

يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿١٠٢﴾ وَلَوْ أَنَّهُمْ ءَامَنُوا وَاتَّقَوْا لَمَثُوبَةٌ مِّنْ عِندِ اللَّهِ خَيْرٌ لَّوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿١٠٣﴾ (سورة البقرة: ١٠١-١٠٣)

- 2:101. And when there came to them a Messenger from Allah, confirming that which was with them, some of those who had been given the Book cast the Book of Allah behind their backs as if they had no knowledge.
- 2:102. They followed that which the devils used to read [of books of magic] during the reign of Sulaymân. It was not Sulaymân who disbelieved; rather the devils disbelieved and taught men magic, and such things as had come down at Babylon to the two angels Hâroot and Mâroot. But these two never taught anyone without [first] saying: We are but a trial, so do not disbelieve. They learned from them the means of sowing discord between a man and his wife, but they could not harm anyone thereby except by Allah's leave. They learned that which harmed them, and did not benefit them, knowing full well that whoever dealt in it [magic] would have no share in the hereafter. How wretched was the price for which they sold their souls, if only they knew.
- 2:103. If they had believed and feared Allah, the reward from Allah would have been better, if only they knew.

When this noble Messenger (ﷺ) brought to them this great Book that was based on truth and was in harmony with that which they had, that was at a time when they claimed to be adhering to their scripture. But when they disbelieved in this Messenger (ﷺ) and that which he brought, «some of those who had been given the Book cast the Book of Allah», which had been sent down to them, «behind their backs», and showed no interest in it. This description is more emphatic than saying that they turned away from it. By doing this, it was as if they were among the ignorant, when in fact they were well aware that it was true.