

يَتَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِن تَطِيعُوا الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا يَرُدُّوكُمْ عَلَىٰ أَعْقَابِكُمْ

فَتَنقَلِبُوا خَاسِرِينَ ﴿١٤٩﴾

Al-Imran (The Family of Imran) 3:149

O You Who Believe!

- If you obey the unbelievers.
- They will drive you back on your heels.
- And you will turn back (from faith) to your own loss.

Commentary

Allamah Taba Tabai (AR)

It is the continuation of the verses revealed about the battle of Uhud. These verses exhort and encourage the believers to obey none except their Lord, because He alone is their Guardian and Helper; it calls them as witness that Allah had fulfilled His promise to them, and the debacle and disaster which they suffered on that day was brought upon them by their own hands, because they had transgressed the limits of what Allah had told them and His Messenger had invited them to; in spite of that Allah has forgiven them of their sins because He is Forgiving, Forbearing.

It may possibly be inferred from the context that the unbelievers - after the battle of Uhud, when these verses were revealed - were putting ideas in the believers' minds (just as "friendly" advice!) to hold them back from fighting and to incite strife and disunity among them, in order to create rift and division in the camp of Islam. This implication might probably get support from the verses 173-175 coming later: Those to whom the people said: "Surely men have gathered against you, therefore fear them". . . It is only the Satan that frightens his friends; so do not fear them, and fear Me if you are believers.

It has also been said that the verse alludes to the shouting by the Jews and the hypocrites on the day of Uhud, "Muhammad has been killed; you should return to Your families." But this explanation is nothing.

The verse first made it clear to the Muslims that if they obeyed the unbelievers and were inclined towards their friendship seeking their help, they would suffer a great loss, that is, they would turn back to infidelity, would become unbelievers themselves. Then it strikes at this idea by showing them the bright reality that "Allah is your Guardian and He is the best of the helpers."

Mir Ahmed Ali (AR) and Aqa Mahdi Puya (AR)

When the Jews of Bani Qaynqa were plotting to create hostility between the two Muslim tribes (Aus and Khazraj) this verse was revealed. It is a warning to the Muslims "not to pay attention to the disbelievers because they will make you turn on your heels; and you will be the losers. Allah is your guardian and He is the best of helpers (if you are sincere and steadfast in your faith and have implicit confidence in His guardianship and in His help)".

Ayatullah Sayyid Kamal Faqih Imani and a Group of Muslim Scholars

After the end of the Battle of Uhud the enemies of Islam, in the form of advice and sympathy, scattered the seed of discord among the Muslims, and made them distrustful unto Islam. This verse warns the Muslims and awares them that they must avoid following the enemies, because, after paving the honourable spiritual development along the path of Islam, they may bring Muslims back to corruption and disbelief.

"O' you who have Faith! if you obey those who disbelieve, they will turn you back to your (faithless) ancestors, so you will turn back losers."

What damage is worse than this that a believer changes Islam with infidelity, prosperity with wickedness, and reality with falsehood.