**November 2, 1914**

**Denial of the Truth of the Holy Prophet by his Opponents and a Lesson for the Muslims to Avoid Such Behavior**

I bear witness that none deserves to be served besides Allah and I bear witness that Muhammad is the servant and messenger of Allah. —

After this, I seek the protection of Allah from the accursed devil.

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.



“And We indeed gave Moses the Book and We sent messengers after him one after another; and We gave Jesus, son of Mary, clear arguments and strengthened him with the Holy Spirit. Is it then that whenever there came to you a messenger with what your souls desired not, you were arrogant? And some you gave the lie to and others you would slay.” (2:87)



“And they say: Our hearts are repositories. Nay, Allah has cursed them on account of their unbelief; so little it is that they believe.” (2:88)



“And when there came to them a Book from Allah verifying that which they have, and aforetime they used to pray for victory against those who disbelieved — but when there came to them that which they recognized, they disbelieved in it; so Allah’s curse is on the disbelievers.” (2:89)

**Materialistic Tendency Amongst the Opponents**

This section of the Holy Quran discusses motives that led to denial of the Holy Prophet Muhammad by the Jews. Because the Jews were being addressed, reference is made to their accepted principles and scripture. The main reason for their rejection of the Holy Prophet was their excessive love for attractions of the material world. They were so bonded to their low desires that anything that stood in the way, even if it was the command of God, was bound to be rejected.

Hence Allah the Most High says, “And We indeed gave Moses the Book and We sent messengers after him one after another; and We gave Jesus, son of Mary, clear arguments and strengthened him with the Holy Spirit. Is it then that whenever there came to you a messenger with what your souls desired not, you were arrogant? And some you gave the lie to and others you would slay.”

**Believers Strengthened with the Holy Spirit**

“And We gave Jesus, son of Mary, clear arguments and strengthened him with the Holy Spirit.” Unfortunately Muslims generally have accepted these words as meaning the Holy Spirit accompanied Jesus at all times, while he had only intermittent contact with other messengers. This is another one of those peculiarities they assign only to Jesus, and note that it is not shared by any other human being. On the contrary, Allah The Blessed, the Most High, states in the Holy Quran regarding the companions of our Holy Prophet, “These are they into whose hearts He has impressed faith, and strengthened them with a Spirit from Himself,” (58:22). This clearly indicates that assistance rendered through the Holy Spirit is not only for prophets but also for ordinary believers. For example, the Holy Prophet while praying for one of his companions, Hasan bin Thabit, said, “And the Holy Spirit be with you.”

**Nature of Man in Dealing with Prophets**

It is generally in the nature of man that whenever something goes against his will, he dislikes it — and this lack of truthfulness and humility on his part, results in arrogant behavior and rejection. When a prophet comes, those who are lost in the love of material acquisition are unable to alter their lifestyle. They refuse to accept the messages that go against their desires and deny the call of the messenger. This is what led the Jews to reject the message of the Holy Prophet Muhammad.

**Claim of Hearts Being Repositories**



 “And they say: Our hearts are repositories. Nay, Allah has cursed them on account of their unbelief; so little it is that they believe.” (2:88)

In spite of being so deeply ensnared in the web of their own desires, the pride in these people is so overwhelming that they consider themselves to be the only ones who deserve salvation while the rest of humanity is fuel for the fire of hell. If they hear a good word, they claim that their hearts are repositories (of knowledge) and therefore not impressed by it, they pretentiously ignore it. Allah the Most High states this is not so. The real reason is that as a result of refusing to submit to the command of God and of their slavery to low desires, they have strayed so far away from Him that their hearts are no longer capable of accepting Divine truths. Very little of faith remains.

**Condition of Muslim Religious Leaders**

The idea that Jews were the only ones deserving salvation was greatly responsible for them not benefitting from the blessings of Islam. The Jewish nation was, in the words of the Holy Quran, made you excel the nations, (2:47) and at another time became such that they, “incurred Allah’s wrath” (2:61). Muslims today are suffering from the same malady. They are incessantly involved in the pursuit of worldly gains and are slaves of their desires but claim to be the only nation deserving salvation, while ignoring the call of truth. Thus, when the Promised Messiah[[1]](#footnote-1) (Hazrat[[2]](#footnote-2) Mirza Ghulam Ahmad) put forward his claim describing his mission and wrote articles to support Islam, not only did they not read them, but some religious scholars issued edicts prohibiting their reading. Now a group[[3]](#footnote-3) has formed amongst the Ahmadiyya community that refuses to pay heed to certain issues out of pride and shreds apart the books containing them. I advise you to always keep your mind open to any word of truth and wisdom and remain prepared to ponder it. If it is based upon truth and is reasonable, accept it; if it is wrong, reject it. It is my belief that such an individual, even if he makes a mistake, will not be held accountable before God.

**Meaning of the Curse of Allah**

*“And invoke the curse of Allah on the liars”* (3:61). The curse of Allah means that the hearts affected stray far away from Allah and lean farther toward the temporary attractions of worldly life. “And when there came to them a Book from Allah verifying that which they have, and aforetime they used to pray for victory against those who disbelieved — but when there came to them that which they recognized, they disbelieved in it; so Allah’s curse is on the disbelievers.” (2:89)

**Prophecy of Prophet Moses Regarding Holy Prophet Muhammad**

Even if there were no prophecies about the Holy Quran in the Torah and the Bible, the teachings of the Holy Quran are in principle so much in accordance with their teachings that a truth-loving nation would not have denied them. There is no righteous teaching that the Holy Quran has not presented. Someone can search and find the best of what is uncovered in previous scriptures, and they will find it in the Holy Quran. As it contains all of these excellent ideas, what could be the reason for its denial? It is nothing except for hatred and the affliction of loving fallacy. In this verse, we are told that not only is the Holy Quran a book revealed by Allah the Most High, references to it are also found in other scriptures. Thus, we find in the Torah: “I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him. But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.” (Deut. 18-20)

Now who amongst the prophets in the Mosaic dispensation right through to Jesus has laid claim to be a prophet like Moses?

There has certainly been no prophet from amongst the children of Israel who has made such a claim. On the other hand, Allah the Most High states in the Holy Quran regarding Holy Prophet Muhammad: “Surely We have sent to you a Messenger, a witness against you, as We sent a messenger to Pharaoh” (73:15). What can be the reason for their denial? This prophecy is so evident and Prophet Moses laid so much stress upon it that there has not been a single prophet, other than the Holy Prophet Muhammad, who has claimed to be the subject of this prophecy. There is no doubt that Jews had recognized the truth of the Holy Prophet’s claim as the Holy Quran states:



 “...But when there came to them that which they recognized, they disbelieved in it; so Allah’s curse is on the disbelievers.” (2:89)

After clearly identifying him, the Jews still refused to accept him. They saw his spiritual resemblance to Moses, and understood that he was from amongst the brethren of the children of Israel i.e., the progeny of Ishmael from amongst whom there had been no prophet. There remained no doubt in the face of this evidence that Holy Prophet Muhammad was indeed the subject of this prophecy. In addition, they also observed his prophecies being fulfilled. Those who disbelieved after such clear prophetic evidence were deserving of Allah’s curse i.e., they became estranged from good. The Jews recognized all these signs but became disbelievers because the Holy Prophet was not from amongst the children of Israel. Their hearts desired that the promised prophet should be from their nation.

**Punishment for Denying the Truth**



“Evil is that for which they sell their souls — that they should deny that which Allah has revealed, out of envy that Allah should send down of His grace on whom-soever of His servants He pleases; so they incur wrath upon wrath. And there is an abasing chastisement for the disbelievers.” (2:90)

When a person knowingly denies the truth, it is rebellion. Jews were so overwhelmed by their desires that they rejected the Holy Prophet while knowing he fulfilled all the conditions of earlier prophecy. They rejected the commandments of God in this matter and rebelled against them. Their only objection was that it was revealed to someone belonging to another nation — against their wishes. It was this rebellious attitude that resulted in denial and rejection of the truth. The punishment for a rebel is wrath upon wrath or divine displeasure, to which they were subjected. (The word wrath is repeated twice, because they had already incurred divine displeasure by rejecting Prophet Jesus).

“And there is an abasing chastisement for the disbelievers.” Muslims today are also subject to abasing chastisement for indulging in behavior similar to that of the Jews. It is essential that Muslims ponder their condition and attempt reformation. These events are narrated to serve as a warning for Muslims; they are not mere tales.

“They said: We hear and disobey” (2:93). The Jews did not utter these words with their tongues. What this means is ‘we hear it but deny it in practice’. The condition of Muslims today is analogous. They profess belief in every letter of the Holy Quran but their actions are totally in contradiction to its teachings.

**Prayer for Invocation of Death to Prove Truthfulness of a Claim and the Christian Objection in This Matter**



“Say: If the abode of the Hereafter with Allah is specially for you to the exclusion of the people, then invoke death if you are truthful.”(2:94)

One of the reasons for rejection of truth amongst various nations has been the erroneous belief that they are the only chosen ones of God, and are deserving of salvation. Jews believed that they were the blessed and chosen ones of God and that hell was forbidden for them. They are mentioned here and their belief that they were certain to go to paradise is challenged. They are asked to invoke death upon themselves so that they can quickly get relief from the sufferings of their worldly existence. This is a somewhat weaker interpretation of these words, because wishing for death is equivalent to committing suicide. The real meaning of this is that if you are beloved of God, then pray against me whom you consider as your enemy so that you gain victory in this great conflict. In this manner, truth and falsehood can be differentiated. In other words they were challenged to a *mubahala[[4]](#footnote-4)*. Christians object here, stating that “our religion is only love and we do not wish death upon anyone”. These are only superficial claims, for we observe that when empowered they do not spare each other. Abu Aamir who was a very famous Christian priest in Madinah made a prediction that the Holy Prophet would be destroyed. What is stated here is that if you are truthful in your claim that is the basis of your rejecting Islam and you consider us liars, then pray on our behalf that the world may be saved from our influence.



“And they will never invoke it on account of what their hands have sent on before and Allah knows the wrongdoers” (2:95).

They are aware that their prayers are not accepted; therefore they will abstain. Because of their love of life and worldly desires they do not wish to die. In fact they are certain of chastisement and wish they could live for a thousand years to avoid it, “One of them loves to be granted a life of a thousand years, and his being granted a long life will in no way remove him further off from the chastisement.” (2:96) Living for a long time, however, cannot prevent the coming of chastisement.

1. For a detailed study on this subject, refer to the book *The Ahmadiyya Movement* by Maulana Muhammad Ali. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Hazrat: Honorific title for a Muslim dignitary or holy person, in Urdu and Persian. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Reference is made to the Qadian section of the Ahmadiyya community, headed by Mirza Mahmud Ahmad. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Footnote 94a. (English Translation and commentary of the Holy Quran by Maulana Muhammad Ali): According to I‘Ab *tamannawu-l-mauta* (lit., desire death) signiﬁes invoke death on the party that lies or is false in its assertion (IJ). A similar challenge, but in fuller words, is contained in 3:61: “Whoever then disputes with thee in this matter after the knowledge that has come to thee, say: ‘Come! let us call our sons and your sons, and our women and your women, and our people and your people, then let us be earnest in prayer and invoke the curse of Allah on the liars.’” This challenge is given to the Christians, and the same challenge in fewer words is given here to the Jews. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)