

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.

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With thanks to Raymond Ibrahim

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

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