

## Surah 2. Al-Baqara

Asad: and bids you only to do evil, and to commit deeds of abomination, and to attribute unto God something of which you have no knowledge. <sup>137</sup>

Malik: He enjoins you to commit evil and indecency and to say certain things against Allah about which you have no knowledge.

Mustafa Khattab:

He only incites you to commit evil and indecency, and to claim against Allah what you do not know.

Pickthall: He enjoineth upon you only the evil and the foul, and that ye should tell concerning Allah that which ye know not.

Yusuf Ali: For he commands you what is evil and shameful and that ye should say of Allah that of which ye have no knowledge.

Transliteration: Innama<sub>u</sub> yamurukum bi<sub>l</sub>iss<sub>oo</sub>i wa<sub>l</sub>fah<sub>sh</sub>ai waan taqooloo AAala<sub>l</sub> Allahi ma<sub>l</sub> la<sub>l</sub> taAAalamoona

### Author Comments

137 - This refers to an arbitrary attribution to God of commandments or prohibitions in excess of what has been clearly ordained by Him (Zamakhshari). Some of the commentators (e.g., Muhammad 'Abduh in Manar II, 89 f.) include within this expression the innumerable supposedly "legal" injunctions which, without being clearly warranted by the wording of the Qur'an or an authentic Tradition, have been obtained by individual Muslim scholars through subjective methods of deduction and then put forward as "God's ordinances". The connection between this passage and the preceding ones is obvious. In verses {165-167} the Qur'an speaks of those "who choose to believe in beings that supposedly rival God": and this implies also a false attribution, to those beings, of a right to issue quasi-religious ordinances of their own, as well as an attribution of religious validity to customs sanctioned by nothing but ancient usage (see next verse).

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