

perfect of Allah's creation, their Prophet (ﷺ), hence Allah (ﷻ) says: ﴿and the Messenger might be a witness over you﴾.

One aspect of the testimony of this Ummah over others is that on the Day of Resurrection, when Allah asks the Messengers whether they conveyed the message, and He asks the nations who rejected them whether they received the message or not, and they deny that the Prophets conveyed the message to them, the Prophets will ask this Ummah for testimony, and its Prophet will speak in its favour (so that its testimony might be accepted).

This verse also indicates that the consensus of this Ummah constitutes definitive proof, and that they are protected from error, because Allah describes them as ﴿justly balanced﴾. If we were to assume that they agreed upon error, they could not have been described as justly balanced, except in a few issues. Because Allah says ﴿that you might be witnesses over humankind﴾, this implies that if they testify on a particular matter that Allah has permitted it, forbidden it or made it obligatory, then they cannot be wrong. We also learn from this verse that issuing verdicts, testifying, giving fatwas and so on are things that can only be accepted from people of good character, those who are ﴿justly balanced﴾.

﴿and We prescribed the qibla towards which you used to face﴾, which was initially the direction of Jerusalem
 ﴿only in order to know﴾ – this refers to knowledge that forms the basis of reward and punishment; otherwise Allah (ﷻ) has knowledge of everything before it happens, but this prior knowledge does not form the basis of reward and punishment, because of His complete justice and so as to establish proof against His slaves; rather when their deeds occur, reward and punishment become due. In other words: We prescribed this qibla in order to know and test ﴿those who would follow the Messenger﴾ and believe in him, and follow him in all situations, because he is a slave under orders, and because the previous Books stated that he would face towards the Kaaba. The fair-minded