

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Meditation – A Warm Smoggy Sky

**“Look,” Stephen said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” - Acts 7:56**



Your church  
has been attacked  
by a suicide bomber.

Your friends were inside.  
You rush to the scene,  
and join a growing crowd  
to see the smoke still  
rising from the shattered  
windows and roof.

People can be heard to say

“They set it off where the  
women and children were sitting!”

Your thoughts of family  
Christmas celebrations  
now destroyed

*– of families destroyed –*

cause anger to rise  
in your throat  
to choke you.

Then it starts.  
Someone in the crowd  
begins to chant

“Truly we believe  
in One God, God the Father,  
the Almighty, creator of...”

Within seconds hundreds are  
chanting the Creed  
at the top of their lungs.

It is an act of faith,  
but also one of defiance.

“...We believe in one Lord,  
Jesus Christ,  
the only begotten  
Son of God,  
born of the Father  
before all ages...”

Never before has this  
happened in public  
in Cairo.  
You have just affirmed  
the *Trinity*,  
the *Triune God*,  
and committed the sin  
of *shirk*, the worst sin  
of Islamic blasphemy,  
by citing words that  
in Islam are deemed  
polytheistic.

You know that any extremist,  
were he present,  
would want to kill you  
with his suicide vest  
for saying these words.

“...Truly we believe  
in the Holy Spirit,  
the Life-Giving Lord...  
We await the resurrection  
of the dead,  
and the life of  
the world to come”

The Creed ends,  
and everyone starts again  
while the smoke rises.  
And again.  
And again.

And you do not care  
if anyone wants  
to kill you.

The warm smoggy sky  
could open in a flash  
to the glory of heaven  
and your time on earth  
would come to an end,  
and you don't care.

- With thanks to Raymond Ibrahim  
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**Today's Martyrs**  
**2490 Black Rock Turnpike #455**  
**Fairfield CT 06825-2400**

<http://todaysmartyrs.org/index.php/meditations/>

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