



﴿أَمْ يَقُولُونَ إِنَّ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ وَالْأَسْبَاطَ كَانُوا هُودًا أَوْ نَصَارَى قُلْ أَعَلَيْكُمْ أَعْلَمُ أَمِ اللَّهُ وَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنْ كَتَمَ شَهَادَةً عِنْدَهُ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَمَا اللَّهُ بِغَفِيلٍ عَمَّا تَعْمَلُونَ﴾ (سورة البقرة: ١٤٠)

2:140. Or would you say that Ibrâheem, Ismâ'eel, Is-hâq, Ya'qoob and the Tribes were Jews or Christians? Say: Do you know better, or does Allah? And who does greater wrong than those who conceal a testimony they have received from Allah? But Allah is not unaware of what you do.

This refers to another claim on their part and another argument about the Messengers of Allah. They claimed that they were closer to the Messengers than the Muslims were.

But Allah refuted that by saying ﴿Do you know better, or does Allah?﴾ Elsewhere, Allah says:

﴿Ibrâheem was neither a Jew nor a Christian, but he was a monotheist, a Muslim, and he was not one of those who ascribe partners to Allah.﴾ (Âl 'Imrân 3: 67)

But they said that he was a Jew or a Christian.

Either they are the ones who are telling the truth and have knowledge of that, or Allah (ﷻ) is the One Who is telling the truth and has knowledge of that. One of the two must inevitably be true; the answer is not stated explicitly but it is absolutely clear and so obvious that there is no need to say that it is Allah Who knows best and is most truthful, and the like. The answer is obvious to everyone; this is like saying: is the night more illuminating, or the day? Is the fire hotter, or water? Is polytheism better, or monotheism (tawhîd)? And so on.

Anyone with the slightest common sense will know this; indeed even the Jews and Christians themselves know it. They know that