Al-Qaeda Official Explains Merits, Rewards of Martyrdom

March 24, 2011

[Please note: Images may have been removed from this document. Page numbers have been added.]

Abu Yahya al-Libi explained the merits and rewards of martyrdom and urged Muslims to pursue it in battle in a 61-page booklet published by al-Fajr Media Center and released on jihadist forums on March 23, 2011. Libi, an official in al-Qaeda’s Shariah Committee, titled the booklet "Forty Points in the Merit of Martyrdom and Pursuit of Goodness and More," and gave the date of his writing as December 1, 2010. The booklet opens with a forward by al-Qaeda ideologue Attiya Allah, who praised Libi’s writing and his purpose behind it, and wrote: "By Allah, martyrdom is the highest level of life, and talking, writing and inciting about it, pursuing it and pointing out its virtue and the way to it is the path to life, happiness, dignity and glory in this world and in the hereafter."

The booklet draws from forty Hadiths from the Prophet Muhammad about the status of martyrdom, as well as interpretation by scholars and Libi’s own thoughts. In his introduction, Libi explained that the cited Hadiths are to provide a "guiding light" for all who desire to enter paradise by way of martyrdom in God’s cause. He wrote: "Brother, roll up your sleeves and pursue it before it is too late. Cut off the ropes of ambition and say to yourself: 'Now! Now! Because a lot of my life has passed and its days are gone.' Be strong and work hard, because high goals are not attained by wishes, and luxury is not the way to luxury."

Following is a translation of the introductions and chapter headings:

Full Text

Forty Points in the Merit of Martyrdom and Pursuit of Goodness and More

By Sheikh Mujahid Abu Yahya al-Libi, May Allah Protect Him

Forward by Sheikh Attiya Allah, May Allah Protect Him

Al-Fajr Media Center
Rabie al-Akher 1432H

Imam Ibn al-Qayyim, may Allah have mercy on him, said:

If the value of the merchandise is known and the buyer is known along with its price, then it is known and its state of being is known. So, the merchandise is you, Allah is the buyer, and the price is His Paradise and gazing upon His countenance and hearing His words in the abode of safety and peace.

In the Name of Allah, the most Gracious and Merciful
Praise be to Allah. Peace and prayer be upon the Messenger of Allah and upon his family, his Companions and those who followed his guidance... and thereafter:

I read the book titled "Forty Points in the Merit of Martyrdom and Pursuit of Goodness and More" by my honorable brother Sheikh Abu Yahya al-Libi Hasan Qa'id, may Allah protect him and grant him success, in which he followed the way of many of the scholars by collecting in its chapters forty Hadiths about certain points in the religion. I found it to be a wonderful book with easy and good words, and I found many benefits, pearls, jokes and nice things that are rarely combined in a booklet of this size and in this way, along with all the strong investigations and accurate scholarly points. We ask Allah to reward Abu Yahya in the best way, to bless his endeavor and his life, and to increase his life from His Grace.

I urge to take care of this book by printing and publishing it, asking Allah the Almighty to grant it acceptance, to make Muslims benefit from it, and to enliven the hearts of the men, women, boys and girls of the Umma with it. By Allah, martyrdom is a highest level of life, and talking, writing and inciting about it, pursuing it and pointing out its virtue and the way to it is the path to life, happiness, dignity and glory in this world and in the hereafter.

We ask Allah of His Bounty. Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds. Allah's peace and prayer be upon His slave and Messenger, our Prophet Muhammad, and upon his family, his Companions, and those who followed them in goodness.

Written by Abu Abdul Rahman Jamal bin Ibrahim bin Muhammad bin Ibrahim bin Ashtiwi al-Libi al-Misrati (known as Attiya Allah)

1 Rabie al-Awwal 1432H

In the Name of Allah, the most Gracious and Merciful

Praise be to Allah, who gave in plenty and made martyrs from amongst His slaves and so He treated them generously and choose them in the best way. He said: "Think not of those who are killed in the Way of Allah as dead. Nay, they are alive, with their Lord, and they have provision." [Al-Imran 3:169] Peace and prayer upon the master of Prophets and the Imam of Pure Ones, Muhammad bin Abdullah, and upon his family and good Companions. And thereafter:

These are forty Hadiths to explain the great status of martyrdom and what Allah has granted martyrs, and to explain and what conditions are set to attain it and to know some of the obstacles in its way. I choose these to be a guiding light for all of those who want to enter paradise by its gate. I wrote this to incite for this great honor and to encourage those who want to attain this eternal bliss, because it is the door to salvation - but most people are inattentive - and a path to safety and well-being - but most take other paths - and who wants something should pursue it.

Brother, roll up your sleeves and pursue it before it is too late. Cut off the ropes of ambition and say to yourself: 'Now! Now! Because a lot of my life has passed and its days are gone.' Be strong
and work hard, because high goals are not attained by wishes, and luxury is not the way to luxury.

I organized them into chapters in a way that I saw fit according to the meanings that the Hadith revealed, and tried to make their order according to the path of the mujahid and what he needs until Allah destines martyrdom for him and generously gives him a transitional period after life until he ends up settling in paradise and a place of truth by the All-Powerful King. I followed that by some benefits that I tried to derive from the sayings of some of the Imams, and sometimes I comment on them and sometimes not. After that, I mentioned different things that some scholars said about that to point out their knowledge and to show their merits, and some other times I would write some other points without digression and elongation, hoping that this would be joyous for the mujahideen in their camps, centers, guesthouses, travels and before their operations. I called it:

Forty Points in the Merit of Martyrdom and Pursuit of Goodness and More

I hope from every reader not to forget to make a good supplication for me for which it would be said to him. And the same for you, praise be to Allah, first and last.

{Following is an index of the chapter titles}

The necessity to have a sincere intention in all actions.
The fighting of the believer should be to elevate high the words of Allah.
Avoiding fighting for unknown causes and the danger of fighting for one's own people unjustly.
It is not nationalistic for a Muslim to fight protecting one's life, honor, sanctity or money.
Paradise is under the shadow of swords, which are its keys.
The great merit of steadfastness when meeting the enemy in battle and the high status of the ones who are killed in the first line.
The highest and most honorable state of death by killing.
Allah graces the martyr by taking his pain away.
The martyrs are not afflicted in their graves.
Allah dedicated great gifts for the general martyrs.
The honor that Allah grants some martyrs and extra grace.
The initiative of the heavenly maidens and their descending to the martyr before his soul is taken away from his body at death.
The martyr enters paradise when he dies and he eats, drinks and roams in it.
One who is killed for the Cause of Allah will enter paradise with the first batch without questioning and punishment.
The most honorable of creation, Allah's peace and prayer be upon him, wished to be killed for the Cause of Allah due to its merit.
Martyrs wish to go back to the world and get killed again, because of the great status they experience.
Variations in the levels of martyrs and Prophets are higher than some of them only because of Prophethood.
Martyrdom is a reason to reach the highest level of paradise.
The martyr at sea has the reward of two martyrs.
The homes of martyrs in paradise are the best homes and the most beautiful.
Attaining martyrdom by patience and anticipation of reward and it removes sins.
Whoever is sincere with Allah, Allah will fulfill his wish.
Everyone who was injured for the Cause of Allah receives merit, so how about those who are
killed. Those who do a few good deeds but get rewarded a lot.
The merit of speaking out the truth and hoping for martyrdom and attaining it without fighting.
The Lord, Glorified and Exalted be He, laughs about a man who was killed and his killer who both went to Paradise.
Sincerity in hoping for martyrdom will make one reach this state even if not killed.
The permissibility of calling someone a martyr ostensibly but not based on the fact of whether or not he will go [to paradise].
The danger of stealing spoils of war before they are justly distributed, and that he is condemned even if he is killed in battle.
We ask Allah for a good end.

{Libi concludes by dating the piece: Wednesday, 25 Dhul-Hijjah 1431H, which corresponds to 1 December 2010}