

(23) *“O you who believe! Take not for friends your fathers and your brothers if they prefer disbelief to Belief. And whoever of you does so, then he is one of the wrong-doers.”* In this *ayah* Allah (SWT) prohibited the Muslims from taking the disbelievers and idolators as their supporters and helpers even if they are their fathers and brothers. This *ayah* makes it clear that a relationship or friendship depends upon the love and relationship with Allah (SWT) and His Messenger (SAW). In the end Allah (SWT) said that whoever disobeys this commandment then surely he shall be considered of the wrong-doers.

(24) *“Say: If your fathers, your sons, your brothers, your wives, your kindred, the wealth that you have gained, the commerce in which you fear a decline, and the dwellings in which you delight are dearer to you than Allah (SWT) and His Messenger (SAW), and striving hard in His Cause, then wait until Allah (SWT) brings about His Decision. And Allah (SWT) guides not the people who are transgressors.”* Although these *ayat* were revealed specifically for those who did not migrate from *Makkah* because of the love of their families and their property, yet they also have a general application. Allah (SWT) commands His Prophet (SAW) to warn those who prefer their relatives and families and their riches and wealth over the love of Allah (SWT) and His Messenger (SAW) and to make *Jihad* in His cause. This means that if all these things become a hindrance for effort in Allah’s cause then choose which you love the most, your relatives, riches and property or Allah (SWT) and His prophet and striving hard for His *Deen* with your life and your wealth. Those whose love for Allah (SWT), His Messenger (SAW) and *Jihad* is greater than any other thing, they are the successful ones. But those whose love for their blood relations and wealth is the highest, then they are told to wait for His final decision i.e. His punishment, for He does not guide the transgressors to the right path.

(25) *“Truly Allah (SWT) has given you victory on many battle fields, and on the day of Hunayn when you rejoiced at your great number but it availed you naught and the earth, vast as it is, seemed to close in upon you, then you turned back in flight.”* In this *ayah* Allah (SWT) comforts His Prophet (SAW) and the believers and reminds them of all the blessings that He had descended upon them by giving them victories in many

battles against their enemies. Then He said that they should also remember that victory does not depend upon great numbers or one's physical strength but it comes with the grace and help of Allah (SWT) alone. This is why the great strength and the large number of the Muslims that had made them proud on the day of *Hunayn* did not benefit them in the least. They were twelve thousand strong, with ten thousand from the army that came with the Prophet (SAW) for the conquest of *Makkah* and two thousand of those who embraced Islam after the conquest. When the Muslims entered the valley of *Hunayn*, their enemies attacked them suddenly with their archers descending arrows from above. Even with such a large army they retreated and fled from the battle, except a few which remained with the Prophet (SAW). That is why Allah (SWT) said that even this earth with all its vastness narrowed on you when you fled from the battle. According to authentic traditions, there remained between eighty to hundred Companions (RAA) with the Prophet (SAW).<sup>1</sup>

(26) *"Then Allah (SWT) did send down His tranquility on the Messenger (SAW), and on the believers, and sent down forces which you saw not, and punished the disbelievers. Such is the recompense of disbelievers."* On the day of *Hunayn*, when most of the Muslim army was fleeing the battle in utter chaos and confusion, Allah (SWT) bestowed calmness and tranquility on His Prophet (SAW) and he remained firm in his position while riding his mule. He faced the enemy and led his mule towards the enemy while Al-Abbas (RAA) and Abu Sufyan bin Harith (RAA) were holding the ropes of the mule. They tried to stop the mule and informed the Prophet (SAW) of the possible danger ahead, but he descended from his mule and ran towards the enemy proclaiming aloud that *'I am the Prophet (SAW), not lying! I am the son of Abdul Muttalib!'*, then he said aloud, *'O Companions (RAA) of Samurah'*, referring to those of his Companions (RAA), who gave the pledge of *Ridwan*. Upon hearing this call, Muslims started returning to the battlefield from all directions, rushed to the side of the Messenger (SAW) and fought against the enemy valiantly. This was when Allah (SWT) said that He bestowed calmness and tranquility on the Prophet (SAW) and the believers. Then Allah (SWT) reminded the Muslims that He sent down forces which they could not see i.e. the angels, which ran through the forces of the enemy and punished them severely by His leave. This is how Allah (SWT) punished those who disbelieved.

(27) *"Then after that Allah (SWT) will accept the repentance of whom He will. And Allah (SWT) is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful."* This refers to those who fought in the battle against the Muslims but later on embraced Islam and thus Allah (SWT) said that He accepts repentance of whoever He wills, for He is Forgiving and Merciful.

(28) *"O you who believe! Verily, the idolaters are unclean. So let them not come near the Sacred Mosque after this year, and if you fear poverty, Allah (SWT) will enrich you if He wills, out of His Bounty. Surely, Allah (SWT) is All-Knowing, All-Wise."* This is one of the *ayaat* given to Ali (RAA) by the Prophet (SAW) to proclaim to the idolaters that no polytheist will be allowed to perform *Hajj* after that year, for they are filthy and unclean and thus cannot enter the Sacred Mosque. Then it was stated that O believers you should not worry about any economic blockage because of your severing ties with the disbelievers, for Allah (SWT) will compensate you with something better and will enrich you with His limitless bounties if He wills, for He knows what benefits His servants and He is Wise.

(29) *"Fight against those who believe not in Allah (SWT), nor in the Last Day, nor forbid that which has been forbidden by Allah (SWT) and His Messenger (SAW) and those who acknowledge not the religion of truth among the people of the Scripture, until they pay the Jizyah with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued."* The idolaters of Arabia were not given any respite after the Conquest of *Makkah* for they were asked to either leave the Arabian peninsula or to embrace Islam. This was because they were the original recipients of the Divine revelation and it was much easier for them to understand and comprehend it when it was being revealed in their own language. But on the other hand, the disbelievers including the *Jews* and the *Christians* were given an option either to embrace Islam or pay *Jizyah* (tax). Thus in this *ayah* Allah (SWT) commands the believers to fight against the people of the Scripture, who do not believe in Allah (SWT) or the *Hereafter* and do not take as prohibited what He and His Messenger (SAW) had prohibited them from. Although they professed that they believe in Allah (SWT) and in the *Last Day*, but it was nothing but mere empty words of faith that they uttered for in their hearts they did not believe in Him nor in the *Hereafter*. Further the Muslims are commanded to fight them if they do not submit themselves to the religion of

truth i.e. Islam, or they pay *Jizyah* willingly to the Islamic state and feel utterly subdued. If they do so then they are allowed to live as *Christian* or *Jew* in an Islamic state but they will have to comply with and submit to the socio-politico-economic system (i.e. the public law) of that Islamic state. This is so because Islam does not force anyone to embrace it because believing depends upon faith and will of a person and it will be meaningless if it is imposed by force.

(30) *“And the Jews say: Ezra (AS) is the son of Allah (SWT), and the Christians say: Messiah (AS) is the son of Allah (SWT). That is a saying from their mouths. They imitate the saying of the disbelievers of old. Allah's Curse be on them, how they are deluded away from the truth!”* This noble *ayah* indicates that the *Jews* and the *Christians* are disbelievers and idolators. This is because some *Jews* believe that Prophet Ezra (AS) was the son of Allah (SWT), while the *Christians* say that Prophet Jesus (AS) is the son of Allah (SWT). But Allah (SWT) states that these are all lies which they have invented with their mouths and that they utter these things to imitate and resemble the previous nations who also disbelieved in Him and were idolators. Throughout the ancient world, as far back as Babylonia, the worship of pagan gods grouped in threes, or triads, was common. That influence was also prevalent in Egypt, Greece, and Rome in the centuries before, during, and after Prophet Jesus (AS). Afterwards, such pagan beliefs began to invade Christianity which further developed into the idea of the Trinity. The worship of the Egyptian triad *Isis*, *Serapis*, and the child *Horus* probably conditioned the early church theologians to the idea of a triune *God*, and was influential in the formulation of the doctrine of the Trinity as set forth in the *Nicaean*<sup>2</sup> and *Athanasian*<sup>3</sup> creeds. Likewise, as a result of the Babylonian captivity of the *Jews* by *Nabu-ked-Nazr* and their later emancipation by *Cyrus* the Great of Persia, they were influenced by the religion of *Mithraism* which is generally considered to be of Persian origins, specifically an outgrowth of *Zoroastrian* culture. *Mithraism* is also based on the concept of the son of god, thus the *Jews* borrowed this concept from them and made Prophet Ezra (AS), the son of Allah (SWT). Thus Allah (SWT) cursed them because of their deviation from the truth.

(31) *“They took their rabbis and their monks to be their lords besides Allah (SWT), and the Messiah (AS), son of Mary (AS), while they were commanded to worship none but One Allah (SWT).*

*There is no God but He. Be He glorified from all that they associate with Him.*" " In this *ayah*, Allah (SWT) has admonished the *Jews* and the *Christians* for blindly following their rabbis and monks and giving them the right to be obeyed which is an exclusive right of Allah (SWT), thus taking them as their lords besides Him. When this *ayah* was revealed, Adi bin Hatim (RAA), who was a *Christian* before he embraced Islam and was the son of a famous *Christian* Hatim Tai, said to the Prophet (SAW) that "They did not worship them" The Prophet (SAW) then replied: "Yes they did, for the rabbis and monks prohibited the allowed for the *Christians* and the *Jews* and allowed the prohibited, and they obeyed them. This is how they worshipped them."<sup>24</sup> This way they obeyed their monks and rabbis more than they obeyed Allah (SWT), while they had already been commanded to worship only Him, besides Whom there is no deity worthy of worship, and surely He is far above and Holier than what these idolators falsely ascribe unto Him.

(32) *"They want to extinguish Allah's (SWT) Light with their mouths, but Allah will not allow except that His Light should be perfected even though the disbelievers hate (it)."* With their mouths has twofold meaning: (1) The old fashioned oil lamps were extinguished by blowing with the mouth. So the unbelievers would like to blow out Allah's light as it is offending them. (2) they try to extinguish the guidance and truth of Islam by distorting the message of Allah (SWT) through lies and false words of their mouth. This is the ground reality in the world today. The *Jews* and the *Christians* with all their power and media support want to extinguish the guidance and the religion of truth by their lies and falsehoods that they have been portraying the Muslims with. But Allah (SWT) categorically refuted such claims in this *ayah* and stated that He will never allow this to happen. Instead, He will make the light of Islam even brighter than before and will perfect it for His servants, no matter how displeasing it might be to the disbelievers.

(33) *"It is He Who has sent His Messenger (SAW) with guidance and the religion of truth, to make it triumphant superior over all religions even though the idolaters hate (it)."* This *ayah* has appeared more than once in the Holy *Qur'an* and is the key in understanding the mission of the Holy Prophet (SAW). His mission was not only to preach Allah's (SWT) Message, but a careful study of this *ayah* reveals that

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) had been sent by Allah (SWT) along with two items: *Al-Huda* or The Guidance, and *Deen al-Haq* or the True Way of Life, so that to make this *Deen* supreme over all other religions of this world. The famous scholar of the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent, Shah Waliyullah Dehlvi (RA) (1703-1762) has made this *ayah* the subject of in-depth and extensive study in his book *Izalatul Khafa un Khilafatul Khulafa*. He has described it as the most important *ayah* in understanding the purpose and mission of Muhammad's prophethood. Similarly, Maulana Ubaidullah Sindhi (RA) (1872-1944) has taken this *ayah* as the key for understanding the global revolutionary manifesto of Islam. In the end Allah (SWT) said that surely Islam will prevail over all other faiths of the world no matter how displeasing it might be to the disbelievers.

(34) *"O you who believe! Verily, there are many of the rabbis and the monks who devour the wealth of mankind in falsehood, and hinder from the Way of Allah. And those who hoard up gold and silver, and spend it not in the Way of Allah, announce unto them a painful torment."* In this *ayah* Allah (SWT) warns the believers not to be like those rabbis and monks of the *Jews* and the *Christians* who eat up wealth of their people unlawfully and turn them away from the path of Allah (SWT). This refers to their giving religious verdicts for money because of their love for this world. In giving such verdicts, they would sometimes distort Divine revelations and give verdicts according to the whims and desires of the one who offered them more money. At this point it seems appropriate to mention the hadith of the Prophet (SAW) narrated by Abu Said (RAA) who said: *"The Prophet (SAW) said: "You will follow the wrong ways, of your predecessors so completely and literally that if they should go into the hole of a lizard, you too will go there." We said, "O Allah's Apostle! Do you mean the Jews and the Christians?" He replied, "Who else?""*<sup>5</sup> Thus today we see that many Muslims today have adapted the conduct of these *Jewish* rabbis and *Christian* monks. They sell their religion in return of worldly gains, using their positions and status among people to illegally devour their wealth and prevent them from seeking the path of Allah (SWT) in the hope of finding guidance. Then Allah (SWT) described another group of the *Jewish* rabbis and the *Christian* monks who used to hoard up gold and silver and not spent it in the way of Allah (SWT) and that for them is a painful punishment. The word *Kanz* in this *ayah* which had been translated as gold and silver, refers to that

wealth for which the *Zakah* has not been paid, otherwise keeping wealth which remains after taking out *Zakah* is not a sin. This *ayah* specifically refers to the people of religion like the rabbis, monks or the scholars who have amassed great wealth by making their religion as a profession and not spending in the way of Allah (SWT).

(35) *"On the Day when that will be heated in the Fire of Hell and with it will be branded their foreheads, their flanks, and their backs. (and it will be said to them) "This is the treasure which you hoarded for yourselves. Now taste of what you used to hoard.""* This *ayah* gives the detail of the painful punishment that Allah (SWT) warned about in the previous *ayah*. It states that in the Hereafter the wealth and money that these misguided people had hoarded for themselves in this life will be heated in the fire of Hell and then their foreheads, their sides and their backs will be branded with it and it will be said to them that these are the riches they had amassed illegally in their worldly life and it has now become the very instrument of their painful torment.

(36) *"Verily, the number of months with Allah (SWT) is twelve months, so was it ordained by Allah (SWT) on the Day when He created the heavens and the earth; of them four are Sacred. That is the right religion, so wrong not yourselves therein, and fight against the idolaters collectively, as they fight against you collectively. But know that Allah (SWT) is with those who are pious."* This *ayah* refers to the false customs of the pagan Arabs regarding the calendar. In order to satisfy their self-serving motives, they would sometimes alter the number of days and months of a year or change its order and significance that was Divinely determined. Thus Allah (SWT) said that with Him the number of months is twelve, which He had ordained since the creation of the heavens and the earth and this is what has been written in the Preserved Tablet. Out of these twelve months, He has declared four as Sacred viz. *Muharram, Rajab, Dhul-Qa'dah* and *Dhul-Hijjah*. Then it was said that this is the right religion i.e. the commandments pertaining to the order of the months and the four Sacred months ordained by Allah (SWT). Thus do not wrong yourselves by acting against these injunctions regarding the sacred months. Then in the next part of this *ayah*, Allah (SWT) has given permission to the believers to defend themselves and fight against the disbelievers all together, if

they initiate the battle in any of the sacred months. But they should also know that self-restraint is recommended as far as possible, for Allah (SWT) is with those who are pious and restrain themselves.

*(37) "The postponing is indeed an addition to disbelief: thereby the disbelievers are led astray, for they make it lawful one year and forbid it another year in order to adjust the number of months forbidden by Allah (SWT), and make such forbidden ones lawful. The evil of their deeds seems pleasing to them. And Allah (SWT) guides not the people, who disbelieve."* This *ayah* also refers to this false custom of the pagan Arabs, who would put the sacred months back and forth in order to serve their own motives e.g. if one of the sacred months approached while they were fighting, they would say that this month is not sacred this year and that they would make the next month as sacred, so that to make up for the months that Allah (SWT) has sanctified. They thought that as the custodians of the Sacred Mosque they have the authority to change Allah's pronouncement, but this was not approved by Him, and it was said that it is nothing but an addition to their disbelief. Then Allah (SWT) stated that such customs of ignorance and misguidance have been made seem fair to the disbelievers and surely He does not guide such disbelieving people.

#### **Foot Notes**

[1] Fath Al-Bari 6: 81.

[2] Nicaea is a city in Turkey where the first council was held by the roman emperor Constantine who called up bishops to invent an early concept of Trinity which was later known as the Nicæan creed. Today this city is known by the name of Iznik.

[3] This creed is named after Athanasius (died 373 C.E) who was a clergyman and supported Constantine at Nicaea.

[4] Musnad Ahmed 4: 378.