

This is Google's cache of http://www.islamonline.net/servlet/Satellite?cid=1119503547222&pagename=IslamOnline-English-Ask_Scholar/FatwaE/FatwaEAskTheScholar. It is a snapshot of the page as it appeared on 15 Feb 2011 19:34:04 GMT. The [current page](#) could have changed in the meantime. [Learn more](#)

These terms only appear in links pointing to this page: http://www.islamonline.net/servlet/Satellite?cid=1119503547222&pagename=IslamOnline-English-Ask_Scholar/FatwaE/FatwaEAskTheScholar [Text-only version](#)



User Name Password Log in Forgot your password? New user

Home :: News :: Living Shari`ah :: Health & Science :: Politics in Depth :: Reading Islam :: Family :: Art & Culture :: Youth :: Euro-Muslims :: IOL Radio

Ask the Scholar | Fatwa Bank | Hajj | Qur'an | Hadith | Refine Your Heart | Muhammad | Contemporary Issues | Shari`ah & Huma

Last Update: 05:45 GMT, Monday, Feb. 22, 2010

Search > Advanced Search >>

Living Shari`ah > Ask The Scholar

Failure of server APACHE bridge:

Search | Submit Question | Receive Answer | Browse

Question and Answer Details

Name of Questioner	Saleem
Title	Source of the Punishment for Apostasy
Question	Dear Sheikh! I find it strange that you speak about the punishment specified for apostasy. I cannot find any verse stating such a punishment for an apostate. Moreover, it goes against the idea that Islam cannot be spread by the sword. Can you enlighten me on the sources of this punishment? Is it from the Hadith of the Prophet Hadiths?
Date	26/Jul/2003
Name of Mufti	Group of Muftis
Topic	Apostasy

Answer

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

All praise and thanks are due to Allah, and peace and blessings be upon His Messenger

- Living the Sunnah (Folder)
- On the Prophet's Birthday (10+ Fatwas)
- Islamic Terms Revisited (Folder)
- 10+ Fatwas Series
- Friday Khutbahs
- Religious Pages
- Live Fatwas
- Live Dialogues
- Shari`ah Forum
- Living Shari`ah
- Services



Quakes: Shari`ah Q & A (Folder)



Islamic Terms Revisited (Folder)



Answer

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

All praise and thanks are due to Allah, and peace and blessings be upon His Messenger.

Dear questioner, May Allah grant you guidance and illumination for bearing with us and sending us this good question. Thank you very much for the confidence in our service and we hope you receive our answer objectively.

Coming to your question on the basis of the punishment of apostasy, we would like to start with the following words of the prominent Moroccan scholar **Sheikh Abdul Bari Az-Zamzamy**:

"It should be noted that Islam never compels any person to accept it or embrace its teachings. It gives the freedom of thinking to people, with full respect to their mentalities and way of thinking. However, Islam is not a man-made religion that is subject to scrutiny or biased criticism that is based on mere suspicion, since it was originated by Allah, the Supreme Creator of all minds and mentalities. In addition, apostasy causes a total disruption and confusion in the Muslim community, and thus, a severe punishment was set for it to deter anyone from thinking of it. It was originally put into force following the Jewish conspiracy against Islam. The details of that conspiracy were simply mass conversion to Islam and then mass apostasy. The main ill aim was to cause confusion and to lead people astray. Thus, the punishment was set as a precautionary measure to stop all these offenses."

Speaking of the authority of the punishment and its being genuine and based on the authentic sources of Islam, **Sheikh `Attiyah Saqr**, former Head of Al-Azhar Fatwa Committee, states:

"It is not right to deny the punishment of apostasy claiming that it has not been reported in the Qur'an, because it **has** been recorded in the *mutawatir* (Hadith which has been reported by at least four of the Companions in different times and places in a way that make a person sure that such Hadith is not fabricated) and the *non-mutawatir* Sunnah of the Prophet (peace and blessing be upon him). *Hudud* (Islamic punishment specified for certain crimes) may, of course, be based on the *non-mutawatir* Sunnah."

Detailing the issue and showing some of the evidence for the punishment of apostasy, the prominent Muslim scholar **Sheikh Yusuf Al-Qaradawi**, states:

"All Muslim jurists agree that the apostate is to be punished. However, they differ regarding the punishment itself. The majority of them go for killing; meaning that an apostate is to be sentenced to death.

Many authentic Hadiths have been reported in this regard. Ibn `Abbas reported that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **"Whoever changes his religion, you kill him."** (Reported by all the group except Muslim, and at-Tabarani also reported it with a sound chain of narrators. Also recorded in *Majma` Az-Zawa'id* by Al-Haythamiy.)

There is also the Hadith of Ibn Mas`ud that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **"The blood of a Muslim individual who bears witness that there is no god but Allah and that I am the Messenger of Allah, is not to be shed except in three cases: in retaliation (in murder crimes), married adulterers (and adulteresses), and the one who abandons his religion and forsakes the Muslim community."** (Reported by the Group)

The actual example of one of the greatest Companions, `Ali ibn Abi Talib (may Allah be pleased with him) gives credit to this also. He himself carried out the punishment on some people who had defied him. He gave them three days respite to repent and go back to their senses. When they proved adamant, he put them to fire."

Allah Almighty knows best.



Al-Quds:
The Olive
City
(Folder)

Your Mufti

Your Contribution