

- 2:8. Among people there are some who say: We believe in Allah and the Last Day, but in fact they are not believers.
- 2:9. They seek to deceive Allah and those who believe, but they are not deceiving anyone except themselves, although they do not realise.
- 2:10. In their hearts is a disease; and Allah has increased their disease. Theirs will be a painful penalty for their persistent lying.

Hypocrisy means outwardly pretending to be good whilst concealing evil. This definition includes both hypocrisy in beliefs and hypocrisy in actions. The Prophet (ﷺ) mentioned something similar when he said:

«The signs of the hypocrite are three: when he speaks he lies, when he makes a promise he breaks it, and when he is entrusted with something he betrays that trust.» (Bukhari and Muslim)⁷

Another report adds:

«When he disputes, he resorts to foul speech.» (Bukhari and Muslim)

«We will turn their hearts and eyes away [from the truth], since they refused to believe in it the first time...» (al-An'ām 6: 110)

The kind of hypocrisy in belief that puts one beyond the pale of Islam is that which Allah ascribed to the hypocrites in this soorah and elsewhere. Hypocrisy did not exist before the migration of the Messenger (ﷺ) from Makkah to Madinah; after he migrated, in the battle of Badr Allah caused the believers to prevail and made them

⁷ All hadiths in this text have been checked and verified by IIPH's researchers. It is rare, but it does happen that a hadith is not verifiable within the timeframe of researching and editing the book. In that case, a decision is made by the editorial board as to whether or not to include the hadith. It is IIPH's policy not to include weak hadiths or fabricated (fake) hadiths in our publications. If a weak hadith is included in any text, it is only because the author of the book discusses it **as** a weak hadith. (Editor)