

(Note: Wherever the word “you” or “your” is singular and refers to one human being, it is printed with an italic *y*, as in: *you*. Wherever such a word refers to God, the letter *y* is printed in capital, as in: *You*.)

For Fast 6 – August 27

Chapter 5

8 O *you* who believe, be upright for Allah, bearers of witness with justice; and do not let hatred of a people incite you not to act equitably. Be just; that is nearer to observance of duty. And keep your duty to Allah. Surely Allah is Aware of what you do.

Note:

This verse teaches Muslims a most high principle, namely, that justice and equity must be observed towards everyone, including those whom they may hate for some reason. To do so is made a part of *taqwa*. In the light of this, please read the following verses which occur a little later.

12 And certainly Allah made a covenant with the Children of Israel, and We raised up among them twelve chieftains. And Allah said: Surely I am with you. If you keep up prayer and give the due charity and believe in My messengers and assist them and offer to Allah a goodly gift, I will certainly cover your evil deeds, and make you enter Gardens in which rivers flow. But whoever among you disbelieves after that, he indeed strays from the right way.

13 But on account of their breaking their covenant We cursed them and hardened their hearts. They alter words from their places and neglect a portion of what they were reminded of. And you will always discover treachery in them excepting a few of them — so pardon them and forgive. Surely Allah loves those who do good (to others).

Notes:

Today Islam is misrepresented as an anti-Jewish religion (for political reasons). Even many Muslims think so. Here in verse 12 the covenant of Allah with the Israelites is clearly laid out. It is the same covenant as with any other people, including Muslims: If you do good, God will help you and make you successful.

Verse 13 tells us that the Israelites were punished for breaking that covenant, as any people would be, including Muslims. Jews are not singled out for Divine punishment.

This verse adds that even if most of them are treacherous towards you, you must pardon and forgive. This is, in fact, being **more** than just and equitable towards those whom you have cause to hate.

It may be noted that the Old Testament contains the most severe condemnation of the violation of the covenant by the Israelites by their own prophets such as David, Isaiah, Jeremiah and others.