

Surah 2. Al-Baqara

Asad: For when they are told, "Believe in what God has bestowed from on high," they reply, "We believe [only] in what has been bestowed on us" - and they deny the truth of everything else, although it be a truth confirming the one already in their possession. Say: "Why, then, did you slay God's prophets aforetime, if you were [truly] believers?"⁷⁶

Malik: When they are asked to believe in what Allah has revealed, they reply: "we only believe in what Allah has sent to us (Torah), and we reject what is beside that," while it is the truth confirming their own scriptures! Ask them, "if you sincerely believe in what was sent to you, why did you kill the Prophets of Allah who were sent to you from amongst yourselves before?"

Pickthall: And when it is said unto them: Believe in that which Allah hath revealed, they say: We believe in that which was revealed unto us. And they disbelieve in that which cometh after it, though it is the truth confirming that which they possess. Say (unto them, O Muhammad): Why then slew ye the Prophets of Allah aforetime, if ye are (indeed) believers?

Yusuf Ali: When it is said to them: "believe in what Allah hath sent down" they say "We believe in what was sent down to us"; yet they reject all besides even if it be truth confirming what is with them. Say: "Why then have ye slain the prophets of Allah in times gone by if ye did indeed believe?"⁹⁶

Transliteration: Waitha qeela lahum aminoo bima anzala Allahu qaloo numinu bima onzila AAalayna wayakfuroona bima warahu wahuwa alhaqqu musaddiqan lima maAAahum qul falima taqtuloona anbiyaa Allahi min qablu in kuntum mumineena

Khatab:

When it is said to them: "Believe in what Allah has revealed," they reply, "We only believe in what was sent down to us," and they deny what came afterwards, though it is the truth confirming their own Scriptures! Ask them, O Prophet?, "Why then did you kill Allah's prophets before, if you are truly believers?"

Author Comments

76 - A reference to their assertion that they believe in what has been revealed to them - i.e., the Law of Moses, which obviously prohibits the killing not only of prophets but of any innocent human being. See also the concluding sentences of verses {61} and {87}, and the corresponding notes.

96 - Even the race argument is often flimsy and hollow pretext. Did not the Jews reject Prophets of their own race who told them unpleasant truths? And do not other nations do likewise? The real trouble is selfishness, narrowness, a mean dislike of anything which runs counter to habits, customs or inclinations.

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