



The Right to

life in Islam



SECOND EDITION

The right to life is one of the bounties of Allah, bestowed upon man, for no other reason than to worship Him alone. Allah says in the Qur'an:

{And I did not create the jinn and mankind except to worship Me.}

(Qur'an 51:56)

This right is a trust from Allah and man is a trustee who should handle the trust with honesty and skill, with mindfulness to Allah and with consciousness of the responsibility to Him, under the guidance of the Qur'an and the Sunnah (deeds, words and approvals) of Prophet Muhammad. At the outset of its teaching, Islam abolished once and for all the practice of burying children alive. The Qur'an says:

{And when the girl [who was] buried alive is asked for what sin was she killed.}

(Qur'an 81:8-9)

Qur'an forbids and condemns this crime:

{And do not kill your children...Indeed, their killing is ever a great sin.}

(Qur'an 17:31)

Islam defends the rights of the unborn fetus and prohibits abortion. A person who practices this without any justifiable cause commits a deadly sin.

{...and do not kill your children out of poverty; We will provide for you and them...}

(Qur'an 6:151)

Every Human Being Born Free and Without Sin

Islam assures that the human being is born free and with no inborn sin but becomes accountable and responsible upon reaching the age of puberty. The right of life in Islam underlines that man is dually free from being a slave and from inheriting the mistakes of others. The Qur'an says:

{And no bearer of burdens will bear the burden of another...}

(Qur'an 35: 18)

Once Umar, the second Caliph, said,

'Since when did you enslave people when they were born free?'

The Sacredness of Human Life

Islam confirms the sacredness of human life and it should be respected. No harm is to be inflicted by any body except Allah.

{...whoever kills a soul unless for a soul or for corruption [done] in the land – it is as if he had slain mankind...}

(Qur'an 5:32)

{...And do not kill the soul which Allah has forbidden [to be] killed except by [legal] right...}

(Qur'an 6:151)

From the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad:

“Avoid the seven greatest sins...to associate others with Allah, to practice magic, to kill human beings ...”

(Bukhari and Muslim)

The Right of Individual Life

Every person has the right to enjoy his life, provided that he understands he is accountable for all his deeds.

The Qur'an says:

{And fear a Day when you will be returned to Allah. Then every soul will be compensated for what it earned, and they will not be wronged [i.e., treated unjustly]}

(Qur'an 2:281)

In this regard, he is either rewarded or punished for that which he did and so he should balance the needs of his body, mind and soul.

The Right of Family Life

Family life is one of the signs of Allah to continue the reproduction of the human race. The foundation of the family in Islam is based on a strong bond and a challenging commitment.

In Islam, pursuing a family life, which is founded on marriage, is a religious duty; a moral safe-guard, a social commitment, and

a righteous act which brings its own rewards from Allah.

{And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy...}

(Qur'an 30:21)

Summary

No one is authorised to hurt, injure or kill a human soul, Muslim or non-Muslim unless under the authority of the Muslim State they have been proven to have committed a heinous crime.

Allah says in the Qur'an:

{... whoever kills a soul unless for a soul or for corruption [done] in the land – it is as if he had slain mankind entirely. And whoever saves one – it is as if he had saved mankind entirely...}

(Qur'an 5:32)



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