Surah 16. An-Nahl

Asad: VERILY, Abraham was a man who combined within himself all virtues, devoutly obeying God's will, turning away from all that is false, and not being of those who ascribe divinity to aught beside God:

Malik: In fact Ibrahim (Abraham) was a nation in himself, an upright man obedient to Allah, and he was not of the mushrikin.

Pickthall: Lo! Abraham was a nation obedient to Allah, by nature upright, and he was not of the idolaters;

Yusuf Ali: Abraham was indeed a model devoutly obedient to Allah (and) true in faith and he joined not gods with Allah:

Transliteration: Inna ibrheema kana ommatan qanitan lillahi haneefan walam yaku mina almushrikeena

Khattab:

Indeed, Abraham was a model of excellence: devoted to Allah, perfectly upright—not a polytheist—

Author Comments

144 - This is one of the many meanings of the term ummah and, to my mind, the one most appropriate in the above context. - The mention of Abraham at this place contains a subtle allusion to verse {118}, where the Jews are spoken of: for, the latter claim to be "the chosen people" on account of their descent from Abraham, whereas the Qur'an consistently rejects all claims to a special status by virtue of one's descent. Moreover, the Qur'an states in many places that whereas this particular ancestor of the Hebrews - and, by the way, of most of the Arab tribes as well - was a personification of all that is good and upright, so that "God exalted him with His love" (4:125), his Jewish descendants always tended to rebel against God and, thus, "persistently wronged themselves".

145 - For an explanation of this rendering of the term hanTf, see sdrah (2), note [110].

2156 - Ummat: a model, pattern, example for imitation; but the idea that he was an Ummat in himself, standing alone against his world, should not be lost sight of. See next note.
2157 - The Gospel of Unity has been the corner-stone of spiritual Truth for all time. In this respect Abraham is the model and fountain-head for the world of western Asia and its spiritual descendants all over the world. Abraham was among a people (the Chaldeans) who worshipped stars and had forsaken the Gospel of Unity. He was among them but not of them. He suffered persecution, and left his home and his people, and settled in the land of Canaan.

Source : Alim.org-Compare Translation-Surah 16-Ayah 120