

# القرآن الكريم

﴿الَّذِينَ يُوفُونَ بِعَهْدِ اللَّهِ وَلَا يَنْقُضُونَ الْمِيثَاقَ﴾



(الرعد: ٢٠)

## Question

Dear Shaykh,

May Allāh reward you for your beneficial knowledge and efforts and may He give you and all of us *Jannat al-firdaws*.

a) Is the word **المِيثَاقُ** derived from **وَتَقَ** or **وَأْتَقَ** (*bāb 3*)?

b) Is it a *maṣḍar*?

c) Please clarify the difference between **المِيثَاقُ** and **عَهْدٌ** as occurs in:

﴿الَّذِينَ يُوفُونَ بِعَهْدِ اللَّهِ وَلَا يَنْقُضُونَ الْمِيثَاقَ﴾ (الرعد: ٢٠)

Faḍīlat al-Shaykh Dr. V. Abdur Rahim (حفظه الله) replies:



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, *Bilāl is trustworthy.*

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

أَوْتَقَهُ يُوتِقُ فِي الْوَتَاقِ (iv) means, *to tie, to fasten.*

مِثَاقٌ is on the pattern of: مَفْعَالٌ

It is originally: مَوْثَاقٌ

Being preceded by *kasrah* : مَوْثَاقٌ

the *wāw* changes to *yā'*: مِثَاقٌ :

as in: مِيزَانٌ

for the original: مِوزَانٌ .

\* \* \*

The word مِثَاقٌ - which means

*covenant, agreement, contract, treaty, pact, charter*

– is a sort of اسمُ الآلَةِ because it is an instrument that binds the contracting parties together.

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

﴿الَّذِينَ يَتَّقُونَ اللَّهَ مِنْ بَعْدِ مِيثَاقِهِ﴾

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

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

In the *āyah* Q13:20:

﴿الَّذِينَ يُوفُونَ بِعَهْدِ اللَّهِ وَلَا يَنْقُضُونَ الْمِيثَاقَ﴾

by ﴿عَهْدِ اللَّهِ﴾ is meant the covenant that Allāh 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 Allāh's commandments.

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

Allāh'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 *naʿt* of ﴿أُولَئِكَ﴾ in the previous *āyah*.

﴿إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ﴾

But it is only men of understanding who pay heed.

The verbal sentence ﴿يُوفُونَ﴾ is *ṣilat al-mawṣūl* which has no *iʿrābīc* status.

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

والسلام,

abdur rahim