

SURAH AL-KAFIROON

LEVEL:
INTERMEDIATE

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا الْكَافِرُونَ (1) لَا أَعْبُدُ مَا تَعْبُدُونَ (2) وَلَا أَنْتُمْ عَابِدُونَ مَا

أَعْبُدُ (3) وَلَا أَنَا عَابِدٌ مَّا عَبَدْتُمْ (4) وَلَا أَنْتُمْ عَابِدُونَ مَا أَعْبُدُ (5)

لَكُمْ دِينُكُمْ وَلِيَ دِينِ (6)

TRANLITRATION

TRANSLATION

Qul yaa-ayyuhal kaafiroon

Say, "O disbelievers,

Laa a'budu maa t'abudoon

I do not worship what you worship.

Wa laa antum 'aabidoona maa a'bud

Nor are you worshippers of what I worship.

Wa laa ana 'abidum maa 'abattum

Nor will I be a worshipper of what you worship.

Wa laaa antum 'aabidoona maaa a'bud

Nor will you be worshippers of what I worship.

Lakum deenukum wa liya deen

For you is your religion, and for me is my religion."

1- "Say, 'O disbelievers,'"

Allah instructs the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ to address the disbelievers directly. The term “disbelievers” here refers specifically to those who rejected Islam and continued to oppose the message. By using the word “Say,” Allah emphasizes that this message is not merely from Muhammad ﷺ but a command directly from Allah.

2- "I do not worship what you worship,"

Here, the Prophet ﷺ openly declares that he does not worship the idols or false gods that the disbelievers worship. This verse reflects the stance of a true believer who is committed to worshipping Allah alone.

3- "Nor are you worshippers of what I worship,"

This verse emphasizes that the disbelievers do not worship Allah. The statement draws a clear boundary between the two forms of worship: one based on pure monotheism (Tawheed) and the other based on polytheism or disbelief. It shows that their beliefs are incompatible, reinforcing the separateness of each path.

4- "Nor will I be a worshipper of what you worship,"

The repetition here serves to strengthen the message. It emphasizes that the Prophet ﷺ will never adopt the ways of the disbelievers or worship their gods, now or in the future. His devotion to Allah is unwavering and permanent, regardless of the circumstances.

5- "Nor will you be worshippers of what I worship,"

This verse reaffirms that the disbelievers are not following the worship practices of Islam. This line also conveys that the disbelievers have chosen their path, one that is in contrast to the Islamic way of life and worship.

6- "For you is your religion, and for me is my religion."

This final verse summarizes the essence of the Surah. This verse is a declaration that each group is responsible for its own faith, without interference from the other. This line does not suggest approval of disbelief, but it acknowledges the reality of the differences and the freedom of choice in religious matters. Each is entitled to follow what they choose, and there will be no compromise in faith.

THE CAUSE OF REVELATION

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was calling the people of Makkah to Islam, but they were not ready to give up on worshipping idols. So, their leaders came up with an idea and said to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, we have a good offer for you, we will worship your god Allah for one year, and you worship our gods (idols) for one year. Allah sent down surah Al-Kafiroon as a response to their offer.

KEY LESSONS FROM THE SURAH

1- Commitment to Faith:

The Surah teaches the importance of remaining steadfast in one's faith without yielding to external pressures.

2- Respect for Differences:

It acknowledges religious differences and promotes peaceful coexistence by allowing others to follow their beliefs while Muslims adhere to theirs.

3- Rejecting Compromise on Core Beliefs:

The Surah emphasizes that essential beliefs, such as the worship of Allah, are non-negotiable.

4- Clear Identity in Worship:

Islam's distinct and clear identity is maintained, refusing to mix with other forms of worship.

ACTIVITIES

CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER

1- What is the main message of Surah Al-Kafiroon?

- a) To encourage compromise in beliefs
- b) To declare the distinct difference between belief in Allah and disbelief
- c) To praise idol worship
- d) To ask the disbelievers to join Islam temporarily

2- In Surah Al-Kafiroon, who is the Prophet (ﷺ) addressing?

- a) The hypocrites
- b) The believers
- c) The disbelievers
- d) The angels

TRUE OR FALSE

1- Surah Al-Kafiroon promotes merging Islamic beliefs with idol worship.

2- This Surah emphasizes the freedom of each group to follow their own religion.

3- In Surah Al-Kafiroon, Allah tells the Prophet (ﷺ) to say that he will never worship what the disbelievers worship.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING

Why does the Surah emphasize that the Prophet (ﷺ) will not worship what the disbelievers worship?

2- What lesson can Muslims learn from the final verse, "For you is your religion, and for me is my religion"?

3- How does Surah Al-Kafiroon reinforce the Islamic principle of monotheism (Tawheed)?