

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Surah Aal-e-'Imran

لَيْسُوا سَوَاءً ۗ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ أُمَّةٌ قَائِمَةٌ يَتْلُونَ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ آنَاءَ اللَّيْلِ وَهُمْ يَسْجُدُونَ ﴿١١٣﴾

**113. Not all of them are alike: Of the People of the Book are a portion that stand (For the right): They rehearse the Signs of Allah all night long, and they prostrate themselves in adoration.**

In Islam we respect sincere faith and true righteousness in whatever form they appear. This verse, according to Commentators, refers to those People of the Book who eventually embraced Islam. (R).

*The Noble Quran/Yusuf Ali*

Muhammad bin Ishaq and others, including Al-`Awfi who reported it from Ibn `Abbas, said; "These Ayat were revealed about the clergy of the People of the Scriptures who embraced the faith. For instance, there is `Abdullah bin Salam, Asad bin `Ubayd, Tha`labah bin Sa`yah, Usayd bin Sa`yah, and so forth. This Ayah means that those among the People of the Book whom Allah rebuked earlier are not at all the same as those among them who embraced Islam. Therefore, these two types of people are not equal, and indeed, there are believers and also criminals among the People of the Book.

*Tafsir Ibn Kathir*

“Ibn Mas`ūd said that it means that the People of the Book and the community of Muḥammad ﷺ are not the same. It is said that it means: the believers and unbelievers of the People of the Book are not the same. Abū Khaythamah Zuhayr ibn Ḥarb related from Hāshim ibn al-Qāsim from Shaybān from `Āṣim from Zirr that Ibn Mas`ūd said, ‘One night the Messenger of Allah ﷺ was late for the ‘Ishā’ prayer and then he came out into the mosque while the people were waiting for the prayer. He said, “There is no one among the people of the religions who remembers Allah Almighty at this hour except you.” Then this āyah was revealed.’ Ibn Wahb related the like of it.

Ibn `Abbās said that: “There is a community among the People of the Book who are upright. They recite Allah’s Signs throughout the night, and they prostrate” refers to those who believed with the Prophet ﷺ. Ibn Ishāq reported from Ibn `Abbās that when `Abdullāh ibn Salām, Tha`labah ibn Sa`yah, Usayd ibn Sa`yah, Usayd ibn `Ubayd and others of the Jews became Muslim and affirmed and desired Islam and were firm in it, the rabbis of the Jews and the people of disbelief said, ‘Only the worst of us believe in Muḥammad and follow him. If they had been among the best of us, they would not have left the religion of their fathers for another.’ Then Allah revealed this... It is said that there is some elision and it means: ‘There is a community among the People of the Book who are upright and another which is not upright’... The word ānā ‘throughout’ means its hours. Its singular is inan, anan or inyin.

*Tafsir Qurtubi*

