CAN MUSLIMS LIE FOR THE SAKE OF ISLAM?

The Rule, the Three Doors, and the One Shield

The Ruling in Short

1. No. Lying (kadhib) is haram, a major sin, and the first sign of the hypocrite. No source permits lying to non-Muslims, or deceiving anyone to spread Islam.
2. Three doors only. The Prophet ﷺ allowed what people call lying in war stratagem, in reconciling two people, and in kind speech between spouses (Sahih Muslim 2605a) — and scholars prefer true, indirect words even there.
3. One shield. Taqiyya is concealing your faith under coercion, when life or safety faces a real threat and your heart stays firm (Quran 3:28; 16:106). It is a concession for the persecuted, not a tool for dawah.

Quran 3:28 — Surah Aal-e-Imran

لَّا يَتَّخِذِ ٱلْمُؤْمِنُونَ ٱلْكَٰفِرِينَ أَوْلِيَآءَ مِن دُونِ ٱلْمُؤْمِنِينَ ۖ وَمَن يَفْعَلْ ذَٰلِكَ فَلَيْسَ مِنَ ٱللَّهِ فِى شَىْءٍ إِلَّآ أَن تَتَّقُوا۟ مِنْهُمْ تُقَىٰةً ۗ وَيُحَذِّرُكُمُ ٱللَّهُ نَفْسَهُۥ ۗ وَإِلَى ٱللَّهِ ٱلْمَصِيرُ

La yattakhidhi al-mu'minuna al-kafirina awliya'a min duni al-mu'minin; wa man yaf'al dhalika fa-laysa mina Allahi fi shay'in illa an tattaqu minhum tuqah; wa yuhadhdhirukumu Allahu nafsah; wa ila Allahi al-masir.

“Believers should not take disbelievers as guardians instead of the believers—and whoever does so will have nothing to hope for from Allah—unless it is a precaution against their tyranny. And Allah warns you about Himself. And to Allah is the final return.”

— Khattab, The Clear Quran

مؤمنوں کو چاہئے کہ مؤمنوں کے سوا کافروں کو دوست نہ بنائیں اور جو ایسا کرے گا اس سے خدا کا کچھ (عہد) نہیں ہاں اگر اس طریق سے تم ان (کے شر) سے بچاؤ کی صورت پیدا کرو (تو مضائقہ نہیں) اور خدا تم کو اپنے (غضب) سے ڈراتا ہے اور خدا ہی کی طرف (تم کو) لوٹ کر جانا ہے

Urdu — Jalandhari

Quran 16:106 — Surah An-Nahl

مَن كَفَرَ بِٱللَّهِ مِنۢ بَعْدِ إِيمَٰنِهِۦٓ إِلَّا مَنْ أُكْرِهَ وَقَلْبُهُۥ مُطْمَئِنٌّۢ بِٱلْإِيمَٰنِ وَلَٰكِن
مَّن شَرَحَ بِٱلْكُفْرِ صَدْرًا فَعَلَيْهِمْ غَضَبٌ مِّنَ ٱللَّهِ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ

Man kafara bi-Allahi min ba'di imanihi illa man ukriha wa qalbuhu mutma'innun bi-al-imani wa lakin man sharaha bi-al-kufri sadran fa-'alayhim ghadabun mina Allahi wa lahum 'adhabun 'azim.

"Whoever disbelieves in Allah after their belief—not those who are forced while their hearts are firm in faith, but those who embrace disbelief wholeheartedly—they will be condemned by Allah and suffer a tremendous punishment."

— Khattab, The Clear Quran

جو شخص ایمان لانے کے بعد خدا کے ساتھ کفر کرے وہ نہیں جو (کفر پر زبردستی) مجبور کیا جائے اور اس کا دل ایمان کے ساتھ مطمئن ہو۔ بلکہ وہ جو (دل سے اور) دل کھول کر کفر کرے۔ تو ایسوں پر اللہ کا غضب ہے۔ اور ان کو بڑا سخت عذاب ہو گا

Urdu — Jalandhari

Word by Word: The Phrases the Ruling Turns On

Arabic	Transliteration	What it means
تُقَىٰةً	tuqah	A precaution, a guarding of yourself against harm (3:28)
أَوْلِيَاءَ	awliya	Guardians, protectors, allies taken over others (3:28)
أُكْرِهَ	ukriha	He is forced, compelled against his will (16:106)
قَلْبُهُ مُطْمَئِنٌّ بِٱلْإِيمَانِ	qalbuhu mutma'innun bi-al-iman	His heart is at rest, firm, with faith (16:106)
شَرَحَ بِٱلْكُفْرِ صَدْرًا	sharaha bi-al-kufri sadran	He opens his chest to disbelief willingly (16:106)

The Three Doors

The Three Doors	What is excused	What is never excused
War	Stratagem against an enemy who is fighting you (khid'ah)	Treachery, breaking a treaty or a promise (khiyanah)
Reconciliation	Good words that bring two estranged people back together	Lies that take a right, spread a dispute, or harm a third person
Spouses	Kind, softening words that protect affection at home	Lies about money, rights, or anything that cheats a spouse

Taqiyya, Kitman and Tawriya: What Is the Difference?

Term	What it is	Its limit
Taqiyya	Concealing faith, or saying what you are forced to say, under coercion	Real danger only; the heart stays firm; a concession, not a duty
Kitman	Concealment by silence; not volunteering what is yours to withhold	Never concealing testimony or a right owed to someone else
Tawriya	True words carrying a second sense that you intend	The words must stay true in the sense intended; no cheating anyone of a right
Ma'areed	Indirect speech, the wider habit behind tawriya	Al-Bukhari's chapter title calls it "a safe way to avoid a lie" (6209)
Khid'ah	Battlefield stratagem in war	Never treachery (khiyanah) or a broken covenant

Before You Speak — The Decision Card

BEFORE YOU SPEAK

1. Am I inside one of the Three Doors — war stratagem, reconciling two people, or kind words to my spouse?
2. Is a life, a limb, or someone's safety under a real threat?
3. Can true, indirect words do the job instead of a falsehood?

If all three answers are no, the answer is the truth — or silence.

۱. کیا میں تین دروازوں میں سے کسی ایک کے اندر ہوں — جنگی چال، دو لوگوں میں صلح، یا اپنے شریکِ حیات سے نرمی کی بات؟

2. کیا کسی کی جان، عضو یا سلامتی کو حقیقی خطرہ ہے؟

3. کیا جھوٹ کے بجائے سچی، گول مول بات سے کام چل سکتا ہے؟

اگر تینوں جوابات نفی میں ہیں تو جواب سچ ہے — یا خاموشی۔

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