



"A man commits suicide in a Masjid Al-Haram, Makkah..." (9th June, 2018)

In the name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy.

There have been reports of a man committing suicide by jumping off one of the upper floors in Masjid Al-Haram, Makkah. **(1)** This incident was shared over various social media accounts and broadcast via WhatsApp.

Several people have asked about the ruling of suicide, and there is confusion over whether it can be said that this person is in the Fire and will never enter Paradise. By the permission of Allah, I have written the following points to shed some light on the confusion:

What is the ruling of suicide?

Committing suicide is a major sin like adultery, stealing and drinking alcohol. Regarding suicide, the Prophet (sal Allaahu alayhi wa sallam) said:

Whoever kills himself with something in this world will be punished with it on the Day of Resurrection. **(2)**

The Prophet (sal Allaahu alayhi wa sallam) clarified this general rule by saying:

Whoever throws himself from a mountain and kills himself will be in the Fire, throwing himself down therein forever. Whoever takes poison and kills himself, his poison will be in his hand and he will be sipping it in the Fire of Hell forever. Whoever kills himself with a piece of iron, that piece of iron will be in his hand and he will be stabbing himself in the stomach with it in the Fire of Hell, forever. **(3)**

The above Ahaadeeth prove that committing suicide is a severe action for which there is a severe punishment set out by Allah.

What is the difference between an action being a Major Sin and Major Kufr?

The difference between them both is that Major Kufr is disbelief, it invalidates a person's Islam and takes such a person out of the fold of Islam. If he dies upon Major Kufr without repenting, he dies as a Kaafir (non-Muslim) and will not enter Paradise.

On the other hand, a Major sin is a severe action for which there is a severe punishment, but the person remains a Muslim. Even if such a person did not repent from his sins, perhaps Allah will forgive him out of his mercy, or punish him. As long as he dies upon Tawheed, he will enter Paradise.

Is suicide a Major Sin or Major Kufr?

The above Ahaadeeth prove to that suicide is Haraam (forbidden), however the scholars have agreed it is a Major sin and not Kufr. This is because suicide does not contain anything which contradicts Imaan and Tawheed.

Shaykh Ibn Baz (rahimahullah) said,

“Any Muslim who kills himself mistakenly is excused and does not sin. However, any Muslim who kills himself intentionally (i.e. suicide) due to his personal situation – as long as he is not resentful of the decree of Allah – is not a Kaafir. Rather he has committed a Major Sin for which there is the threat of the Fire. Ultimately his affair is with Allah – If Allah wills he will pardon and forgive him, and if He wills he will punish him.” **(4)**

Why does the Hadeeth say he is in the Fire?

There are many Ahaadeeth which mention the punishment of the Fire for those who commit Major Sins such as murder, dealing with interest (Usury), adultery, alcoholism, gambling etc... This is similar to the Ahaadeeth mentioned above regarding suicide. Although these Ahaadeeth mention the Fire, they do not necessitate that these sinners will remain in the Fire for eternity. As a general principle, every Muslim who dies upon Tawheed will eventually enter Paradise, but before that whether he is punished or not is with Allah.

Also, these Ahaadeeth are general, and we are not allowed to specify them to individual Muslim. They remain upon their generality.

Can we say this person who committed suicide is in the Fire?

Despite suicide being a major sin for which there is a threat of the Fire, however this do not necessitate the this person has left the fold of Islam and dies upon Kufr.

The Aqeedah of Ahl As-Sunnah is that we never declare any particular Muslim to be a non-Muslim on account of Major Sins. This was the belief of the Khawaarij. They believed: whoever commits a major sin, has left the fold of Islam and therefore enters the Fire eternally.

However we affirm the punishment and reward generally, but we can never say with certainty that so and so Muslim will definitely enter the Fire. This is according to whatever Allah wills, he may pardon such a person or He may punish him, and Allah never wrongs a person. The only condition is that the person died as a Muslim upon Tawheed.

Should the Janaazah be prayed over a person who commits suicide?

As we have established above, a person who commits suicide dies as a Muslim and Janaazah Prayer is performed for every Muslim. However, to show the seriousness of this sin it is better for the people of knowledge and status to not offer the Janaazah Prayer whilst at the same time encouraging the rest of the Muslims to do so.

This is taken from the action of the Prophet (sal Allaahu alayhi wa sallam) himself. Jaabir Ibn Samurah (radhiAllaahu anhu) said:

The Prophet (sal Allaahu alayhi wa sallam) passed by a man who had killed himself with an arrow, and he did not pray [Janaazah] upon him. **(5)**

An-Nawawi commented on this Hadeeth saying,

“This Hadeeth is implied to dissuade people from suicide, similar to the Prophet (sal Allaahu alayhi wa sallam) not praying Janaazah upon a person who died with a debt even though he ordered the rest of the companions to do so. He only did this to scare people away from being in debt, not because the person was a Kaafir (non-Muslim...)” **(6)**

So the Muslims in general should pray Janaazah over every Muslim even if he committed suicide, but the people of knowledge and status in that area should not do so, only to show the rest of the Muslims how repulsive a sin this is.

How should we react when a Muslim commits suicide?

There are several guidelines we should bear in mind when we hear of a Muslim committing suicide:

1. Before anything, we should always verify everything which we see on YouTube and social media. Often false rumours are spread or events are taken out of context. Allah, the Exalted and Majestic, said: **{O you who believe! If a Faasiq (evil person) comes to you with any news, verify it, lest you should harm people in ignorance, and afterwards you become regretful for what you have done}** [49:06]
2. We should react with sympathy and pity towards the one who committed suicide; he only did such as an action out of desperation that perhaps we cannot understand. We should also offer comfort and advice to family members. Whilst believing the action to be Haraam, we should not condemn the person to the Fire. Rather we should give the family members hope in the mercy and forgiveness of Allah.
3. We should seek forgiveness for the person who committed suicide, make Du'aa for him and pray his Janaazah.
4. Ultimately, we should take a lesson from his desperation in increasing our own Imaan, understanding the Decree of Allah, appreciating the wisdom of Allah in everything and seeking knowledge about Aqeedah.
5. As a community – and specifically as a Masjid – we should learn lessons from this unfortunate event, so in the future we can be there to see signs before it occurs and also deal with the aftermath effectively

O Allah, forgive us, our parents, teachers and the Muslims. May peace and salutations be upon our beloved Prophet, his family, companions and all those who follow his way until the Day of Resurrection.

Written by the one in need of Allah,

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26 Ramadhaan 1439h Corresponding to Sunday 10 June 2018

Footnotes

- (1) The incident was unfortunately recorded by a number of people and spread through Youtube.
- (2) Narrated by Thaabit Ibn Dhahhaak; Collected by Al-Bukhaaree & Muslim
- (3) Narrated by Abu Hurayrah; Collected by Al-Bukhaaree & Muslim
- (4) Fataawa Al-Lajnah Ad-Daaimah #5958
- (5) Narrated by Jaabir Ibn Samurah; Collected by Muslim
- (6) Sharh Saheeh Muslim Vol. 7 P47