

Q & A

مِيثَاقٌ

Question

Assalaamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi dear shaykh,

May Allah reward you for your beneficial knowledge and efforts and may He give you and all of us jennatul firdaws.

I have a question regarding the word **المِيثَاقُ**.

Is *miithaaq* derived from **وَتَق** or from form 3 **وَأْتَقَ**, and is it a sort of *maSdar* or something else.

And could you please clarify what the difference is between **المِيثَاقُ** and **عَهْدٌ** like in the *aayah* of *suurah ar-Ra''d* 13:20

﴿الَّذِينَ يُوفُونَ بِعَهْدِ اللَّهِ وَلَا يَنْقُضُونَ الْمِيثَاقَ﴾

Answer

The Shaykh حفظه الله replied (quote):

Dear Br Abu Safiyyah

وعليكم السلام ورحمة الله وبركاته

Here is a brief reply to your query:

The verb وَتَقَ بِفُلَانٍ يَتَّقُ ثِقَةً (i-i) means

to trust someone, to have confidence in someone.

We say:

أَنَا وَاثِقٌ meaning, I am sure.

بِلَالٌ مَوْثُوقٌ بِهِ means, Bilaal is trustworthy.

وَتُقُّ يُوْتِقُ وَثَاقَةً (u-u) means, to be firm, to be solid.

أَوْثَقَهُ يُوثِقُ فِي الْوَتَاقِ (iv) means, to tie, to fasten.

مِثَاقٌ is on the pattern of

مِفْعَالٌ

It is originally

مِوْتَاقٌ

Being preceded by *kasrah*,

مِوْتَاقٌ

the *waaw* changes to *yaa*

مِیْتَاقٌ

as in

مِیْتَاقٌ

for the original.

مِوْتَاقٌ

The word **مِيثَاقٌ** - which means **covenant, agreement, contract, treaty, pact, charter** – is a sort of **اسْمُ الْآلَةِ** because it is an instrument that binds the contracting parties together.

It also has the meaning of an infinitive as in the following *aayah*:

﴿الَّذِينَ يَنْقُضُونَ عَهْدَ اللَّهِ مِنْ بَعْدِ مِيثَاقِهِ﴾

Those who break the covenant of Allaah after ratifying it... (Q2:27)

The verb **عَهَدَ يَعْهَدُ** (i-a) means **to make a covenant**, and **عَهْدٌ** means **a covenant**.

In the *aayah* Q13:20:

﴿الَّذِينَ يُوفُونَ بِعَهْدِ اللَّهِ وَلَا يَنْقُضُونَ الْمِيثَاقَ﴾

by **عَهْدِ اللَّهِ** is meant the covenant that Allaah made with man and which is referred to in Q36:60-61:

﴿أَلَمْ أَعْهَدْ إِلَيْكُمْ يَا بَنِي آدَمَ أَنْ لَا تَعْبُدُوا الشَّيْطَانَ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُبِينٌ. وَأَنْ اعْبُدُونِي هَذَا صِرَاطٌ مُسْتَقِيمٌ﴾

Did I not make a covenant with you, O Children of Adam, that you should not serve Satan - surely he is a manifest enemy to you – and that you should serve Me? This is a straight path.

It may also include all of Allaah's commandments.

And by **مِيثَاق** is meant any contract or treaty that people make with others. And all treaties have to be kept and honoured.

Allaah's covenant has been mentioned first, because that is the basis for honouring all mutual treaties.

Commentators have other views also, but this, in my view, is the best.

In

﴿الَّذِينَ يُوفُونَ بِعَهْدِ اللَّهِ وَلَا يَنْقُضُونَ الْمِيثَاقَ﴾,

the relative pronoun **الَّذِينَ** is a *na"t* of **أُولُو** in the previous *aayah*:

﴿إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ﴾

But it is only men of understanding who pay heed.

The verbal sentence **يُوفُونَ** is *Silat al-mawSuul* which has no *i"raabic* status.

I hope this has helped to understand the *aayah*.

Wassalaam,
abdur rahim