

**Topic:** The motivation behind terrorism including religious motivations for suicide bombings.  
(Self martyrdom)

Link to video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8dPb1bF-s4M&list=PL9CAB650EDF262B70&index=1>

Shahada is the concept of martyrdom and the Shahids are the martyrs. These children have been led to believe that suicide bombing is acceptable. With this in mind,...

Do suicide bombers have the right to take the lives of people for justified reasons in relation to their culture and religion?

The attacks on America during September 11 in 2001 would be the most prominent example of suicide bombing in today's society. To understand this concept of martyrdom, we must revert back to the scripture which is the fundamental core of Islam, the Qur'an.

"For millions of Muslims living in the West, 9/11 prompted a crisis. With their faith suddenly under international scrutiny, the knee jerk reaction was to spring to the defensive. Orthodoxy suddenly became more appealing." (Taken from Children of Islam, <http://vod.journeyman.tv/store?p=3020&s=Children+of+Islam>)

The Qur'an advocates for peace, although there are exceptions whereby in specific circumstances when the option of war is permitted. This relates to the *Just War* theory that many countries and cultures have been led to believe is justified. Only in the act of self defence, not aggression is this theory allowed.

With this in mind, does self defence stop at when some other country is attacking yours, or going the further step and preventing this by even occurring by attacking them initially? How are the many people who are not capable of making such complex judgements, expected to choose on the life and death decisions? The authoritative figures in various cultures tend to persuade supporters to believing in such impulsive/ irrational/ reckless decisions.

As stated in the Qur'an, "If they resort to peace, so shall you, and put your trust in God." 8:60-61. This demonstrates that the scripture behind such radical extreme cultures shows core values that many other religions hold as important, like peace and harmony between humans throughout the world.

The Qur'an states that Islamic people are able to function harmoniously in a world with people who have a different religion than their own. Consequently, those authorities in the Islamic community who tend to brainwash or convince young followers that it is a moral act to commit a crime for the good of the country, religion or culture. Christoph Reuter describes these people as crazed fanatics or brainwashed automatons turning themselves into human bombs willingly and eagerly to exact revenge on a more powerful enemy. The reward that follows martyrdom (having promised virgins in afterlife) is not within the scripture of the Qur'an. This idea has been built up by the culture to consider martyrdom to be acceptable. Cultures have been led to believe that killing themselves along with countless innocent others consequently redeem themselves in the afterlife with the promise of 72 virgins. But where did this promise come from? Is it in the scriptures? Let's take a look at the Qur'an and some of the sayings that have been distorted:

- QUR'AN 44:51-55 (Appendix 3)

"Verily! The righteous will be in Paradise. Among Gardens and Springs; Dressed in fine silk and also in thick silk, facing each other, and We shall marry them to Houris (maidens) with wide, lovely eyes."

Two points need to be noted. First, there is no mention anywhere in the Qur'an of the actual number of virgins available in paradise, and second, the dark-eyed maidens are available for all Muslims, not just martyrs. It is in the Islamic Traditions that we find the 72 virgins in heaven specified: in a Hadith (Islamic Tradition). Many people are being led to believe that they are doing the right and moral thing by their people and God to sacrifice themselves along with others. Should they be exempt from punishment and scrutiny?

Should anyone have the right to take away another humans life?

The cause of God is being confused as a Holy War, driven by those suicide bombers. Some Muslims believe that, ultimately, Islam will prevail on earth. They believe this is the only true religion and there is no room, in their mind, for interpretation. This is contradicted by the very own scripture that underpins their religion. There are numerous concepts of the Qur'an, one being Jihad. The word of Jihad has been extremely misinterpreted by those within society with political aims, as well as those Islamic extremists who forget the common goals of the Islamic faith reverting back to the scriptures. It is vital to put today's headlines into context.

Positives/ FOR:

With the perspective of those within the faith of Islam, people believe they are honestly doing the right thing. If a child has been brought up into an environment like this, they do not know any different. This is not necessarily points for this issue, or positives, but rather an understanding of the reasoning that people undertake to come to such decisions.

Negatives/ AGAINST:

On the other hand, the killing of other innocent people other than your own is an immoral act that should not be encouraged. As for the suicide bombers, many people believe that humans should have the right to what they wish to do with their bodies. Conversely, others deem the act of suicide as a dishonest and immoral act.


Comparisons can be made with Japanese kamikaze's, whereby the Japanese public were brainwashed for years during World War II. Volunteer pilots guided their bomb-carrying aircraft all the way to an explosive suicide collision with their American warship targets, acting as a living guidance system.

To conclude, martyrdom is a concept that has been distorted by those extremists in the Islamic community. Such convincing or brainwashing is ethically not the right thing to do. People should have the ability to freely speak their minds and not be confined by such views.

**Appendix 1**

Suicide bombings rise dramatically: Sheer madness (Yes) or Martyrdom (No)?


Instablogs. (2009). *Suicide Bombing Rise Dramatically*. Retrieved: 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2011, from, <http://vikas.instablogs.com/entry/suicide-bombings-rise-dramatically-sheer-madness-yes-or-martyrdom-no/>



**Harshpaul** Apr 18 2008  
**shimla, INDIA**  
OFFLINE

1 Stars


Agree



A suicide cannot be classified as martyrdom. A suicide bombing (read: terrorist attack) and martyrdom aren't even remotely similar, it is sheer madness.

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**Aneez** Apr 18 2008  
**Mumbai, INDIA**  
OFFLINE

1 Stars

Disagree




Neither madness nor martyrdom! This is the proof of the evolved and successful marketing strategy of the *cynics* (read **terrorists, jihadis, freedom fighters for a separate nation** or whatever term you fancy). They have successfully mastered the art of selling their crap to innocent people and turning them into live bombs.

Their victory is the world's loss and therefore this debate!

[Comment Link](#)


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**Aneez** Apr 18 2008  
**Mumbai, INDIA**  
OFFLINE

1 Stars

Agree



Neither madness nor martyrdom! This is the proof of the evolved and successful marketing strategy of the *cynics* (read **terrorists, jihadis, freedom fighters for a separate nation** or whatever term you fancy). They have successfully mastered the art of selling their crap to innocent people and turning them into live bombs.

P.S. As I don't identify with both the points, I am posting my comment on both the columns, so that none of the columns get an unfair advantage.

[Comment Link](#)

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**Balbhadra Rana** Apr 18 2008

**Rajkot, INDIA**

OFFLINE

2 Stars

Agree



Yes it is madness in the sense that suicide bombers are brainwashed people. People with no mind of their own are called zombies.

One may also argue that freedom fighters in many countries are idolised, though they did the same thing that today's suicide bombers are doing; that is kill themselves.

The difference is that genuine freedom fighters are self motivated. They have figured out things for themselves.

Where as today's suicide bombers are men/women who have been systematically brainwashed.

Jehadi suicide bombers are fed a staple diet of hate and carefully selected stories of wrongs done to Islam. Also as bait are offered fair maidens in the heavens above; as their reward for killing themselves.

The purity of the cause is not the only motivation for the Jehadi suicide bombers.

The puppeteers who are behind the scene always pick those individuals who have suffered some injustice and find no way of giving vent to their pent up anger and frustration. They are easy pickings for Jehadi masters.

Suicide bombers are manipulated people.

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**Jayaprashanth** Apr 18 2008

**bangalore, INDIA**

OFFLINE

1 Stars

Agree



It is one very pathetic way to die and while dying kill more people to achieve absolutely nothing apart from destruction and sadness,,,till misguided people exist, this cycle won't end anytime too soon,,,and obviously they are manipulated to achieve someone else's devious means

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**Arpita Mukherjee** Apr 19 2008

**Kolkata, INDIA**

OFFLINE

1 Stars

Agree



Who are dying from suicide bomb attacks? Largely innocent people who have no say in the administrative decisions and policies.

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**Appendix 2**

With thousands of Islamic traditions to read and live by AND the Qu'ran as well, is there any wonder why there are soooo many interpretations?

'A unified body', where? Women say there is equality, men say there is no equality. Sunnis say we are the true followers, Shiites beg to differ; lets not forget the other 71 sects of Islam that are not united in their belief. If only all these children born in to Muslim families will just read through the 10000 hadiths already available and the Qu'ran, they would find God rather than religion!

To those that are unhappy, if the traditions of the West vex you, move to the Middle East and the African countries that already cater for your beliefs. Why should we change for you when your loyalties lie somewhere else any ways?!

Journeyman Pictures. (2009). *Children of Islam*. Retrieved: 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2011, from, <http://vod.journeyman.tv/store?p=3020&s=Children+of+Islam>

**Appendix 3** – English Translations of the Promise of Paradise in the Qur'an

(QURAN 37:40-4 : "In the Gardens of Paradise, Facing one another on thrones, Round them will be passed a cup of pure wine; White, delicious to the drinkers, Neither they will have any kind of hurt, abdominal pain, headache, or sin, nor will they suffer intoxication from it. And with them will be chaste females, restraining their glances, with wide and beautiful eyes."

(QURAN 44:51-55): "Verily! The righteous will be in Paradise. Among Gardens and Springs; Dressed in fine silk and also in thick silk, facing each other, and We shall marry them to Houris with wide, lovely eyes."

(QURAN 52: 17-20): "Verily, for those who fear Allah there will be Gardens in Paradise, filled with Delight. Enjoying in that which their Lord has bestowed on them, and the fact that their Lord saved them from the torment of the blazing Fire. The Lord will say: 'Eat and drink with happiness because of what you used to do'. They will recline with ease on thrones arranged in ranks. And We shall marry them to Houris with wide lovely eyes."

(QURAN 55:54-59): "Reclining upon the couches lined with silk brocade, and the fruits of the Gardens will be near at hand. Then which of the Blessings of your Lord will you deny? Wherein will be those houris, restraining their glances upon their husbands, whom no man or jinn has opened their hymens with sexual intercourse before. Then which of the Blessings of your Lord will you deny? In beauty they are like rubies and coral. Then which of the Blessings of your Lord will you deny?"

(QURAN 55:70-77): "Therein gardens will be fair wives good and beautiful; Then which of the Blessings of your Lord will you deny? Houris restrained in pavilions; Then which of the Blessings of your Lord will you deny? Whom no man has opened their hymens with sexual intercourse before. Then which of the Blessings of your Lord will you deny? Reclining on green cushions and rich beautiful mattresses. Then which of the Blessings of your Lord will you deny?"

(QURAN 56:37-40): "...We created the houris and made them virgins, loving companions for those on the right hand..."

(QURAN 78:31-34): "As for the righteous, they shall surely triumph. Theirs shall be gardens and vineyards, and high-bosomed virgins for companions: a truly overflowing cup."

A, De Albatrus. (n. d.). *72 Virgins and Boys*. Retrieved: 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2011, from, [http://www.albatrus.org/english/religions/islam/72virgins\\_and\\_boys.htm](http://www.albatrus.org/english/religions/islam/72virgins_and_boys.htm)

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### YouTube Videos

- Martyrdom: Panel of children. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8dPb1bF-s4M>
- Martyrdom: 3 year old devout Muslim girl. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjbJnZUJTYU&feature=related>
- Mother celebrating daughter suicide. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ML-7zneHbl>
- Islam and Her 72 Virgins. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vL\\_ZDCm1fxI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vL_ZDCm1fxI)