

Q & A

﴿وَإِذْ أَخَذْنَا مِيثَاقَ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ لَا تَعْبُدُونَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ...﴾

﴿وَإِذْ أَخَذْنَا مِيثَاقَكُمْ لَا تَسْفِكُونَ دِمَاءَكُمْ...﴾

(البقرة: 83-84)

Question

I am curious about the usage of *marfuu*" vs *majzuum* forms of the verbs in the passage regarding the covenant with Bani Israa'iil (*suurah al-Baqarah, Aayaat 83-84*).

Within the same list of commands, the '*amr* forms are normal (*mabniyy*), but the *nahy* verbs are all in *marfuu*" form as opposed to *majzuum*.

Can you please clarify the reason for this?

Answer

Our Shaykh Dr. V. Abdur Rahim **حَفِظَهُ اللهُ** replied (quote):

Dear Br Yazen

السلام عليكم

The expression:

﴿أَخَذْنَا مِيثَاقَ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ...﴾ (We made a covenant with Banii Israa'iiil)

has the force of an oath (قَسَم).

And the statement:

﴿لَا تَعْبُدُونَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ﴾

is جَوَابُ الْقَسَم , and as it is negative, it is not emphasized.

As a جَوَابُ الْقَسَم , it has the force of a command like saying,

'You should not worship anyone other than Allaah.'

The statement:

﴿لَا تَسْفِكُونَ دِمَاءَكُمْ...﴾

is **جَوَابُ الْقَسَمِ** with the force of a command like saying:

‘You should not shed the blood of your people.’

I hope this has helped you.

والسلام

abdur rahim