

## Magic, Sorcery, Witchcraft, Charms and Amulets are haram in Islam

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu

Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem

Today's topic is "Magic, Sorcery, Witchcraft, Charms and Amulets are haram in Islam".

وَاتَّبَعُوا مَا تَتْلُو الشَّيَاطِينُ عَلَىٰ مُلْكِ سُلَيْمَانَ وَمَا كَفَرَ سُلَيْمَانُ وَلَكِنَّ الشَّيَاطِينَ  
كَفَرُوا يُعَلِّمُونَ النَّاسَ السِّحْرَ وَمَا أُنزِلَ عَلَى الْمَلَكَيْنِ بِبَابِلَ هَارُوتَ وَمَارُوتَ وَمَا  
يُعَلِّمَانِ مِنْ أَحَدٍ حَتَّى يَقُولَا إِنَّمَا نَحْنُ فِتْنَةٌ فَلَا تَكْفُرْ فَيَتَعَلَّمُونَ مِنْهُمَا مَا يُفَرِّقُونَ  
بِهِ بَيْنَ الْمَرْءِ وَزَوْجِهِ وَمَا هُمْ بِضَارِّينَ بِهِ مِنْ أَحَدٍ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَيَتَعَلَّمُونَ مَا  
يَضُرُّهُمْ وَلَا يَنْفَعُهُمْ وَلَقَدْ عَلِمُوا لَمَنِ اشْتَرَاهُ مَا لَهُ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنْ خَلَقٍ وَلَبِئْسَ  
مَا شَرَوْا بِهِ أَنفُسَهُمْ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ (102)

And they followed [instead] what the devils had recited during the reign of Solomon. It was not Solomon who disbelieved, but the devils disbelieved, teaching people magic and that which was revealed to the two angels at Babylon, Harut and Marut. But the two angels do not teach anyone unless they say, "We are a trial, so do not disbelieve [by practicing magic]." And [yet] they learn

from them that by which they cause separation between a man and his wife. But they do not harm anyone through it except by permission of Allah. And the people learn what harms them and does not benefit them. But the Children of Israel certainly knew that whoever purchased the magic would not have in the Hereafter any share. And wretched is that for which they sold themselves, if they only knew.

وَاتَّبَعُوا مَا تَتْلُو الشَّيَاطِينُ عَلَىٰ مُلْكِ سُلَيْمَانَ

“and then followed what the evil ones falsely attributed to the kingdom of Solomon” Explanation from Tafhimul Quran

“Evil ones” embraces all evil beings, whether they belong to human species or to the jinn. Here the reference seems to be to both.

When moral and material decline set in among the Israelites they were overwhelmed with slavery and ignorance; with misery and poverty, and with humiliation and with decadence. They were thus drained of all high ambitions and increasingly turned to magic, sorcery, witchcraft, charms and amulets. They began to search for facile means such as spells that would spare them hard work and yet ensure the achievement of their desired ends.

At this stage they were misled by evil ones, who made them believe that the mighty kingdom and astonishing Power of Solomon were merely due to occult sciences and magical formulae and that by revealing those day would pass on to them the keys to success .

People were so engrozed in such practices that they ignored both the book of Allah and anyone who summoned them to truth and righteousness.

يَقُولَا إِنَّمَا نَحْنُ فِتْنَةٌ فَلَا تَكْفُرْ

“We (Angels Harut and Marut) are merely a means of testing people; so do not engage in unbelief.”

Explanation from Tafhimul Quran

There are various opinions of interpretation of this Verse. My own conclusion is that at the time when the whole Israelite was chained in slavery and captivity in Babylonia Allah sent two angels in human form in order to test the Jews. In the same way as angels were sent to the people of Lot in the form of handsome youths (11:69) they were presumably sent to Israel in the form of divines who could work magic and sorcery.

These angels at once began working their magical wonders but they warned the people that their presence among them was designed to test their faith, and they ought not to jeopardize their after life by the practice of magic.

Despite the warning it seems that the Israelities had become so fond of their magical artifices that they continued to resort to talisman and sorcery.

It should not surprise anyone that angels came down to earth in human form; angels are dutiful servants of Allah’s kingdom, and are capable of assuming the form appropriate to the specific task they are required to perform at any particular time who knows how many angels may be busy performing their duties in our midst even today.

One might also wonder why angels should teach people magic, which is after all intrinsically evil. In order to understand this we must remember that the nature of their task was no difference that of an undercover policeman who hands over marked currency notes to a corrupt official as a bribe with the aim of ensuring that he is caught red handed.

فَيَتَعَلَّمُونَ مِنْهُمَا مَا يُفَرِّقُونَ بِهِ بَيْنَ الْمَرْءِ وَزَوْجِهِ

And yet they learned from them what might cause division between a man and his wife”

Explanation from Tafhimul Quran

This shows that the greatest demand was from magical arts and charms to sow discord between a man and his wife and to procure the eventual seduction of the latter. This was the depth of moral depravity to which these people had fallen.

A people cannot sink to a lower level of moral degeneracy than when adulterous affairs become their favorite Past time; and when seducing a married woman is considered a boastful achievement.

The matrimonial relationship is, in truth, the very foundation of man’s collective life. The soundness of human civilization depends on the soundness of the relationship between the two sexes. Hence nothing could be worse than the person who strikes the very foundations of the structure which supports both him and society as a whole.

There is a tradition from the Prophet (SM) to the effect that Satan sends his agents on their mission to all parts of the world. On their return these agents report their achievements with each mentioning his own special evil act. But Satan is not completely satisfied with any of them.

It is only when an agent reports that he has succeeded in separating a wife from her husband that Satan is filled with joy and embraces him. (Bukhari Talaq 25)

In the light of his tradition It is understandable why the angels who were sent to the Israelites to test them were asked to disclose these magical arts which would lead to separation between the husband and his wife for the inclination of a people to learn such Arts is a sure Index of its moral decadence.

.....