

﴿Or were you present when death came to Ya'qoob?﴾ And he said to his sons, by way of testing them and so as to have the joy of certainty whilst he was still alive that they would adhere to what he enjoined upon them:

﴿What will you worship after I am gone?﴾ They answered him in a way that brought him joy, as they said:

﴿We will worship your God and the God of your fathers, of Ibrâheem, Ismâ'eel and Is-hâq, One God﴾ and we will not associate anything with Him or regard anyone as equal to Him

﴿and to Him we submit [as Muslims]﴾. Thus they combined monotheism with righteous deeds.

It is well known that they (the Jews of Madinah) were not present when Ya'qoob died, because they did not yet exist. As they were not present, Allah tells us that he (Ya'qoob) enjoined his sons to follow the path of monotheism, not Judaism.

Then Allah (ﷻ) says:

﴿That is a nation which has [already] passed away﴾ and no longer exists

﴿they will have what they earned and you will have what you earn﴾ that is, each person has his own deeds and will be requited according to what he did; no one will be brought to account for the sin of another and no one will benefit except from his own faith and piety. So your preoccupation with them and your claims that you are following their religion, and your being content with mere words are matters that do not make sense, because there is no reality to them. Rather what you must do is examine your own situation and see whether it will help you to attain salvation or not.



﴿وَقَالُوا كُونُوا هُودًا أَوْ نَصَارَى تَهْتَدُوا قُلْ بَلْ مِلَّةَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ حَنِيفًا وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ

الْمُشْرِكِينَ ﴿١١٥﴾﴾ (سورة البقرة: ١٣٥)