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## **Imams Refusing To Perform Funeral Rites For Jihadists: Keeping The Kafirs Fooled**

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The Fox News headlines trumpeted: Paradise Lost, Third London attacker named as imams refuse to perform funeral rites. The article focused on the "unprecedented" decision by 130 Muslim religious leaders (imams) who were refusing to say funeral prayers for the deceased jihadists involved in the recent terror attacks in England. One of the imams said the jihadists had no religious legitimacy.

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson

"applauded the move. He said he was encouraged by the imams and said that the decision means "they're condemning their souls" since the funeral prayer asks for forgiveness of the dead."

Some weeks earlier, President Trump had given a speech in Saudi Arabia in which he warned terrorists that their souls "will be fully condemned."

With pronouncements like these, why would anyone become a jihadist? The answer is quite simple. These statements are wrong.

In the first place, Islamic Doctrine supports, and in places even commands, terrorizing and killing non-Muslims. This is found in many Koran verses (e.g., 2:193, 2:216, 8:39, 8:57, 9:5, 9:29, 9:73, 9:123, 61:9, and 66:9), and also in the teachings and example of Muhammad. So there is religious legitimacy for the jihadists to kill and terrorize non-Muslims.

Were these jihadists condemning their souls to hell by doing so? Not at all.

Muhammad spoke about the importance of "intentions," and said a person would be rewarded based on what he had intended (Sahih Al-Bukhari, No. 1). Muhammad also talked about fighting in the Cause of Allah, meaning fighting to make Islam supreme. Muhammad said that anyone who died fighting in the cause of Allah would have the death of a martyr (Sunan Abu Dawud, No. 2541).

In the Koran Allah promises the reward of Paradise for such a martyr:

Chapter 9, Verse 111

"Verily, Allah has purchased of the believers their lives and their properties for (the price) that theirs shall be Paradise. They fight in Allah's Cause, so they kill (others) and are killed..."

So the one guaranteed way for a Muslim to get to Paradise is to become a martyr by dying while fighting in Allah's Cause. And Muhammad said this way of dying was so honorable that he would have been willing to leave Paradise itself to repeat the experience:

"...The Prophet said, "Allah assigns for a person who participates in (holy battles) in Allah's Cause and nothing causes him to do so except belief in Allah and in His Messengers, that he will be recompensed by Allah either with a reward, or booty (if he survives) or will be admitted to Paradise (if he is killed in the battle as a martyr)." The Prophet added: "Had I not found it difficult for my followers, then I would not remain behind any Sariya (an army-unit) going for Jihad and I would have loved to be

martyred in Allah's Cause and then made alive, and then martyred and then made alive, and then again martyred in His Cause.""

Sahih Al-Bukhari, No. 36

What were the intentions of the three jihadists in the latest London Bridge attack? In spite of the apparently intentional obtuseness of much of the media and many elected officials, the jihadists were quite clear, calling out "This is for Allah" and "This is for Islam" as they stabbed with their knives. These jihadists were fighting in the Cause of Allah, knowing that they were promised Paradise.

But according to Tillerson, the fact that the imams were not praying for the forgiveness of these jihadists meant that the imams were "condemning" the jihadists' souls to Hell. Well, not really.

Muslims believe in Allah's "Divine Decree and Will." This means

"that nothing in existence occurs or takes place except after Allah's knowledge and allocation for it... whatever Allah wills, will come to pass, and whatever He does not will, will never occur, and that there is neither power nor might except from Allah."

Minhaj Al-Muslim, Vol. 1, p. 92

This means that these imams have no say over where the souls of the jihadist end up. It is strictly up to Allah. The reality is that it is irrelevant whether these imams pray or don't pray for the jihadists. Allah has already promised Paradise to those jihadists.

This also means that these imams appear to be ignoring or are unfamiliar with the Koran verses and the teachings of Muhammad that support the jihadists. Considering their status as imams, let's rule out the idea that they are unfamiliar with those verses and teachings. This means they are ignoring them, in effect denying obligatory commands from Allah or teachings of Muhammad.

But isn't it blasphemy to deny a verse of the Koran or a teaching of Muhammad? Not always. 16:106 of the Koran allows Muslims to pretend to renounce their religion, or parts thereof, if necessary. Perhaps these 130 imams are simply following 16:106 in appearing to deny those verses and teachings?

As Imam Abu Hamid Ghazali (1058-1111) pointed out:

"Speaking is a means to achieve objectives...When it is possible to achieve such an aim by lying but not by telling the truth, it is permissible to lie if attaining the goal is permissible, and obligatory to lie if the goal is obligatory....Whether the purpose is war, settling a disagreement, or gaining the sympathy of a victim legally entitled to retaliate against one so that he will forbear to do so; it is not unlawful to lie when any of these aims can only be attained through lying."

Reliance of the Traveller, r8.2

So in spite of the statements from the 130 imams, and the theologizing of President Trump and Secretary Tillerson, these jihadists, along with those preceding them and those to come, are supported by Islamic Doctrine and know that their god promised them Paradise if they died fighting for Allah.

Sometimes it can be so easy to fool Kafirs.

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