

يَتَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِن تَطِيعُوا فَرِيقًا مِّنَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ يَرُدُّوكُم

بَعْدَ إِيمَانِكُمْ كَافِرِينَ ﴿١٠٠﴾

Al-Imran (The Family of Imran) 3:100

O You Who Believe!

- If you listen to a faction among the People of the Book.
- They would (indeed) render you apostates after you have believed!

Commentary

Allamah Tabai (AR)

The verses as is evident from thematic continuity, indicate that the People of the Book (a group of them – i.e., the Jews – or a group of the Jews) disbelieved in the Divine Revelation, and hindered the believers from the way of Allah by trying to show that it was a crooked and unright way, and presenting to them the actually crooked misleading way as the way of Allah. They did so by creating doubts in the believers' minds, in order that the believers would see the truth as falsehood and the falsehood (to which they invited them) as truth. The preceding verses had pointed to the Jews' deviations, for example, their denial of the fact that all food was lawful to them before the revelation of the Torah, and their rejection of the abrogation of the previous *qiblah*, that is, Baytul-Maqdis.

These verses therefore put the finishing touches to the preceding ones which had described the lawfulness of all food before the Torah and declared that the Ka'bah was the first House appointed for the men. Now these verses admonish the Jews because they were constantly trying to create doubts and mislead the believers; also the verses warn the believers against following the advice of those unbelievers, because if they listened to their call, they would themselves become unbelievers; then they exhort and encourage them to hold fast to Allah so that they would be guided to the path of true faith and guidance would continue for ever.

The verse shows that the Book of Allah and the verbal and practical guidance given by the Messenger of Allah (S) are sufficient to guide a man to every truth and reality in which he could possibly go astray.

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

Whenever the Qu'ran addresses the people of the book to reproach them for their mischievous deviation from the right path, shown by all the scriptures, it should not be confined to those Jews and Christians who opposed Islam and the Holy Prophet in his time, but as Imam Jafar al-Sadiq has pointed out, it includes all the people of the book in post-Islamic era and also all those who claim their religions to be divinely revealed, in all ages, till the day of resurrection. The holy Ahl ul Bayt have said that the pagans of Arabia and the trans-caspian sea are excluded from the "people of the book", as their doctrines were not based upon the revealed word of Allah.

At all events the Muslims are not kept out from the application of the censure wherever notified in the Qur'an. There are instances of mischievous deviation from the right path, denial of the divine signs, creation of obstacles in the path of Allah, and attempts to twist the words of Allah and His Holy Prophet to serve selfish ends, which gave rise to sectarianism in the early stages.

The Holy Prophet has said:

You will go back to infidelity after me when discord and strife, among you, will divide you.

Ayatullah Sayyid Kamal Faqih Imani and a Group of Muslim Scholars

In several commentary books it is cited that one of the Jews by the name of Shash-ibn-Qays once passed by the gathering of Muslims consisting of members of two tribes called Aus and Khazraj and saw that they were very sincere with each other. He became worried about it and said to himself that formerly these two tribes were opposite to each other, but now, under the leadership and direction of Muhammad (S), they are living with each other peacefully. If this leadership continues, the existence of the Jews will be in danger.

He, systematically gathered a group to help him, and commissioned a young man to go inside them and to excite them by reminding them the memories of their fight in Biqath (the place where those two tribes fought against each other), so that the fire of a hard combat was going to be lit between them. The Prophet of Islam (S), with his soothing words, warned them and made them aware of that evil plot. Therefore, they put their swords down and kindly embraced each other while they were shedding tear and were regretful.

According to the commentators, in this incident, the above verse and the two former verses were revealed which caused the reproach and blame of the People of the Book as well as warning the Muslims.

"O' you who have Faith! if you hearken to a party from among of those who have been given the Book, they will turn you back, after your faith, into disbelievers."