

background here is that the Muslims were enjoined to face towards Bayt al-Maqdis (Jerusalem) for the duration of their time in Makkah, then approximately one and a half years after the migration (Hijrah) to Madinah, by His wisdom, Allah commanded them to face towards the Kaaba. Then He told them that the fools among the people would inevitably say: «What has turned them from the qibla [direction of prayer] towards which they used to face?» For they used to face towards Jerusalem, so what has made them turn away from it? This is an objection to Allah's ruling, law, grace and kindness. So Allah consoled the believers by telling them what was going to happen and pointing out that it would only come from those who were foolish, lacking in reason, forbearance and religious commitment, so do not pay any attention to them, because you know where this talk is coming from. The wise person pays no attention to the objections of the fool, and does not worry about him. This verse indicates that no one objects to the rulings of Allah but one who is foolish, ignorant and stubborn. As for the wise and rational believer, he accepts the rulings of his Lord and submits to them, as Allah (ﷻ) says:

«It is not fitting for any believing man or believing woman, when Allah and His Messenger have decided concerning a matter, to have any choice in that matter...» (*al-Ahzāb* 33: 36)

«But no, by your Lord, they will not [truly] believe until they make you [O Muhammad] judge in all disputes between them, then find in their hearts no reservations about your verdicts, but accept them wholeheartedly.» (*an-Nisā'* 4: 65)

«The only response of the believers, when they are called to Allah and His Messenger so that he may judge between them, is to say: We hear and we obey...» (*an-Noor* 24: 51)

The fact that Allah describes them as «The fools» is sufficient to reject what they say, with no need for further refutation.

But Allah (ﷻ) did not leave this specious argument without dispelling it and highlighting the flaws in the argument that may influence some people. So He said: «Say» in response to them: