

﴿Allah is mocking them, and gives them free rein in transgression so that they wander blindly﴾. This is their punishment for mocking His slaves. By way of mocking them, Allah makes attractive to them the miserable situation in which they are and the evil way they are following, to the point that they think that they are with the believers, because Allah did not give the believers power over them. And He will mock them on the Day of Resurrection by giving them visible light along with the believers, then when the believers begin to walk in their light, the light of the hypocrites will be extinguished and they will be left in confusion after the light has gone. How great will be their despair after their hopes had been raised.

﴿The hypocrites will call out to the believers: Were we not with you? They will say: Yes, but you gave in to confusion and temptation, you kept waiting [for some misfortune to befall us], you doubted...﴾  
(*al-Hadeed* 57: 14)

﴿and gives them free rein﴾ that is, He lets them get carried away  
﴿in transgression﴾ that is, in their evildoing and disbelief  
﴿so that they wander blindly﴾ that is, confused and hesitant. This is how Allah (ﷻ) mocks them.

Then Allah (ﷻ) describes how they really are:



﴿أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ اشْتَرُوا الضَّلَالَةَ بِالْهُدَىٰ فَمَا رَبِحَتْ بِحَدْرَتِهِمْ وَمَا كَانُوا مُهْتَدِينَ﴾

﴿(سورة البقرة: ١٦)﴾

2:16. These are the ones who have traded guidance for error, but their trade brings no profit and they are not guided.

These people, namely the hypocrites who have the characteristics described here, ﴿are the ones who have traded guidance for error﴾ that is, they preferred misguidance, like a buyer who wants a particular