

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

IN THE QUR'AN AND HADITH

TAKFIR

The action or practice of declaring that a fellow Muslim is guilty of apostasy and therefore no longer a Muslim.

CONTRADICTS QURANIC TEACHINGS

LA IKRAH FI AL-DIN

A basic tenant of Islam enshrined in the Qur'an, *la ikarah fi al-din* is freedom from coercion of any kind and from any institution.

IN THE QUR'AN

2:256

There is no compulsion in religion. The Right Way stands clearly distinguished from the wrong.

109:2-6

I do not worship what you worship. Nor do you worship what I worship. Nor do I serve what you serve. Nor do you serve what I serve. You have your way, and I have my way.

64:12

Pay heed, then, unto God and pay heed unto the Apostle; and if you turn away, [know that] Our Apostle's only duty is a clear delivery of this message.

18:29

And say, 'The truth is from your Lord, so whoever wills - let him believe; and whoever wills - let him disbelieve.'

10:99

Had your Lord so willed, all those who are on the earth would have believed. Will you, then, force people into believing?

IN HADITH

A Hadith, narrated by Al-Bukhari tells of a post battle conversation that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) had with one of his companions. As it is narrated, the companion had caught someone from the opposing army during the battle and the captive quickly converted to Islam. Suspecting the man's conversion to be done out of fear, the companion killed him. Upon learning what his companion had done, the Prophet harshly reprimanded him, asking his companion if he had cut open the man's heart so as to ascertain whether his heart had uttered it or not. Above all, this Hadith reminds that outward and inward actions are no basis for one person to judge another person and that only God knows what is truly in a person's heart.

After Hijra, a man came to Medina and converted to Islam while there. Shortly after his conversion, he went to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and informed him that he wanted to return to his former religion. The Prophet accepted this, letting him go free, without condemnation, violence, or penalty.

BUKHARI (SAHIH, 9, 92, HADITH 424)

If a Muslim accuses a fellow Muslim of unbelief, the accuser himself becomes an unbeliever should the accusation prove untrue.

PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH)