

## To kill and kill again.

“And whosoever kills a believer intentionally, his reward will be Hell, he will remain in there forever. And Allah’s anger will be upon him and His curse and a great punishment will be prepared for him.”

(Surah Nisa 4:93)



A long time ago, in a land full of evil...

There was a man from a people who came before you, a man who had killed ninety-nine people. He asked the people, who was the most knowledgeable person on earth. He was directed towards a monk, a pious worshipper of Allah.

The murderer went to the monk and said, “I have killed ninety-nine people, is there any chance of repentance for me?”

The monk, simply replied, “No!”

So the murderer killed him, completing a century of murders.

The murderer continued his quest, enquiring, “Who is the most learned person on earth?”

This time he was directed to a scholar, a person of knowledge and wisdom. He set out to meet him.

Arriving and meeting the scholar, he announced, “I have killed one hundred people, is there any chance of repentance for me?”

“Verily Allah does not forgive shirk with Him, and he forgives whatever is other than that to whoever He wills.”

(Surah Nisa 4:48)

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The scholar advised the killer, "Yes (there is an opportunity for repentance), and who can stand between you and repentance? Go to such and such a place. In this place are people who worship Allah and perform good deeds. Join them in the worship of Allah and do not go back to your own land, for it is an evil place."

The scholar's advice struck a chord. Seeking repentance and forgiveness from His Lord the man set out. He had only managed to travel half way when death came looking for him. The repentant killer had died. The Angels of Mercy and the Angels of Punishment arrived at the scene. An argument arose between the two noble groups. The Angels of Mercy pleaded the killer's case, "He came with a repentant heart towards His Lord!"

However the Angels of Punishment were not impressed, they disputed, "Certainly, he has never done any good at all!"

Then, there came to them an angel in the appearance of a man. He came to decide between the two groups, which one of them was correct, the Angels of Mercy or the Angels of Punishment.

Turning to both groups he said, "Measure the distance between the two lands, whichever of the two lands he is closest to, then he belongs to that place." The angels went about their task measuring the distance between the two places.

**"He (Allah) punishes whoever He wills, and shows mercy to whoever He wills, and to Him you will be returned."**  
(Surah Ankaboot 29:21)

After measuring the distance between the two places, the blessed Angels found the man had died nearer to the place of goodness. So the killer who had taken the lives of one hundred people was placed in the care of the Angles of Mercy.

**Indeed Allah's Mercy is beyond bounds.**

*Based upon a hadeeth found in Sahih Muslim and Sahih Bukhari, also collected by Imam Nawawi in his book, Riyadh As-Saliheen, in the chapter of Tawbah (Repentance).*