

# [If the mortal...]

In this chapter titled "[If the mortal...], Martyr!", the author, Cyrus Shams, compares the concepts of sin in relation to suicide and martyrdom. The conversation begins by identifying the mortal sin of suicide as an act of greed. Here, the selfishness lies in the desire to keep the tranquility of stillness and calm for oneself while forcing others to bear the burden of internal turmoil. The implication is that this act ultimately harms those left behind, showcasing a disregard for their emotional pain and suffering.

The narrative then shifts focus toward martyrdom and introduces the idea that the mortal sin associated with being a martyr is pride. This pride encompasses a delusional belief in the importance of one's death over the value of life itself. It suggests a hubris that elevates the act of dying to a pedestal, suggesting that a martyr's death carries weight beyond their living existence.

Shams examines the poignant paradox of martyrdom: while death is an unavoidable reality, the belief that one's death could transcend the very essence of dying is portrayed as aspirational vanity. This perspective challenges the reader to consider the true implications of martyrdom and how the perceived nobility of dying for a cause might be interlaced with personal vanity.

He emphasizes that death, in its essence, is inherently void of meaning since it is a universal truth that all must face. By proposing that the act of martyrdom could emerge from a misconstrued sense of self-importance, the author provokes reflection on the motivations behind such sacrifices.

Overall, the chapter critiques the glorification of martyrdom through a lens of pride, urging the audience to scrutinize the deeper motivations and consequences of both suicide and martyrdom. It presents a complex discussion on the nature of selflessness versus self-absorption in the context of life, death, and the legacy one leaves behind.