthen all the meanings of peace, and to stand against the advocates of war and destruction in order to bring about happiness for all mankind and achieve security and peace.

May Allah protect our country and all other countries of the world from all evils, and grant us the blessing of security and safety!