

﴿To Allah belong the east and the west: He guides whom He will to a path that is straight﴾ that is, as the east and the west both belong to Allah, there is no direction that is beyond His dominion. Moreover, He guides whom He will to a path that is straight, and part of that is His guiding you to this qibla, which was the way of your father Ibrâheem. So why are these people objecting to your turning towards a qibla or direction that is under Allah's dominion, for you are not facing towards any direction that does not belong to Him? Therefore one must submit to His command, if only for no other reason than this. So how about if, by His grace and kindness, Allah has guided you to that? Then the one who is objecting to you is in fact objecting to the grace of Allah, out of envy and resentment towards you.

Because Allah says: ﴿He guides whom He will to a path that is straight﴾, and what is stated in general terms is to be understood in the light of another verse that is more specific, there are reasons for guidance and misguidance, in accordance with the wisdom and justice of Allah. He has stated in more than one place in His Book the causes of guidance by which, if a person does them, he will be guided. For example, Allah (ﷻ) says:

﴿...There has come to you from Allah a light and a clear Book, with which Allah guides all who seek His good pleasure to ways of peace and safety...﴾ (*al-Mâ'idah* 5: 15-16)

In this verse, Allah mentions the means of guidance for this Ummah in general terms and how Allah blesses this Ummah, then He says: ﴿Thus We have made of you an Ummah justly balanced﴾ that is, following a moderate and just way. Anything other than the moderate middle way comes under the heading of extremes that are subject to prohibition. So Allah has made this Ummah justly balanced in all matters of religion and justly balanced with regard to belief in the Prophets, so that they do not go to extremes in veneration, as the Christians did, or in disrespect, as the Jews did. The Muslims believe in all the Prophets in an appropriate manner. They also follow