

a moderate middle way with regard to laws, avoiding the strictness and restrictions of the Jews and the lenience of the Christians.

With regard to matters of purification and food, the Muslims are not like the Jews, whose prayers cannot be valid unless they are offered in their synagogues, and whom not even water can purify from impurities. Good things were forbidden to them, as a punishment. And they are not like the Christians, who do not regard anything as impure or forbid anything; rather they permitted (as food) anything that walks or crawls on the face of the earth.

The Muslims' way of purification is the most perfect and complete; Allah has permitted to them good things in the area of food, drinks, clothing and marriage, and He has forbidden to them whatever is impure in those areas. Hence this Ummah has the most perfect religion, the best manners, and the most virtuous deeds.

Allah has bestowed upon them knowledge, forbearance, justice and kindness that He did not bestow upon any other nation. Hence they are «an Ummah justly balanced», that is a perfect community to be «witnesses over humankind». Because of their justice and fair ruling, they pass judgement between people of other religions, but no one else passes judgement on them. Whatever the Ummah testifies is acceptable should be accepted; whatever they testify is unacceptable should be rejected. If it is asked: how can they pass judgement on others when the testimony of each disputant is unacceptable to the other? The response is that rather the view of one of the disputants will not be acceptable, because there is the suspicion of bias, but when this suspicion is not present and there is complete justice, as is the case with this Ummah, then it is acceptable, because what matters is passing judgement on the basis of justice and truth, the condition of which is knowledge and justice, which are both present in this Ummah. Therefore its judgement is to be accepted.

If anyone has any doubts about the virtue of this Ummah, and wants someone to testify in its favour, the one to do that is the most