

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

ILM UL MUKARRAM
“DARSUL HADITH”

LESSONS FROM AHÂDEETH SHAREEF

commentary on

40 ahâdeeth | arba'een | of Imaam Nawawi

رحمة الله عليه

with emphasis on perfecting one's character

Notes by Maulana Naeem Motala

Hadith 14

Honouring a Muslim

Delivered as Jummah Bayaan Baitul Mukarram.

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عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ مَسْعُودٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ:

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

لَا يَحِلُّ دَمُ امْرِئٍ مُسْلِمٍ [يشهد أن لا إله إلا الله، وأني رسول الله] إِلَّا بِأَحَدٍ ثَلَاثٍ:

النَّيْبُ الزَّانِي، وَالنَّفْسُ بِالنَّفْسِ، وَالتَّارِكُ لِدِينِهِ الْمُفَارِقُ لِلْجَمَاعَةِ

Hazrat Abdullah ibn Mas'ood Radiyallahu Anhu narrates that Rasulullah Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam said :

“It is not permissible [legal] to spill the blood of a Muslim [who bears testimony to the fact that there is no god but Allah, and I am the Messenger of Allah] except in three [instances] :

1. the married person who commits adultery.
2. a life for a life [i.e. for murder].
3. and one who forsakes his religion and separates from the community.”

[Saheeh Buhkaari] [Saheeh Muslim]

| BRIEF EXPLANTION |

Human life is the most valuable.

Islam stresses on the value and importance of human life, especially that of a Muslim.

A Muslim's life must not be threatened unless it is under lawful circumstances, i.e. when a serious violation of the Shari'ah has occurred.

In a Hadith, Hazrat Abu Sa'eed Al-Khudri Radiyallahu Anhu and Hazrat Abu Hurairah Radiyallahu Anhu narrated that Rasulullah Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam said :

“If all the inhabitants of the heavens and the inhabitants of the earth participate in shedding the blood of believer [murdering a Muslim], Allah will cast them all [face-down] into Jahannam. [Tirmidhi]

In another Hadith, Hazrat Abdullah bin 'Amr Radiyallahu Anhu narrated that Rasulullah Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam said :

“The destruction of the entire Universe is lighter and insignificant on Allah, in comparison to the destruction of a single Muslim.” [Tirmidhi]

Before the arrival of Islam, human life had no value.

A person was easily killed for various reasons e.g.

- Revenge
- Tribal warfare
- New born females were killed and even buried alive [because she was considered to be a shame upon her father].

Islam is a peaceful religion that has established rules, to safeguard and respect the life of every person, to live peacefully together without any lives being threatened.

Measures have been set up in Islam to minimize incidents wherein a person's life is wrongfully taken away.

It is not legal [permissible] to kill a Muslim except in one of three instances, to show that the blood of a Muslim is valued and treasured by Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'ala.

This Hadith was also mentioned by Rasulullah Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam in the farewell Hajj, to re-emphasize that a Muslims blood is most sacred in the eyes of Allah.

Islam wishes to avoid any kind of violence, bloodshed, injustice. The punishments that Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'ala has set out [through various laws in Islam] are measures to protect society and community. These are precautionary measures to ensure that evil acts are minimized.

Islam promotes good values and encourages chastity via legal relationships [marriage] between men and women and discourages Zina [adultery] or any acts that lead to violence and evil. Therefore, one of the cases mentioned in this Hadith of Rasulullah Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam, [where a life can be taken], is when a person commits Zina [adultery], with the punishment being that the person is stoned to death.

The second instance being, when a person unjustly kills someone else, then the family [of the person killed] has the right to take revenge upon the person who committed the murder.

The third instance being, when a person becomes an apostate [renounces the religion of Islam].

A person's life can be taken in these three instances. However, for someone's blood and life to be taken, is an important issue and not something one can take upon one's own hands, nor something that is decided by mere opinion. These are established through sources through Qur'aan and Hadeeth and given as a ruling by a Muslim judge, in an Islamic country.