

him, as will His angels, and even the fish in the depths of the sea, for his efforts to benefit people, teach them their religion properly and bring them closer to the mercy of Allah. Thus the reward will fit his good deeds. The one who conceals that which Allah revealed has gone against the command of Allah and is opposing Him. Allah explains the signs to people and clarifies them, but this person tried to conceal them. This stern warning applies to such a one.

«Except those who repent» that is, give up their sins out of regret and resolve not to go back to them

«and mend their ways», correcting their corrupt actions. It is not sufficient just to give up doing bad deeds unless they are replaced with good deeds. It is not sufficient in the case of one who conceals knowledge either, unless he makes known what he was concealing and shows the opposite of what he was hiding. In that case Allah will accept his repentance, because there is no barrier preventing one from attaining His acceptance of repentance. Whoever meets the conditions of repentance, Allah will accept it from him, for He is the Acceptor of repentance; in other words, He forgives and pardons His slaves after they commit sin, if they repent, and He grants them His blessing and favour after having withheld it, if they turn back to Him.

«the Most Merciful», Who is possessed of great compassion that encompasses all things. By His mercy, He guides and enables them to repent, then by His mercy, He accepts it from them, out of kindness and generosity. This ruling applies to one who repents from sin. As for the one who disbelieves and persists in his disbelief until he dies, and does not turn back to his Lord or hasten to repent to Him, he is among those «upon» whom «is the curse of Allah and of the angels and of all humankind», because when their disbelief became an entrenched characteristic, the curse likewise became entrenched and will never depart, because when the reason is present, the ruling still applies.