

Killing oneself and absence of patience upon tribulations

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

The Ruling on Killing Oneself and the Absence of Patience upon Trial and Tribulations

Question: If an individual committed suicide due to life's circumstances, and what he encounters from poverty/or lack of provision and spending on his family, does this mean that he will remain in the hell-fire?

Shaykh Bin Baaz (رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ)¹: All thanks and praise belongs to Allaah and may peace and blessings be upon His messenger (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)².

To proceed:

Hence, suicide is a tremendous evil, and an atrocious crime from amongst the major sins. It is not permissible for the Muslim to commit suicide! Allaah, The Mighty and majestic says: ["...and do not kill yourselves. Surely Allaah is Most Merciful to you."]^{3 4}

And the Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said in an authentic narration: "Whoever kills himself with anything, he will suffer torment with it on the Day of Judgment."

Therefore, the obligation upon the believer is patience and endurance, whenever calamities cur or befall him, and (he finds) difficulty in his worldly affairs that the does not rush to killing himself. Rather, he is cautious of that, he has Taqwaa of Allaah, he adorns himself with patience, and he takes the (legislative) means, and whoever has Taqwaa of Allaah, He makes for him a way out, (of every difficulty). And if he kills himself then perhaps he will be subjected to Allaah's Anger and His Punishment, and he will be under the will of Allaah.

¹ (رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

² (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

³ سورة النساء – Soorah an-Nisaa [4:29]

⁴ Translator's note: What is said about committing suicide. Narrated Thabit bin Ad-Dahhak (رضي الله عنه): The Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said, "Whoever intentionally swears falsely by a religion other than Islaam, then he is what he said, (e.g. if he says, 'If such thing is not true then I am a Jew, 'he is really a Jew if he is a liar'). And whoever commits suicide with a piece of iron, will be punished with the same piece of iron in the Hell-fire." (Saheeh al-Bukhaaree)

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This is because he killed himself without committing Shirk (associating partners with Allaah). Allaah, Glorified is He says: **“Verily, Allaah forgives not that partners should be set up with Him in worship, but He forgives other than that to whomever He wills...”**⁵

So anything other than setting up partners with Allaah, in worship, is under the will of Allaah, and the killing of oneself is other than setting up partners with Allaah in worship. Also, similar to that is committing fornication and adultery, stealing, and drinking alcohol. All of these are sins other than Shirk, and the people of them (these sins) are under the will of Allaah; if he died upon his sins, then if Allaah, Glorified is He, wills then He will forgive him due to his righteous actions and due to his Islaam that he had with him. Also, if He wills, He will punish him in the fire in accordance with his sins/disobedience.

Then after that, whenever he is cleansed and purified, He will remove him from the fire. The opinion with the people of the Sunnah is that he will not remain (i.e. in the fire). Sinning and disobedience does not (cause one to) remain in the fire. Nor does murder or other than it (cause one to) remain in the fire. However, he will be punished, if Allaah wills punishment for him. Allaah will punish to the extent that He wills, in accordance with his sins. Then Allaah will remove him from the fire to a river called (Nahr al-Hayyah) The River of Life. Then they will be planted in it to grow just like silt (fine sand) left by floods. So when He has completed their creation, Allaah will enter them into the Jannah with their Islaam and their ‘Eemaan, in which they died upon, and none will remain in the fire except the unbelievers. No one remains in the fire except the disbelieving people who associated partners with Allaah, those whom they rejected and disbelieved in Allaah and His messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), or they belied His Messengers, or they rejected what His Messengers came with, or whatever resembles that from the various types of ungrateful disbelief. As for the sinner, then he does not remain (in the fire), according to the opinion of Ahlus-Sunnah wal-Jamaa’ah (The People of the Sunnah), which is in opposition to the belief of the Khawaarij and the Mu’tazilah. For the sect (party) of the Khawaarij and the sect (party) of the Mu’tazilah are two misguided sects. Both parties say/claim that the sinner will remain in the fire when he enters it! And this is a humongous mistake.

As for the Ahlus-Sunnah wal-Jamaa’ah, and they are the companions of the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) and those who follow them in goodness, they all say that the sinner will not remain in the fire if he does not seek to make permissible the sin. If he died, acknowledging that it is sin and disobedience, but the Shaytaan had enticed him to do it, then this (individual) will not remain, but rather he will be under the will of Allaah. If Allaah wills, He will pardon him and enter him into the Jannah (paradise) with his Islaam and his ‘Eemaan, and if He wills, He will punish him in the fire in accordance with sin and disobedience. Then after the cleansing and purification, Allaah will take him from the fire (and enter him in Paradise).

⁵ سورة النساء – Soorah an-Nisaa [4:48]

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There are numerous chains of Hadeeth from the messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) regarding this that some people will enter the fire due to their sins. Then Allaah will remove them from the fire by the intercession of those allowed to intercede or by His Mercy, Glorified is He, without the intercession of anyone. All of this has been affirmed by the messenger of Allaah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ).