

Sūrah al-Baqarah⁶

Bismillāhir-Rahmānir-Raḥeem

1. Alif, Lām, Meem.⁷
2. This is the Book about which there is no doubt, a guidance for those conscious of Allāh⁸ –
3. Who believe in the unseen, establish prayer,⁹ and spend out of what We¹⁰ have provided for them,
4. And who believe in what has been revealed to you, [O Muḥammad], and what was revealed before you, and of the Hereafter they are certain [in faith].
5. Those are upon [right] guidance from their Lord, and it is those who are the successful.
6. Indeed, those who disbelieve¹¹ – it is all the same for them whether you warn them or do not warn them – they will not believe.
7. Allāh has set a seal upon their hearts and upon their hearing, and over their vision is a veil.¹² And for them is a great punishment.

⁶*Al-Baqarah*: The Cow. The name is taken from the story in verses 67-73.

⁷These are among the fourteen opening letters which occur in various combinations at the beginning of twenty-nine *sūrahs* in the Qur'ān. Although there has been much speculation as to their meaning, it was not, in fact, revealed by Allāh to anyone and is known only to Him.

⁸Literally, "those who have *taqwā*," i.e., who have piety, righteousness, fear and love of Allāh, and who take great care to avoid His displeasure.

⁹At its proper times and according to its specified conditions.

¹⁰It is to be noted that the reference of Allāh (*subḥānahu wa ta'ālā*) to Himself as "We" in many Qur'ānic verses is necessarily understood in the Arabic language to denote grandeur and power, as opposed to the more intimate singular form "I" used in specific instances.

¹¹Literally, "cover" or "conceal" (faith or truth).

¹²A covering preventing them from discerning guidance. This condition is a direct result of their arrogance and persistence in sin.

8. And of the people are some who say, "We believe in Allāh and the Last Day," but they are not believers.
9. They [think to] deceive Allāh and those who believe, but they deceive not except themselves and perceive [it] not.
10. In their hearts is disease, so Allāh has increased their disease;¹³ and for them is a painful punishment because they [habitually] used to lie.
11. And when it is said to them, "Do not cause corruption on the earth," they say, "We are but reformers."
12. Unquestionably, it is they who are the corrupters, but they perceive [it] not.
13. And when it is said to them, "Believe as the people have believed," they say, "Should we believe as the foolish have believed?" Unquestionably, it is they who are the foolish, but they know [it] not.
14. And when they meet those who believe, they say, "We believe"; but when they are alone with their evil ones, they say, "Indeed, we are with you; we were only mockers."
15. [But] Allāh mocks them and prolongs them in their transgression [while] they wander blindly.
16. Those are the ones who have purchased error [in exchange] for guidance, so their transaction has brought no profit, nor were they guided.
17. Their example is that of one who kindled a fire, but when it illuminated what was around him, Allāh took away their light and left them in darkness [so] they could not see.
18. Deaf, dumb and blind – so they will not return [to the right path].
19. Or [it is] like a rainstorm from the sky within which is darkness, thunder and lightning. They put their fingers in

¹³The "disease" mentioned here includes doubt, hypocrisy, arrogance and disbelief.