

## Surah 9. At-Tauba

Asad: DISAVOWAL by God and His Apostle [is herewith announced] unto those who ascribe divinity to aught beside God, [and] with whom you [O believers] have made a covenant.<sup>1</sup>

Malik: A declaration of immunity from Allah and His Rasool is hereby made to those of the mushrikin with whom you have made a treaty:

Pickthall: Freedom from obligation (is proclaimed) from Allah and His messenger toward those of the idolaters with whom ye made a treaty:

Yusuf Ali: A (declaration) of immunity from Allah and His apostle to those of the pagans with whom ye have contracted mutual alliances. <sup>1246</sup>

Transliteration: Baraatun mina Allahi warasoolihi ila allatheena AAahadtum mina almushrikeena

Khatab:

?This is? a discharge from all obligations,<sup>1</sup> by Allah and His Messenger, to the polytheists you ?believers? have entered into treaties with:

### Author Comments

1 - Sc., "which they (the unbelievers) have deliberately broken" (Tabari, Baghawi, Zamakhshari, Razi); see also verse {4}, which relates to such of the unbelievers as remain faithful to their treaty obligations towards the believers. The above passage connects with verses {56-58} of the preceding surah (Al-Anfal). The noun bara'ah (derived from the verb bari'a, "he became free [of something]" or "quit of having any part [in something]") signifies a declaration of being free or quit of any bond, moral or contractual, with the person or persons concerned (see Lane I, 178); with reference to God - or the Apostle speaking in God's name - it is best rendered as "disavowal".

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This sūrah, which is perceived as a continuation of the previous sūrah, begins by openly terminating the peace treaties constantly violated by the pagans. The believers are urged to march forth with the Prophet (?) for the Battle of Tabūk in the summer of 9 A.H./631 C.E. Hypocrites are exposed and their false excuses are refuted. Muslims are reminded of how Allah turned the believers' initial defeat into sweeping victory at the Battle of ?unain and how Allah saved His Messenger (?) from the pagans during his migration to Medina. Allah's acceptance of repentance is echoed throughout the sūrah, hence its title.

1246 - Baraat: usually translated "immunity". I do not think that word correctly represents the Arabic word in this context. I retain it as I cannot think of any single English word as an equivalent. The general sense is explained in the introduction to this Sura. In verse 3 below I use the periphrasis "dissolve treaty obligations," which goes some way to explain the meaning. The Pagans and enemies of Islam frequently made treaties of mutual alliance with the Muslims. The Muslims scrupulously observed their part, but the Pagans violated their part again and again when it suited them. After some years, experience it became imperative to denounce such treaties altogether. This was done in due form, with four months' notice, and a chance was given to those who faithfully observed their pledges, to continue their alliance.

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