

OBEYING THE MESSENGER IS CONDITIONED

The Quran emphasizes that obedience is absolute when the source is God, while the personal opinion of the messenger may be detrimental to him and/or to those who follow his personal opinions:

﴿مَا أَصَابَكَ مِنْ حَسَنَةٍ فَمِنَ اللَّهِ وَمَا أَصَابَكَ مِنْ سَيِّئَةٍ فَمِنَ نَفْسِكَ وَأَرْسَلْنَاكَ لِلنَّاسِ رَسُولًا وَكَفَى بِاللَّهِ شَهِيدًا ﴿٧٩﴾ مَنْ يُطِيعِ الرَّسُولَ فَقَدْ أَطَاعَ اللَّهَ وَمَنْ تَوَلَّى فَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ عَلَيْهِ حَفِظًا ﴿٨٠﴾﴾

"Anything good that happens to you (O Muhammad) is from God. And anything bad that happens to you is from you. We have sent you as a messenger to the people, and God suffices as a witness. Whoever obeys the messenger is obeying God. As for those who turn away, we did not send you as their guardian." (4: 79-80)

Thus, the personal opinion of Muhammad may be bad, and may cause bad things to happen. On the other hand, Muhammad the messenger utters THE WORDS OF GOD, i. e., the Quran, and must be obeyed absolutely. For whoever obeys the messenger is obeying God, and we are to obey the commandments of God, not the commandments of men.