

from textual and rational evidence. The one who truly knows that knows that it is not befitting or appropriate to worship any but the Almighty Lord to Whom belong all perfection, all glory, all praise, all might and all pride; it is not befitting to worship created beings that are subject to control, imperfect, deaf and dumb, and have no understanding. Further rational evidence to that effect is found in what people see with their own eyes in the past and at present of how Allah honours those who affirm His oneness, and humiliates and punishes those who associate others with Him. That is because Allah has made affirming His oneness a means of attaining all that is good and warding off all that is harmful in both spiritual and worldly terms. He has made associating others with Him and disbelief a means of incurring punishment in both spiritual and worldly terms. Hence when He mentions the stories of the Messengers and their interactions with nations who were obedient or disobedient, and He tells us about the punishment of the disobedient and the salvation of the Messengers and those who followed them, after each story He says:

﴿...Surely, in that there is a sign...﴾ (*al-Baqarah* 2: 248)

– that is, a lesson that may be understood by those who reflect, for they will understand that belief in His oneness is the only way to attain salvation, and failure to do that leads to doom. This is the main rational and textual evidence that points to this important principle. Allah mentions it a great deal in His Book in various ways, so that the one who chooses faith will do so on the basis of clear evidence, and the one who chooses disbelief would do so despite the evidence that had been made clear to him. To Allah be all praise and thanks.

Then He affirms that He is the True God Who deserves to be worshipped, and He explains the religion through which people should worship Him and submit to Him; that is Islam, which is submission to Allah by declaring His oneness and obeying Him. This is the religion to which His Messengers called people and which is prescribed in His Books. No other religion is accepted from anyone. It is the religion