

Allah will not speak to them on the Day of Resurrection nor will He purify them, and theirs will be a painful punishment.

- 2:175. They are the ones who have traded guidance for misguidance, and forgiveness for punishment. What can make them patient in facing the fire?
- 2:176. That is because Allah sent down the Book in truth; those who find [a cause of] disagreement in the Book go much too far in opposition.

This is a stern warning addressed to those who conceal that which Allah sent down to His Messengers, the knowledge concerning which Allah had taken a covenant from them that they would disclose it to the people and not conceal it; those who use it for worldly gain and neglect the command of Allah, «take nothing into their bellies but fire». That is because the price they gain is only acquired in the worst and most emphatically forbidden manner; thus their punishment will fit the nature of their deeds.

«Allah will not speak to them on the Day of Resurrection»; rather He will be angry with them and will turn away from them. This is a more painful punishment for them than the punishment of hellfire.

«nor will He purify them» that is, He will not purify them of bad characteristics, and they have no good deeds to their credit for which they might deserve praise,<sup>14</sup> approval and reward. Rather He will not purify them because their actions deprived them of any purification, the most important means of attaining which is acting in accordance with the Book of Allah, following its guidance and calling others to it.

These people cast aside the Book of Allah and turned away from it; they chose misguidance over guidance and punishment over forgiveness, hence they are fit for nothing but the fire, and what can make them patient in facing the fire? Where could they get such endurance from?

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<sup>14</sup> The word translated here as «purify» may also mean “praise”.