

## Surah 46. Al-Ahqaf

Asad: But, then, did those [beings] whom they had chosen to worship as deities beside God, hoping that they would bring them nearer [to Him],<sup>33</sup> help them [in the end]? Nay, they forsook them: for that [alleged divinity] was but an outcome of their self-delusion and all their false imagery.<sup>34</sup>

Malik: - Then Why did not those whom they worshipped besides Allah helped them who they regarded as a means of attaining nearness to Him? But those deities utterly forsake them, because those were nothing but their lies and their false inventions.

Pickthall: Then why did those whom they had chosen for gods as a way of approach (unto Allah) not help them? Nay, but they did fail them utterly. And (all) that was their lie, and what they used to invent.

Yusuf Ali: Why then was no help forthcoming to them from those whom they worshipped as gods besides Allah as a means of access (to Allah)? Nay they left them in the lurch: but that was their Falsehood and their invention.<sup>4808</sup>

Transliteration: Falawla na<sup>s</sup>arahumu allatheena ittakhathoo min dooni Allahi qurbanan alihatan bal dalloo AAanhum wathalika ifkuhum wama kanoo yaftaroonā

Khatab:

Why then did those ?idols? they took as gods—hoping to get closer ?to Him?—not come to their aid? Instead, they failed them. That is ?the result of? their lies and their fabrications.

### Author Comments

33 - This clause gives the meaning of the expression qurbanan, which contains an allusion not merely to false deities but also to the deification of saints, living or dead, who allegedly act as mediators between man and the transcendental Supreme Being.

34 - Lit., "that was their lie and all that they were wont to invent .

4808 - The false things that they worshipped were figments of their imagination. If they had had any existence in fact, it was not of the kind they imagined.

[View Page](#)

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