

## Surah 4. An-Nisaa

Asad: You will find [that there are] others who would like to be safe from you as well as safe from their own folk, [but who,] whenever they are faced anew with temptation to evil, plunge into it headlong.<sup>112</sup> Hence, if they do not let you be, and do not offer you peace, and do not stay their hands, seize them and slay them whenever you come upon them: for it is against these that We have clearly empowered you [to make war].<sup>113</sup>

Malik: You will find other hypocrites who wish to be safe from you as well as from their own people; but who would plunge into mischief whenever they get an opportunity. Therefore if they do not keep distance from you and neither offer you peace, nor cease their hostilities against you, you may seize them and kill them wherever you find them, against such people We give you absolute authority.

Pickthall: Ye will find others who desire that they should have security from you, and security from their own folk. So often as they are returned to hostility they are plunged therein. If they keep not aloof from you nor offer you peace nor hold their hands, then take them and kill them wherever ye find them. Against such We have given you clear warrant.

Yusuf Ali: Others you will find that wish to gain your confidence as well as that of their people: every time they are sent back to temptation they succumb thereto: if they withdraw not from you nor give you (guarantees) of peace besides restraining their hands seize them and slay them. Wherever ye get them: in their case We have provided you with a clear argument against them.<sup>610</sup>

Transliteration: Satajidoona akhareena yureedoona an yamanookum wayamanoo qawmahum kulla ma ruddoo ila alfitnati orkisoo fee ha fain lam yaAAataziloohum wayulqoo ilaykumu alssalama wayakuffoo aydiyahum fakhuthoohum waooqtuloohum haythu thaqiftumoohum waolaikum jaAAalna lakum AAalayhim sultanan mubeenan

Khatab:

You will find others who wish to be safe from you and their own people. Yet they cannot resist the temptation of disbelief or hostility?. If they do not keep away, offer you peace, or refrain from attacking you, then seize them and kill them wherever you find them. We have given you full permission over such people.

### Author Comments

112 - Lit., "whenever they are returned to temptation (fitnah), they are thrown back into it", or, "thrown headlong into it".

113 - Lit., "that We have given you clear authority (sultan)" - a solemn reiteration of the ordinance which permits war only in self-defence (cf. [2:190](#) ff. as well as the corresponding notes [167] and [168]).

610 - As opposed to the two classes of deserters to whom clemency may be shown, there is a class which is treacherous and dangerous and cannot be left alone. They try to win your confidence, and are all the time in the confidence of the enemy. Every time they get a chance, they succumb to the temptation of double-dealing. The best way of dealing with them is to treat them as open enemies. Keep them not in your midst. If they give you guarantees of peace and do not actually fight against you, well and good. If not, they are deserters actively fighting in the ranks of the enemy. They have openly given you proof, and you can fairly seize and slay them in war as deserters and enemies.

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