

3:80. Nor would he instruct you to take angels and Prophets for lords. Would he command you to disbelieve after you have submitted to Allah [as Muslims]?

This verse was revealed in response to those of the People of the Book who said to the Prophet (ﷺ), when he instructed them to believe in him and called them to obey him: O Muhammad, do you want us to worship you alongside Allah? He said: «No human being» that is, it is utterly impossible for any human being whom Allah has blessed by sending down the Book to him, and teaching him what he did not know and sending him to humankind, to «ever say to the people: Be my worshippers rather than Allah's». This is the most impossible thing for any of the Prophets ever to do, because this is the most abhorrent of all things and the Prophets are the most perfect of all people. Hence their instructions are befitting to their status, so they would never enjoin anything but the most sublime of actions, and they would be the most outspoken of people in forbidding abhorrent things. Hence Allah (ﷻ) said: «On the contrary [he would say]: Be perfect in knowledge and in deeds, by virtue of your constant teaching of the scripture and of your constant study thereof» that is, rather he would enjoin them to be perfect in knowledge, that is, wise and forbearing scholars who teach the people and educate them in a gradual manner and act upon what they know and teach. Thus they enjoin the pursuit of knowledge, acting upon it and teaching it, which is the basis of success; falling short in any of these matters leads to shortcomings and problems.

«by virtue of your constant teaching» that is, because of what you teach others of that which you know and have studied of the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of His Prophet (ﷺ), by studying which you have attained deep and entrenched knowledge, as you have become perfect in knowledge and in deeds.