

Chapter – 20

Fighting in Allah's Cause

(جهاد)

Quran:

وَقَاتِلُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ الَّذِينَ يُقَاتِلُونَكُمْ وَلَا تَعْتَدُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُعْتَدِينَ -
وَأَقْتُلُوهُمْ حَيْثُ ثَفِفْتُمُوهُمْ وَأَخْرِجُوهُمْ مِّنْ حَيْثُ أَخْرَجُوكُم

{And fight in Allah's cause against those who fight you and do not exceed the limits; and Allah does not like the transgressors. And eliminate the disbelievers wherever you find them, and drive them out from where they drove you out. (02:190&191)}

إِنَّ اللَّهَ اشْتَرَى مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ أَنفُسَهُمْ وَأَمْوَالَهُمْ بِأَنْ لَهُمُ الْجَنَّةَ يُقَاتِلُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ فَيَقْتُلُونَ وَيُقْتَلُونَ وَعَدًّا عَلَيْهِ حَقًّا فِي التَّوْرَةِ وَالْإِنْجِيلِ وَالْقُرْآنِ

{Indeed Allah has purchased from the Muslims their lives and their wealth in exchange of Paradise for them; fighting in Allah's cause, slaying and being slain; a true promise incumbent upon His mercy (mentioned) in Taurat and the Injeel and the Quran. (09:111)}

Hadith:

Narrated Abdullah bin Masood:

I asked Allah's Prophet, "What is the best deed?" He replied, "To offer the prayers at their stated fixed times, to be good and dutiful to your parents, to participate in Jihad in Allah's Cause. (Sahih Bukhari: 2595)

Narrated Abu Hurairah:

It is Allah's Prophet saying that, the example of a Mujahid in Allah's Cause is like a person who fasts and prays continuously. Allah guarantees that He will admit the Mujahid in His Cause into Paradise if he is killed, otherwise He will return him to his home safely with rewards and war booty. (Sahih Bukhari: 2600)

Narrated Abu Hurairah:

The Prophet said, "By Allah in Whose Hands my life is! I would love to be martyred in Allah's Cause and then get resurrected and then get martyred, and then get resurrected again and then get martyred and then get resurrected again and then get martyred. (Sahih Bukhari: 2608)

Narrated Hamid and Anas:

Allah's Prophet went towards the Khandaq (i.e. Trench) and saw the Emigrants and the Ansar digging in a very cold morning and keeps on telling that "We are those who have given a pledge of allegiance to Muhammad that we will carry on Jihad as long as we live." In its reply Prophet said, "O Allah! The real life is that of the Hereafter; please forgive the Ansar and the Emigrants. (Sahih Bukhari: 2643and2644)

Narrated Abu Said Al-Khudri:

The Prophet said, "A time will come when groups of people will go for Jihad and it will be asked, 'Is there anyone amongst you who has enjoyed the company of the Prophet?' The answer will be, 'Yes.' Then they will be given victory because of him. Then a time will come when it will be asked, 'Is there anyone amongst you who has enjoyed the company of the companions of the Prophet?' It will be said, 'Yes,' and they will be given victory because of him. Then a time will come when it will be said, 'Is there anyone amongst you who has enjoyed the company of the companions of the companions of the Prophet?' It will be said, 'Yes,' and they will be given victory because of him." (Sahih Bukhari: 2702)

Narrated Sahal bin Sad:

The Prophet said on the day of the battle of Khaybar that, "I will give the flag to a person at whose hands Allah will grant victory." So, the companions of the Prophet got up, wishing eagerly to see to whom the flag will be given, and every one of them wished to be given the flag. But the Prophet asked for 'Ali. Someone informed him that he was suffering from eye-trouble. So, he ordered them to bring 'Ali in front of him. Then the Prophet spat in his eyes and his eyes were cured immediately as if he had never any eye-trouble. 'Ali said, "We will fight with them (i.e. infidels) till they become like us (i.e. Muslims)." The Prophet said, "Be patient, till you face them and invite them to Islam and inform them of what Allah has enjoined upon them. By Allah! If a single person embraces Islam at your hands (i.e. through you), that will be better for you than the red camels." (Sahih Bukhari: 2745)

Important Aspects of Islamic Doctrine

Obligatory (فرض):

(1) Jihad is an important element of Islam. It has Obligatory status. When the Muslim Head of State announces that every adult and healthy citizen should come and participate in Jihad, then all have to respond positively. (2) Nevertheless, old persons, women, young boys and those adult young men who are not permitted from their parents are exempted from this Jihad.

Miscellaneous (متفرق)

(1) It is not the way of a Muslim to kill anyone without any genuine reason. (2) In Islam, one kills to that fellow who wants to kill him and only in the way of God. (3) It is not just to show your bravery or for getting booty. (4) In Jihad killing of women, old and children is not permitted. (5) Cannot attack on unarmed persons. (6) Cannot cut trees. (7) During war if one surrenders and say that, 'I testify that Allah is the one who should be worshiped and Muhammad is His Messenger', and then he is not allowed to be killed. As regards his intension, leave on Allah to decide.

Jihad has many types: Jihad bil-Ilm, Jihad bil-Mal, Jihad bin-Nafs, and Jihad bil-Qital.

(8) **Jihad bil-Ilm:** After getting knowledge it is essential to exert for practicing it accordingly. It is because the knowledge without any action can never be beneficial. Spreading the knowledge to those who are unaware is ever desirable. If a Muslim doesn't do on these lines he would be included in the list of those persons who conceal the guidance given by God. As such, his concealed knowledge would not save him from the punishment of God nor it can give any benefits to him.

(9) **Jihad bil-Mal:** It is also essential to coordinate and cooperate for the good deeds, and guide people as instructed by the God and pray for them along with their financial assistance.

(10) **Jihad bin-Nafs:** Work on the self-control and the struggle against Shaytan is an obligation. In fact, struggling against hypocrites, non-believers and cruel persons and those who spread bad things and create new things against Sharee'ah is Jihad, and is "Obligation bil-Kifayah". The best Jihad is the fight for self-control. The struggle against all the doubts created by Shaytan for his belief is in fact Jihad bin-Nafs. Similarly, the combat against the disruptions created by Shaytan for the sexual desires is also Jihad bin-Nafs. Moreover, controlling for the sexual needs, scheming against bad intensions and removing all the mental doubts are also Jihad.

(11) ***Jihad bil-Qital:***

In certain circumstances fight or Jihad against disbelievers becomes Absolute Obligations. The Noble Prophet earlier preached for the good without aggression, fight, Jihad and capitation-tax levied on the non-Muslims. It is because the Prophet was advised to adopt patience, endurance, and tolerance. Later, He was permitted for the migration to Madinah and also granted permission for Jihad. He was ordered to fight with those people only who fight with him. He was not allowed to fight against those people who did not fight with him. Rather, he was stopped from Jihad with them.

It has been very clearly declared by the religion of Islam that fighting is permissible only against injustice, aggravation, terrorism, and elimination of superciliousness. But, this can be decided and ordered by the State Authorities only. Islam does not permit to any individual or any group to start Jihad and organize private military force and then target public with their terrorist acts. All Muslim scholars have consensus on this point since last 1400 years.

