

Lesson 16a

Surah Al-Kafiroon

After completing this lesson (a & b), you will learn **194 new** words, which occur **38,531** times in the Qur'an.



When the polytheists of Makkah saw that more and more people were leaving their religion and reverting to Islam, they came up with an offer of compromise. They told the Prophet ﷺ that they would worship Allah alone for one year but in the following year, the Prophet ﷺ had to worship their gods too along with Allah. In response, Allah revealed this Surah.

The Surah contains a very important message. It tells us that there can be no compromise in the matters of faith.

- The Prophet ﷺ used to recite this Surah and Surah Al-Ikhlaas in the Sunnah Salahs of Fajr and Maghrib. [Musnad Ahmad, Tirmidhi, Nasai, and Ibn Majah].
- The Prophet ﷺ advised some of his companions to recite it before sleep: Recite Surah Al-Kafiroon for it is a clearance from Shirk (associating partners with Allah).” [Abu Dawood].

﴿أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ﴾ ﴿بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ﴾

لَا
﴿1﴾ الْكَافِرُونَ

يَا أَيُّهَا

قُلْ

Disbelievers!	O	Say:
كَافِرٍ، كَافِرُونَ، كَافِرِينَ	يَا أَيُّهَا، يَا أَيُّهَا: O These occur in the Qur'an 511 times.	

- The word يَا occurs in the Qur'an extensively. For example يَا قَوْمِ (O people!).
- Kafir is the one who receives the message of Islam, understands it, and then rejects it. The general address for Muslims and non-Muslims in the Qur'an is يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ (O Mankind!).
- Here, Allah is very angry at those who came to the Prophet ﷺ to invite him to do Shirk. They had clearly rejected Islam and that's why they are called Kafirs.
- The word Kafir itself is not degrading. Allah has asked Muslims to do Kufr with Taghoot (Shaitaan). In that sense, every Muslim has to be a Kafir of Taghoot.
- What was the real problem with the disbelievers? They rejected the truth even after recognizing it because of their desires, ego, wealth, status, and traditions.
- **Du'aa:** O Allah! Let me not reject the truth because of my ego, desires, or status.
- **Evaluate:** How many times did I reject the truth or didn't accept it instantly?
- **Plan** to repent. Plan to realize the greatness of Allah and to train oneself to follow the truth.
- **Propagate:** Create awareness among people regarding the dangerous consequences of following one's ego and traditions.

لَا
﴿2﴾ تَعْبُدُونَ

مَا

لَا أَعْبُدُ

you worship;	What	I do not worship
تَفْعَلُونَ : you all do		أَعُوذُ : I take refuge أَشْهَدُ : I bear witness

Ibadah has three meanings: (1) worship; (2) obedience; and (3) slavery. There is no compromise in any of these three. All these are for Allah alone.

- Today, some non-Muslims are trying to defame Islam. In this environment, you have to follow Islam without any inferiority complex. You have to be firm in your belief and thank Allah for Islam and keep spreading the true message of Islam in the best way because many people do not know the truth.

وَلَا أَنْتُمْ عِبْدُونَ مَا أَعْبُدُ 3

I worship;	(of) what	Worshippers	and nor are you		
أَشْهَدُ: I bear witness		عَابِدٌ ، عَابِدُونَ ⁺ ، عَابِدِينَ ⁺	أَنْتُمْ	لَا	و
أَعُوذُ: I take refuge			you	not	and

- A worship mixed with Shirk is not a worship. Such people are not true worshippers of Allah.
- All religions are not equal. Allah had sent the message to every nation but they lost the original or left it. We should try to present Islam in the best and wise way.

وَلَا أَنَا عَابِدٌ مَا عَبَدْتُمْ 4

you worshipped;	(of) what	(be) a worshipper	and nor (will) I		
فَعَلْتُمْ: you all did		فَاعِلٌ: doer	أَنَا	لَا	و
عَبَدْتُمْ: you all worshipped		عَابِدٌ: worshipper	I	not	And

This appears to be a repetition but it is not. There are different messages in the two verses.

- I don't worship your idols now (لَا أَعْبُدُ) and I will not worship them in future (وَلَا أَنَا عَابِدٌ).
- I don't worship your present idols (مَا تَعْبُدُونَ) and I will not worship your past idols (مَا عَبَدْتُمْ).
- There is no compromise in the matter of faith. It is not because of arrogance but because we follow the truth and we are afraid of Allah's wrath.

وَلَا أَنْتُمْ عِبْدُونَ مَا أَعْبُدُ 5

I worship.	(of) what	Worshippers	and nor are you
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- This again appears to be a repetition but it is in a different context. The message here is: Because of your insistence on Shirk, it is not expected that you will worship Allah alone.

لَكُمْ دِينُكُمْ وَلِيَ دِينِ 6

my religion.	and to me	your religion	To you (be)
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- This does not mean that all religions are equal or same. This also does not mean that we should stop propagating the message of Islam. Did Prophet Muhammad ﷺ stop propagating Islam after this revelation? Never! This statement is in response to their offer of compromise.
- The disbelievers came to the Prophet ﷺ as a team. We should also help each other and work in an organized way to present Islam to the people in the best way so that they are saved from hellfire and get the best of this world and the Hereafter.