

is to make the truth clear to the people and proclaim it openly, and distinguish truth from falsehood, and explain clearly the difference between evil and good, what is permissible and what is forbidden, sound belief and corrupt belief, so that the people will be guided, those who have gone astray will be brought back and proof will be established against those who are stubborn. Allah says:

﴿And [remember] when Allah took a covenant from those who were given the scripture, that they should make it known and clear to humankind, and not conceal it; but they cast it behind their backs...﴾
(*Al 'Imrân* 3: 187)

Then Allah tells us about what this evil group thought of and what they wanted to plot against the believers:

﴿A group among the People of the Book say: [Claim to] believe in the morning in what is revealed to the believers, but reject it at the end of the day﴾ that is, enter their religion with ulterior motives, and as a trick, at the beginning of the day, then at the end of the day, exit from it; ﴿perhaps they may turn back [from Islam]﴾ that is, from their religion, and perhaps they may say: If it were true, the people of knowledge and the Book would not have left it. This is what they were aiming at, because they thought highly of themselves and thought that the people thought well of them and would follow them in what they said and did. But Allah insists that His light should be perfected even if the disbelievers hate that.

They said to one another: ﴿And believe no one except one who follows your religion.﴾ That is, do not trust or accept the word of anyone but your co-religionists, and conceal your affairs, because if you tell others who are not followers of your religion, they will acquire knowledge that you have and will become like you or they will argue with you before your Lord, and will testify against you that proof was established against you and true guidance was explained to you, but you did not follow it. To sum up, they thought that by not telling the believers about what they had of knowledge, they