

31 Nullifier of Islam 3: Sorcery

To continue with the topic of those things which may cancel out the testimony of faith that a Muslim makes:

Practising magic or being pleased with magic being practised. ¹

What does Islam teach about the different types of magic and sorcery?

Magic is a commonly used word in Western culture and is seen as being entertainment – a bit of light hearted fun.

However Islam teaches that there are two types of magic.

The first type is genuine magic – often known as sorcery or black magic in English - consisting of the magician blowing on tied knots, murmuring certain phrases over them and seeking assistance from the Devil.

Muslims believe that, far from being a bit of a joke, this is a very serious and dangerous matter. The person who is targeted by this magic becomes ill or his mind is affected, and in some cases the person may even die.

The second type is illusionary magic – which is sometimes translated (not entirely accurately) as conjuring.

This involves manipulating things to make someone think that he is seeing something which is not actually happening.

People from Western cultures may be a bit surprised at how commonly accepted it is across the whole Muslim world that sorcery is a real and witnessed phenomenon.

Islam teaches that genuine magic (sorcery) is kufr (disbelief) which takes a person out of Islam, and this is shown by the verse:

However the devils committed disbelief, teaching the people magic.

Surah al Baqarah (the 2nd surah) ayah 102

Muslims believe that both learning and teaching genuine magic are disbelief, and were a Muslim to practise either of them, then he would have nullified his shahaadah and thereby apostatised from Islaam.

The Quran mentions certain angels that Allah sent to the people to teach them magic. It may be asked why, given that Muslims believe sorcery to be an act of disbelief?

The answer is that these angels came to teach the people magic as a test and a trial. but they warned the people:

We are merely a test and tribulation so do not commit disbelief (by learning magic from us)!

Surah al Baqarah (the 2nd chapter) verse 102

¹ Refer to 'aqeedah ut tawheed p60 of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan for more information

So if a person chose to learn sorcery from them, then he had committed disbelief. The angels were sent to distinguish those who were going to disbelieve from those who were going to believe and accept the advice.

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NEXT TIME:

We were talking about the Tawheed ul Uloohiyah – the sole right of Allah to have all worship directed to Him.

What does this worship mean and how can it be broken down into categories?