

MARTYRDOM

a short play

by

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MARTYRDOM

Son: Mother, I have come to say goodbye. I am going on my road to heaven.

Mother: Do you have to go?

Son: It is what I can do for God, and my country. My grandfather died fighting the accursed British and their terrible Balfour declaration. How did the British have the right to give Palestine to the Jews? My father died fighting the Israeli Army and their American supporters. I am the third generation to die in the cause of Palestine and the rights of Palestinians. I must do what I can. Unless strong efforts and sacrifice are made the Israeli army will continue to occupy the West Bank and Gaza.

Mother: But why do you have to give your life to attack the Americans? They say that they want to live in peaceful co-existence. They say that their God teaches them to love everyone and to forgive everyone.

Son: *[scoffs]* What lying swine they are. They hate Islam so much. They pour money and weapons into Israel. They want to destroy Islam. For nearly two thousand years from the crusades through the British rule to now they want Islam to die and their Christian God to rule. The Americans are now just the pawns of the international Jewish conspiracy. American politics is dominated by the Jewish vote in New York and in California. The wealthy Jewish community is the great protagonist

Mother: But is America just wanting to control oil?

Son: I would not be giving my life for oil or American money. Our nation does not need money. God will provide. America is working to destroy Islam. They keep saying I and true believers are crazy extremists. Americans are the extremists. I am trying to defend God and the teachings of the prophet. I am doing what my father and grandfather have done. I can do no less. They send missionaries to try to turn us from the true faith. They send medical people to attract true believers into their Christian hospitals and clinics. They decorate their dollars with Christian slogans and symbols. They pour their dollars into Israel to kill the faithful. The Jews want to destroy Islam then the Christians can then get rid of the Jews as well. Over thousands of years they have been killing the Jews and driving them out of Europe. They are not going to stop now. When Israel has attacked Islam, the Christians will kill off the Jews.

Mother: But don't the Americans pray to God also?

Son: But not the true God and not the one God. They fill their churches with statues of their God and thousands of statues of the woman figure, Mary. Their statues are against the express teachings of the prophet and offend any true believer. They even have shrines in their churches and pictures on their walls and in pictures in their windows as to priests and politicians who have given the Christians money or power. They've been doing that for thousands of years. The Christians are running a 21st Century crusade as in the past. Any true believer must want to do something to destroy those hell holes of crusades.

Mother: I can't bear the thought that your body is going to be blown up with a bomb strapped to your chest and back so as to kill a couple of Americans and their supporters. You were my baby. I suckled you on my breast. I cannot accept that your body will be blown to bits in some public place and that all my love and care is going to be lost, and what for? What good will it do?

Son: When I die virgins will carry me to heaven and I will live in paradise forever. The Americans and their British dogs must be defeated.

I knew it was a mistake to come to see you. The Mulla told me that this is men's business and that women are just a hindrance. I have sworn that I will do my utmost and give my life to see that Islam will defeat the accursed British and Americans. There is no point in trying to teach them or reason with them. Their minds are closed to God. They teach that the success of the Christian God is that their faithful are ready to die for their faith. They call their martyrs "saints". They keep naming new martyrs as saints. I am going to show what a son of Islam can do for the true faith – just as the Christians do for their false God.

Mother: They say that blowing ourselves up shows that we are extremists.

Son: If I am an extremist, I am proud of it. I want to give my life to God to do something to prevent the terrible wickedness of the destruction of Islam by God's enemies. I have learned through all my life the power and greatness of God and that I must do whatever I can to serve God in the best way that I can. You should bless me for giving my life to God.

Mother: But what if there is no God?

Son: *[shocked]* Shut your mouth! I hope that my death may to some extent atone for the blasphemy you have just uttered. What a disgrace that you have said such words to my face when I am just going to give my life for God's work. It was a mistake for me to have bought a television set for you. Seeing men at prayer in the mosque has not taught you anything. You have also seen Christians working on showing their hatred of Islam.

You have seen them in their big stone buildings or sometimes even more strangely in big glass buildings with priests in strange coloured garments wearing at different times all the colours of the rainbow. Not appropriate for any man of God of any religion. In some of their churches they sing weird songs and wave their bodies and arms around in some sort of musical frenzy. They all are extremists.

Mother: *[trying to embrace his legs]* Don't leave me in anger and pain. Accept my love at least.

Son: *[casting his mother aside]* I should not have come. You have disappointed me. I feel shame at what you have said.

[He leaves the room angrily. The mother falls weeping.]

CURTIN