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## 6. The Attribution of Forgetfulness to Allah

Abu Ja'far cites: "Forgetfulness, like beguiling, can only be applied to Allah in the sense that with this He will requite the evil-doers."

Abu 'Abdillah adds that the true interpretation is not what has been advanced, because forgetfulness literally signifies both abandonment and postponement. Allah, the Exalted, says:

Whatever verse We abrogate or cause to be forgotten, We bring one better than it or the like of it [2: 106].

Now, here, what We abrogate means, 'We leave it in place or suspend it'. Hence, the Exalted, means by 'They forget Allah', that 'they departed from their obedience to Allah', and He meant by 'so He forgot them', that, 'He withdraws His mercy from them'. And He means by:

## So He makes them forget their own souls [59:19]

that 'He made them uneasy through His withdrawal, and that He obliged them to disregard their own good and not to care for their own interest'. This is a tenable interpretation of the verse, though the other one, advanced by Abu Ja'far, is not refuted, and Allah, the Exalted, is the granter of success.

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