

for you in this world and the hereafter? For success and salvation are to be found in following Him, and you have everything to gain from forming an attachment to Him, for He grants all blessings, both obvious and hidden, He enjoins only what is good and forbids only what is evil. Or are you following the caller of the Shayṭān, who is the enemy of humanity? He wishes you ill and is striving his utmost to bring you destruction in this world and in the hereafter; all evil is in obeying him and all loss results from taking him as a friend; he enjoins nothing but evil and forbids nothing but good.

Then Allah tells us of the situation of the polytheists: when they were commanded to follow that which Allah had revealed to His Messenger (ﷺ) – as described above – they turned away from that and said: «Nay, we will follow the ways of our forefathers». They were content to blindly follow the ways of their forefathers, and they had no interest in believing in the Prophets. Moreover, their forefathers were the most ignorant of people and the most misguided, and this is a flimsy argument for rejecting the truth. This is indicative of their turning away from the truth, their lack of interest in it and the absence of any fair-mindedness in them. If they were guided and had good intentions, then truth would have been their main aim. The one who makes truth his main aim and measures everything against that will definitely see the truth clearly and will follow it, if he is fair-minded.



﴿وَمَثَلُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا كَمَثَلِ الَّذِي يَنْعِقُ بِمَا لَا يَسْمَعُ إِلَّا دُعَاءَ وَنِدَاءَ صُمُّ بُكْمٌ عُمْى فَهُمْ لَا يَعْقِلُونَ﴾ (سورة البقرة: ١٧١)

2:171. The likeness of those who disbelieve is that of animals whom the herdsman calls, but they hear nothing except the sound of shouts and cries. Deaf, dumb, and blind, they do not understand.