

Surah 22. Al-Hajj

Asad: BEHOLD, as for those who are bent on denying the truth and bar [others] from the path of God³¹ and from the Inviolable House of Worship which We have set up for all people alike - [both] those who dwell there and those who come from abroad - and all who seek to profane it³² by [deliberate] evildoing: [all] such shall We cause to taste grievous suffering [in the life to come.]³³

Malik: As for those who are unbelievers and debar others from the Way of Allah and from the Masjid-al-Haram, to which We have assigned all mankind with equal rights whether they are natives or foreigners, and whoever intend to deviate from righteousness to wrongdoing in its vicinity, We will make him taste a painful punishment.

Pickthall: Lo! those who disbelieve and bar (men) from the way of Allah and from the Inviolable Place of Worship, which We have appointed for mankind together, the dweller therein and the nomad; whosoever seeketh wrongful partiality therein, him We shall cause to taste a painful doom.

Yusuf Ali: As to those who have rejected (Allah) and would keep back (men) from the Way of Allah and from the Sacred Mosque which We have made (open) to (all) men equal is the dweller there and the visitor from the country and any whose purpose therein is profanity or wrong-doing them will We cause to taste of a most grievous Penalty. ²⁷⁹⁶

Transliteration: Inna allatheena kafaroo wayasuddoona AAan sabeeli Allahi waalmasjidi alharami allathee jaAAalnahu lilnasi sawaan alAAakifu feehi waalbadi waman yurid feehi bilhadin bilhulmin nuthiqhu min AAathabin aleemin

Khattab:

Indeed, those who persist in disbelief and hinder ?others? from the Way of Allah and from the Sacred Mosque¹ —which We have appointed for all people, residents and visitors alike—along with whoever intends to deviate by doing wrong in it,² We will cause them to taste a painful punishment.

Author Comments

31 - This connects with the allusion, in the preceding verse, to "the way that leads to the One unto whom all praise is due".

32 - Lit., "who aim therein at a deviation from the right course (ilhad)" - a term which circumscribes every perversion of religious tenets.

33 - According to Ibn 'Abbas as quoted by Ibn Hisham, this verse was revealed towards the end of the year 6 H., when the pagan Quraysh refused the Prophet and his followers, who had come on pilgrimage from Medina, the right of entry into Mecca, and thus into the sanctuary of the Ka'bah (the "Inviolable House of Worship"). But whether or not this claim is correct - and we have no definite historical evidence in either sense - the purport of the above verse is not restricted to any historical situation but relates to every attempt at preventing believers, be it physically or through intellectual seduction, from going on pilgrimage to this symbolic centre of their faith, or at destroying its sanctity in their eyes.

29459 -

The Sacred Mosque is in Mecca.

29460 -

Generally, intending to do wrong does not necessitate a punishment, unless the person acts upon it. But the Sacred Mosque is unique in that intending to sin in it is sufficient to bring punishment from Allah, unless the person repents.

2796 - All these were enormities of which the Pagan clique in power in Makkah before and during the Hijrat were guilty.

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