

would be depriving them of knowledge, because in their view no one could have knowledge except them, and the knowledge they had could establish proof against them. But Allah refuted them by saying: ﴿True guidance is the guidance of Allah﴾, because guidance is only from Allah to everyone who is guided. Guidance means knowing the truth or following it; there is no knowledge except that which was brought by the Messengers of Allah and no one is guided except the one whom Allah guides. The People of the Book were only given a little knowledge, and as for guidance, their share of it has come to an end because of their evil intentions and ulterior motives.

But in the case of this Ummah, Allah granted them knowledge and the ability to act upon it in a way that surpassed all others, and in that regard they superseded all others. So they became the leaders of guidance who guided others as commanded by Allah. This is by the favour and grace of Allah and His great kindness to this Ummah. Hence He said: ﴿Say: All bounties are in the Hand of Allah﴾ that is, Allah is the One Who bestows all kinds of bounties upon His slaves ﴿He grants them to whomever He will﴾ among those who take measures to attain that.

﴿And Allah is All-Encompassing﴾ in His bounty, and very kind ﴿All-Knowing﴾ – He knows who deserves this kindness, so He grants it to him, and He knows who does not deserve it so He withholds it from him.

﴿He singles out for His mercy whomever He will﴾ that is, by His mercy in a general sense, which He grants in this world and makes it continue into the hereafter; this is the blessing of Islam and other blessings.

﴿for Allah is the Possessor of abundant grace﴾ that is indescribable and does not even enter the mind of man; rather His grace and kindness reach as far as His knowledge reaches; our Lord, You have encompassed all things with Your mercy and knowledge.