

Begging Mercy

1. Adverb
2. Noun
3. Verb
4. Noun
5. Proper Noun Plural
6. Verb Ending In Ing
7. Noun
8. Location
9. Proper Noun
10. Past Tense Verb
11. Conjunction
12. Event

Begging Mercy

The murderer of my family _____^{Adverb} before me, eyes toward heaven, bound hands outstretched, palms up, gesturing upward, then down. He prepared to receive his execution.

And I prepared to deliver it.

He was mumbling.

'I must hear,' I said. But the _____^{Noun} they _____^{Verb} too loudly, forcing me forward, hoping...

I halted, held my breath, listened, hoped...

He prayed.

My features remained stone, with _____^{Noun} eyes for the crowd to behold, but I bit hard on the inside of my cheek. 'Recall the Sharia,' I spoke to him in my mind. 'Recall the code. Mercy!'

He continued praying. I waited.

At first, the onlookers believed I honored his prayer, but _____^{Proper noun plural} grew quickly impatient, their voices soon _____^{Verb ending in ing} in pitch.

Still as stone, 'Recall the Sharia,' I said, only for his _____ Noun _____. In response, he gestured more fervently, admonishing heaven---only _____ Location _____.

Forward I dragged the _____ Proper noun _____ rifle, grunting, 'Recall! Beg my mercy!' He _____ Past tense verb _____ no heed.

Mercy! If I could beg for him... _____ Conjunction _____ the Sharia spoke. Mercy came only to those who asked. And he refused.

So

be it.

I hefted the rifle, _____^{Event}_____his head. 'Rage,' I spoke, 'come,' and forced myself to return---my children's blood, my wife's blood, red, staining my rugs. 'Rage!' I said, looking again into their faces, 'Come!'

It obeyed. My cheeks burned with the vision, and my temples throbbed.

As I squeezed upon the trigger, I opened my eyes and looked into his face. My finger hesitated.

'Rage,' I spoke, and again forced myself to return...

