Series of Questions Addressed to the Eminent Scholar Ata Bin Khalil Abu Al-Rashtah, Ameer of Hizb ut Tahrir through his Facebook Page (Fiqhi)

**Answer to Question**

**Who Are the Martyrs of the Aakhirah? And Who Pays off the Martyr’s Debt?**

To Asmaa Fawzi Mohammad

(Translated)

**Question:**

Assalamu alaykom wa Rahmatullah wa Barakatuh our respected Shaykh,

It was mentioned in the “Islamic Personality Vol. 2” book, page 165 under the topic “The Martyr”… in relation to the martyr of the Aakhirah: (The authentic (position) as what came in Muslim is that they are five who are: (al-mat'un) who is the one who dies in the plague i.e. the known pestilence, the (mabtun) who is the one with diarrhea, the drowned person who dies from the water, the one who dies of (al-hadm) i.e. under buried debris, and the one who dies in the way of raising the word of Allah outside the battlefield.)

While it was narrated in other Ahadeeth that those martyrs are restricted to being in the way of Allah in battlefield… as is mentioned in the Hadith:

"There are five things, whoever dies of any of them is a martyr. The one who is killed in the cause of Allah is a martyr; the one who dies of an abdominal complaint in the cause of Allah is a martyr; the one who dies of the plague in the cause of Allah is a martyr; and the woman who dies in childbirth in the cause of Allah is a martyr.” [Sahih]

**Question:** Is there correlation between the two Ahadeeth or is there a contradiction? Please clarify this matter, with all due respect.

**Second question:** It was also narrated in the same context of the topic of the martyr. The Hadith narrated by Abdullah bin Amr bin Al-'As that the Messenger of Allah (saw) said: "All the sins of a Shahid (martyr) are forgiven except debt.”

The question is: if the Shaheed was not able to pay back his debt after his martyrdom… who should pay his debt after his martyrdom? Thank you in advance.

**Answer:**

Wa Alaikum Assalam Wa Rahmatullah wa Barakatuhu:

Firstly: Regarding martyrs:

1. Muslim narrated from Abu Hurayra (ra) that the Messenger of Allah (saw) said: "A man walking along the road found a thorn-branch in the road and removed it. Allah was grateful to him and forgave him. He (saw) said: The martyrs (shuhadaa) are five: the stabbed (al-mat’un), the one with stomach illness (al-mabtun), the drowned one, the one who died in a collapsed (building) [under buried debris] and the shaheed in the way of Allah ‘azza wa jalla.”

2. It was narrated from 'Uqbah bin 'Amir that the Messenger of Allah (saw) said: "There are five things, whoever dies of any of them is a martyr. The one who drowns in the cause of Allah is a martyr; the one who dies of an abdominal complaint in the cause of Allah is a martyr; the one who dies in the way of raising the word of Allah outside the battlefield; and the one who is stabbed in the cause of Allah is a martyr; and the woman who dies in childbirth in the cause of Allah is a martyr.” [Reported by An-Nasa’i and Tabarani]
3. There is no contradiction, the hadith of Muslim is absolute (mutlaq): “The one who fights so that the word of Allah be the highest is the one in the way of Allah.”... If the word (in the cause of Allah) was mentioned without any concatenation (qareenah) to determine the meaning, then it implies obedience to Allah (swt) and becoming closer to Him etc... so if the person was a believer, obedient to Allah (swt) and died in the ways mentioned in the Hadith, then he would be a martyr of the Aakhirah, except the one fighting in the cause of Allah – he would be a martyr of the Dunya and Aakhirah... i.e. if the one with stomach illness died (in this state) while being obedient to Allah (swt), as well as the stabbed and the drowned etc.. then they are all martyrs, as for those who die in this state – stomach illness, stabbed etc., while not being obedient to Allah, then they are not martyrs.

Secondly: as for your question about a martyr who has debt and was unable to pay it back before his death, then paying off the debt falls on his heirs. If his heirs were not able to do so, then the State pays it off as was mentioned in the Hadith of the Messenger of Allah (saw): “I am nearer to the believers than themselves, so if anyone leaves property, it goes to his heirs, and if anyone leaves debt and dependants, let the matter come to me and I shall be responsible.” [Reported by Muslim] Also the Hadith of the Messenger of Allah (saw) transmitted by Abu Dawud that Jabir said: “I am nearer to the believers than themselves, so if anyone leaves property, it goes to his heirs, and if anyone leaves debt and dependants, let the matter come to me and I shall be responsible.”

I hope that this answer will suffice to both questions, and Allah (swt) knows best and He is the Most Wise.

Your brother,
Ata Bin Khalil Abu Al-Rashtah
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The link to the answer from the Ameer’s Facebook page:
https://web.facebook.com/AmeerhtAtabinKhalil/posts/1262788063918262