

- 2:4. And who believe in the Revelation sent down to you, and in what was sent before your time, and believe with certainty in the hereafter.
- 2:5. It is they who are following guidance from their Lord and it is they who will prosper.
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We have discussed the *basmalah* (the phrase *bismillâh ir-Rahmân ir-Raḥeem*) above. With regard to the letters that appear at the beginning of some soorahs, the most prudent approach is to refrain from discussing their meaning, without basing that on any *shar'î* (of or pertaining to Sharia; Islamic) text, whilst being certain that Allah (ﷻ) did not reveal them in vain; rather there is wisdom behind that, of which we are not aware.

﴿This is the Book﴾ that is, this great Book is the Book in a true sense; it contains that which the previous Books did not contain of great knowledge and clear truth. So ﴿there is no doubt﴾ about it in any way, shape or form. Stating that there is no doubt implies the opposite; the opposite of doubt is certainty, so this Book contains certain knowledge that dispels doubt. This is a useful principle to note, that when it is stated that something is not the case, that inevitably refers to the opposite.

As it is based on certainty, and guidance cannot be attained except on the basis of certainty, Allah says: ﴿in it is guidance for those who fear Allah﴾. Guidance is the means of being directed away from misguidance and doubt, and it is the means of following the proper ways. Guidance is mentioned, but to what is not mentioned; Allah did not say guidance towards achieving such and such a purpose or to such and such a thing, because He intended it to be general in meaning. It is guidance to that which is in people's best interests in both realms (this world and the hereafter). So it is guidance for people in all matters, both fundamental and minor. It differentiates true from