

45) Reward of a Hundred Martyrs

Mea culpa, no other or institution is accountable for this student work. Choose a Medium divergency, to tinge our hair with our blood or to recite authentically a prayerful testimony.

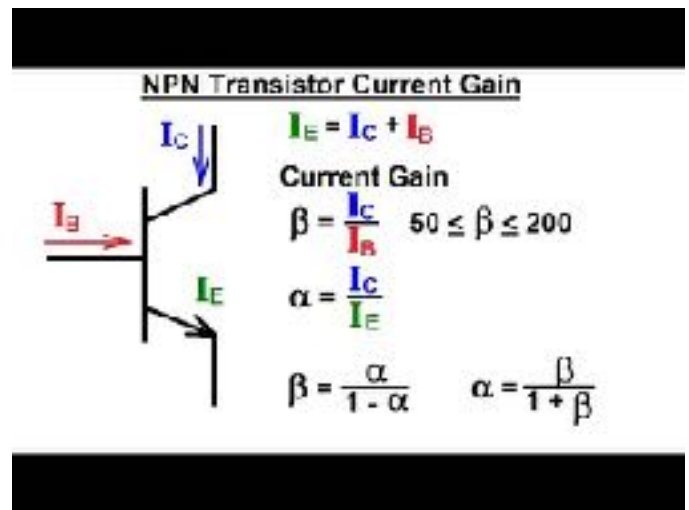
Learn well this Tablet, O Ahmad. Chant it during thy days and withhold not thyself therefrom. For verily, God hath ordained for the one who chanteth it, the reward of a hundred martyrs and a service in both worlds. These favors have We bestowed upon thee as a bounty on Our part and a mercy from Our presence, that thou mayest be of those who are grateful.
~Bahá'u'lláh



Joan of Arc, The Maiden Martyr

To place intentionally our mental, emotional selves into Bahá'u'lláh's shoes, "**Forget not My bounties**

while I am absent. Remember My days during thy days, and My distress and banishment in this remote prison." unfolds the reward of a hundred martyrs. If we determine the reward of one martyr then amplify that, like gain of current in gain transistor, a hundred fold. $\beta = 100$.



Transistors are imminently relevant to our connection to understand this deeper meaning. iPhone 17 uses the Apple A19 and A19 Pro processors, which are estimated to pack roughly 20 to 30 billion gate transistors on their main system -on-a-chip. They are not gain transistors but **Gate** (Báb) transistors, digital transistors, binary, 1 or 0, $\beta = 1$ or 0.

Back to $\beta = 100$, historically, one of the rewards to a martyr can be unfolded as we examine John the Baptist. His absolute sincerity resulted in his beheading. It is surely evidence that 100,000 human souls, today, bear his name in some form another, even Joan of Arc did so. By this, we acknowledge His high station. We bear witness to John's station, whether we know it or believe it.

Bahá'u'lláh makes it clear that His writings apply to all humanity in this day and age. They are available to humanity as no prior revelation was in the day of that revelation. As we examine the human world, buried in our traditions, our culture, the concept of the *reward* of a martyr is substantial and known.

Martyrdom and Self Sacrifice: Correlation of Cultural Meaning

Culture / Tradition	Definition of the Ultimate Sacrifice	Reward Associated to the Ultimate Sacrifice
Māori Tradition	Death in defense of the tribe or land (<i>whenua</i>) upholds <i>mana</i> (spiritual authority and prestige).	The spirit (<i>wairua</i>) returns to the ancestral homeland of <i>Hawaiki</i> or joins the collective continuum of forebears, elevated in tribal memory like a fallen <i>tōtara</i> tree in the forest of Tāne.
Abrahamic (Jewish/ Christian / Islamic)	Dying for faith, rejecting apostasy, or defending religious truth.	In Jewish tradition, self-sacrifice for truth or faith is known as Kiddush Hashem (the sanctification of God's Name). Death is a preferred release for a Christian before hypocrisy or for a Muslim before apostasy. Being truthful to one's belief is in a sense ... paradise. Immediate entry to paradise, divine closeness, or specific heavenly crowns/status by death for truth.
Japanese (Shinto-influenced) Tradition	Dying heroically or selflessly for the nation or emperor (<i>eirei</i>).	Enshrinement as a revered protective spirit or <i>kami</i> , honored perpetually at places like Yasukuni Shrine, bridging the gap between human sacrifice and divine local guardianship.
Classical / Civic (Greco-Roman)	Dying for the <i>polis</i> (state), democratic ideals, or military glory.	Immortalized fame (<i>kleos</i>), civic remembrance, and honor for one's lineage.
Traditional Indigenous / Native American	Sacrificing oneself for tribal survival, community protection, or harmony.	Restoration of balance, continuation of the collective circle of life, and enduring ancestral respect.
Hindu Tradition	Hinduism emphasizes duty (<i>dharma</i>) though it may require self sacrifice.	Dying selflessly in righteous battle (<i>dharma yuddha</i>) traditionally grants temporary residence in <i>Svarga</i> (heaven), while the ultimate spiritual currency remains <i>moksha</i> — liberation from the cycle of rebirth through spiritual realization, regardless of the specific manner of death.
Ancient Mayan	Pok-ta-pok divine ball game ritual. The captain of the winning team gave his life in blood sacrifice at the end of the game for the sake of the community.	The spiritual reward for the sacrifice brought rains, crops flourished, nature's bounty flowed out to the community, cooperation in the community was increased, and the one sacrificed was held in highest honor.
Secular / Modern	Dying for a political movement, human rights, or social change.	Symbolic legacy, ideological martyrdom, and serving as a permanent catalyst for historical transformation.



Pok-ta-pok divine ball game ritual.

How ever, Bahá'u'lláh revealed things primarily in the culture that Muhammad had unfolded, and the Báb had clarified. So it would serve us wisely to more closely examine the Islamic traditions regarding the reward of a martyr.



The martyrdom of Husayn ibn Alí.
Mirzá Husayn Alí's (Bahá'u'lláh's) namesake.

Documentation provided in the postscript references indicate that the reward of a martyr in Islamic tradition is 72 houri. As we gently read Bahá'u'lláh writings, He indicates that the houri, the maidens, are actually the deeper meaning associated with divine revelation. He provides a heart magnetizing demonstration of an inner meaning of trustworthiness in His description of an event in the garden of Rizván.

One day of days We repaired unto Our Green Island... Turning, then, to the left We gazed on one of the Beauties of the Most Sublime Paradise, standing on a pillar of light, and calling aloud saying: 'O inmates of earth and heaven! Behold ye My beauty... I am Trustworthiness and the revelation thereof, and the beauty thereof.' ~Bahá'u'lláh

There is an exquisite documentation by Allison Marshall, who describes one of the modes of Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation is in the voice of houri. She observes there are three modes or voices: the Manifestation, the man, the maiden of heaven; Bahá'u'lláh indicates that His revelation is in seven modes.

This student's spouse, Cynthia, notes that Bahá'u'lláh also speaks as the embodiment of other virtues or names in other tablets such as the Long Healing Prayer or The Fire Tablet. As we study deeply the Bahá'í writings, we come to realize that all of the descriptions of God that is in the sacred Scriptures of all religions, the descriptions of the One, descriptions of First Cause, Last Cause, description of Truth are all words that pertain to the Manifestation, which is the highest reality that human beings can perceive and re-cognize. Other people studying the Baha'i writings have shared this insight as well. Because we cannot directly be cognizant of the divine reality of God, which transcends all human capacity of conception.

$\beta = 100$? So one of the possible meanings of the reward of 100 martyrs is 7,200 houri, 7,200 meanings that God will unfold to you as you seek to understand the scripture. That is a personal understanding such as this is a personal understanding that may not be helpful to anyone else, but is a gift from God to you. So when we recite the Tablet of Ahmad, the gift that is conveyed is a reward of 100 martyrs, 7,200 understandings or meanings of divine scriptures that God will unfold to us personally. This is the fulfillment of the promise of independent investigation of the truth.

How is the divergence by the Medium path meaningful? In this day Bahá'u'lláh has unfolded that the honor afforded to our martyrs in days gone can by the grace of glory, be achieved on a more merciful path. Bahá'u'lláh still honors the martyrs:

O SON OF MAN! By My beauty! To tinge thy hair with thy blood is greater in My sight than the creation of the universe and the light of both worlds. Strive then to attain this, O servant!

How ever, He invites us to heaven, the hidden meanings preserved for each of us, a hundred fold if we were to recite, the Tablet of Ahmad, authentically as a prayerful testimony.

Elderly Bahá'í student,
Clyde Arthur Keys

Houri -72 meanings

From: SeekersGuidance

The Islamic tradition that a soul who dies in service to God (specifically a martyr, or *shahid*) is rewarded with *houris* (heavenly companions, often described as beautiful virgins) originates primarily from **Hadith literature** (recordings of the sayings of Prophet Muhammad), with foundational descriptions of *houris* provided in the **Qur'an**.

The specific elaboration of this reward, especially the often-quoted "72 virgins," comes from later scholarly elaboration and specific collections of Hadith deemed "good" (*hasan*) or "authentic" (*sahih*) by certain scholars.

Primary Sources of the Tradition

• **Hadith (Sayings of the Prophet):**

- **Sunan al-Tirmidhi (Hadith 1663):** This is a primary source where the Prophet Muhammad states that a martyr has six blessings, one of which is being married to 72 wives among the *al-hoor al-'iyn* (wide-eyed houris) of Paradise. This hadith is graded as *hasan sahih* (good and sound) by Imam al-Tirmidhi.
- **Sunan Ibn Majah (Hadith 2799):** Mentions a martyr is married to seventy-two wives among the houris.
- **Musnad Ahmad Ibn Hanbal:** Contains narrations about the reward of the martyr, including being crowned with dignity and paired with 72 spouses.

• **The Qur'an:**

- The Qur'an mentions *houris* indirectly or directly, always in the plural form, describing them as "pure companions," "companions with beautiful eyes," and "chaste women".
- Specific verses include **56:22-23** (fair women with wide eyes like hidden pearls), **55:56** (restraining their glances, untouched beforehand by man or jinn), and **44:54** (wedded to companions with beautiful, big eyes).
- The Qur'an mentions these are rewards for "those who fear Allah" (44:51-54) and "those who keep their duty" (52:17-20).
- Source: SeekersGuidance

Wikipedia

Context of the Tradition

- **Martyrdom (*Shahaadah*):** While the Qur'an promises houris to all righteous believers, specific Hadith focus on the "seven blessings" or "six blessings" specifically for the *shaheed* (martyr), with marriage to houris being a central part of this reward.
- **Symbolism vs. Literalism:** While orthodox Muslim theologians like Al-Ghazali and Al-Ash'ari have historically interpreted these rewards literally, many classical and modern scholars view these descriptions of Paradise as allegorical representations of joy and comfort that exceed human imagination.
- **Number 72:** The number 72 is widely discussed in Hadith, but not mentioned in the Qur'an.
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Related Concepts and Interpretations

- **Equal Spouses:** Some modern interpreters argue that *hur* refers to "pure companions" or "pure spouses," referring to the resurrection of earthly wives as enhanced virginal maidens in Paradise.
- **Superiority of Earthly Women:** Classical scholarly interpretation affirms that righteous women from this world who enter Paradise will be far superior in beauty and status to the *houri*

Article on Wikipedia Houri

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Houri#:~:text=Shia%20philosopher%20Muhammad%20Husayn%20Tabatabai,to%20those%20who%20they%20accompany.>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Houri#:~:text=Shia%20philosopher%20Muhammad%20Husayn%20Tabatabai,to%20those%20who%20they%20accompany.>

Alison Marshall's Article:

bahai-library.com
bahai-library.com Revelation in the Voices of Baha'u'llah
Paper examines how the process of revelation can be understood by examining how ordinary human beings create speech and write, and explores the voices Bahá'u'lláh uses in six of his...