

Surah 2. Al-Baqara

Asad: In their hearts is disease, and so God lets their disease increase; and grievous suffering awaits them because of their persistent lying.⁸

Malik: There is a disease of deception in their heart; and Allah lets their disease increase, and they shall have painful punishment for the lies they have told.

Pickthall: In their hearts is a disease, and Allah increaseth their disease. A painful doom is theirs because they lie.

Yusuf Ali: In their hearts is a disease; and Allah has increased their disease and grievous is the penalty they (incur) because they are false (to themselves).³⁴

Transliteration: Fee quloobihim maraḍun faẓaḍahumu Allāhu maraḍan walahum AAathabun aleemun bima kanoo yakthiḃoona

Khattab:

There is sickness in their hearts, and Allah ?only? lets their sickness increase. They will suffer a painful punishment for their lies.

Author Comments

8 - I.e., before God and man - and to themselves. It is generally assumed that the people to whom this passage alludes in the first instance are the hypocrites of Medina who, during the early years after the hijrah, outwardly professed their adherence to Islam while remaining inwardly unconvinced of the truth of Muhammad's message. However, as is always the case with Qur'anic allusions to contemporary or historical events, the above and the following verses have a general, timeless import inasmuch as they refer to all people who are prone to deceive themselves in order to evade a spiritual commitment.

34 - The insincere man who thinks he can get the best of both worlds by compromising with good and evil only increased the disease of his heart, because he is not true to himself. Even the good which comes to him he can pervert to evil. So the rain which fills out the ear of corn or lends fragrance to the rose also lends strength to the thorn or adds strength to the poison of the deadly night-shade.

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