

Names of Allah

(from the Stories of the Quran)

September 15, 2019

Allah

The three values of the seekers of knowledge: sincerity (brings freedom), love (increases faith, brings joy) and firmness (success and victory).

A person spending his life without knowledge is like he is living in the darkness, blind and deaf, stumbling and tripping, in awkwardness. He can easily be misguided. Knowledge on the other hand elevates us, and smooths our path.

For example, when the moon is full, there is such a huge difference in the way people with knowledge and people without it look at it. Those without knowledge might think of things related to magic, *sihr* which means an illusion or hidden, dark, unclear or without evidence. The word *suhoor* also comes from this, in the darkness. Magic in media is shown as cool, with instant results. It shows that something can be achieved without hard work, which is not true. This goes against the teachings of Islam as well, so we need to hate magic.

Ilm on the other hand means knowledge, to know, from a flag. Something known and shown and apparent.

The story we will discuss today is that of Harut and Marut, the empire of Sulaiman AS and the *shayateen*. In Surah Baqarah, *ayaat* 101-103, are about magic and the things that should be known about it. They also discuss why some people enter into and what can make them leave it.

When something is *haram*, we should put a barrier on it and close the door on it. We should avoid it completely. Don't read about it, don't look at it for entertainment - don't do anything that in anyway will harm your faith.

What makes people enter into magic? They don't have the armor and safety of Divine knowledge and faith. They leave the Book of Allah SWT behind their backs. They don't have the attachment to Allah SWT that they should. Magic reduces faith, bit by bit. Don't leave the Quran!

How can a person leave magic? He should renew his faith in Allah SWT, have *taqwa*.

Sulaiman AS, son of Dawud AS, was a Prophet of Allah SWT, from Bani Israeel. Whoever has knowledge will not indulge in magic and the prophets of Allah SWT are given knowledge and wisdom. Sulaiman AS was given even more blessings than those given to his father.

One time, Sulaiman AS was watching horses that he loved and he realized in doing so, he had missed the time for prayer and in regret he slaughtered those horses. There was a *shaytan* who afflicted Sulaiman AS with disability and he couldn't rule, and the *shaytan* was in power. Sulaiman AS made repeated immensely and made dua to give him a kingdom like nobody ever had before and nobody after will have. And Allah SWT accepted his invocation, and Allah SWT 1) allowed him to command the winds, 2) an army from *jinn* and *shayateen* of different ranks - one of his chiefs was an *afreet* from the *shayateen* and they were made to obey him by Allah SWT, 3) immense wealth.

Because of these blessings, some people were confused whether he was a magician or not. After Sulaiman AS died though, then some *shayateen* gave people the impression that it was all magic.

Nabi SAW once held a *jinn* that was disturbing people in their salah and he wanted to tie and put him in the masjid but then he SAW remembered that this was a blessing only given to Sulaiman AS and he SAW had no right to overpower the *jinn*.

What makes a magician a magician? Disrespecting/humiliating the book of Allah SWT, doing evil, wicked and dirty things - this is how they go up in the world of magic. As they do worse and worse deeds, they are given more and more *shayateen* to do their work, then the more powerful *afreets*, and then the *marids*.

The main purpose of the *shayateen* is of course to cause people to hate each other, and the biggest, most favorite task is the creation of distance or problems between husband and wife. Anybody who does magic comes from disbelief. And Allah SWT says in these *ayaat* that Sulaiman AS didn't do *kufr*, but the *shayateen* did. Don't go to magicians and also don't be scared of them.

So the Jews after the passing of Sulaiman AS, they left the Book of Allah SWT and started to follow magicians. That's why when Musa AS came, magic was so widespread. But also, Allah SWT does not leave a people without guidance, and Harut and Marut were sent to these people.

These were two angels sent down to people to teach them the reality of magic, that it is *haraam*. They would teach the people magic as well, to understand it up close and then tell them it was not allowed. It was a test for the people as well, because they would learn magic, which is falsehood and to remind them to not disbelieve in Allah SWT.

Magic separates between the people through whispers, etc but Allah SWT consoles saying that nobody can harm anyone with belief, so don't be afraid of the magic of the *shayateen*. Anyone dealing with magic learns that which is not beneficial. Only Divine knowledge is beneficial.

Nabi SAW in a *hadith* said that magic is one of the sins that can destroy a person and is associated with *shirk* because it is dealing with power, belief in someone other than Allah SWT - whether he supports in any way - read about it, or practice it or go to someone who does it. And the knots are mentioned, which are made by the magicians and then they blow into it and this is mentioned in Surah Al Falaq. Under a similar category are threads and amulets as well.

In another *hadith*, Nabi SAW said anyone who goes to magician or fortune-teller and believes what they say, then he goes against the way of Nabi SAW. We should not attach ourselves to anything or anybody but Allah SWT. Our *deen* is so light, and perfect. We don't have to rely on anyone else, pay anyone or anything, we have a direct connection with our Lord.

One type of magic is in the stars, or planets related to astrology - again this is an illusion and not based in reality. Also 'nameema' when a person through his words creates enmity between two people and this is similar to magic, which also creates distance and hatred between people. The Nabi SAW said such people would have punishment of the grave. And other people are so eloquent, the effect is like magic, as well. It makes people think or imagine things that are unreal.

The name (*lafz jalla jalaalahu*) **Allah** itself is so powerful, so pure, so true - it can remove all the wickedness, all the evil and all the darkness. People go to magic because of power, but nothing can match the power of Allah SWT.

Going back to Sulaiman AS when he asked his chiefs which of them would be able to bring him the throne of Bilqees. And one devil said that he would, but then someone who has knowledge from the Book, said he would bring it in a blink of an eye and he did just by using the name Allah.

Nabi SAW was sleeping, with sword by him and an enemy came and took his sword to kill the Prophet. He taunted the Nabi SAW, asking him who will protect you now and Nabi SAW just said Allah, and the sword fell from the man's hand.

Nothing can stand in front of the name of Allah SWT! The name means the One who is Perfect, the One that we attach to, the One we cannot encompass because of His Power, His Beauty. Anyone who asks with the name Allah, Allah SWT will give him. In the blink of an eye. This name includes all the Names of Allah. He is worthy of Magnification, of all your love, all your attachment. This is the Name that can make the brain stop thinking from the greatness of it. Fire can be made cold, seas can be parted, a staff turned into a snake, scattered can be gathered, dead made alive and vice versa, and this all belongs to Allah SWT. He is the Most Supreme, the

Most Powerful. And if you say His Name on something little, He will increase it, if something is not working, with His Name, it will be fixed - but it needs complete faith and belief. And that's why knowing Allah SWT is the most important, this is beneficial knowledge - it gives you what you really need.

In the Quran and hadith, it is mentioned over and over again, what is beneficial knowledge and the virtues of this knowledge. It gives us devotion, hope, happiness, sincerity, contentment, purpose to our life, all sorts of enriching things.