

**Module: 2****Class title:** Mystery behind Magic (1<sup>st</sup> part of a 4 lesson series)**The aim of the lesson:** To understand the Islamic perspective of magic.**Category:** Scripture**Class format:** Power point presentation, narration & discussion

(**Note to teacher:** some slides in the power point presentation are hidden, as they were not used for this session. They have not been deleted as you may want to use them for your class.)

(Greeting to students) *Assalamu 'alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh*  
(*Ta'ooz*) *A'oodhu billahi min Ash Shaytaanir Rajeem*  
(*Tasmiyah*) *Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem*  
(*Du'a*) *Rabbish rahli sadri wa yassirli amri wahlul 'uqdatum millisani yafqahu qawli*  
[Surah Ta-Ha 20: Verses 25-28]

Slide 1:

Today *inshaAllah* we will talk about the mystery behind magic. There is a special reason for doing this class; because we are heading for the explanation of Surah An-Naas and Surah Al-Falaq. In order to understand these two *surahs*, we need to be very clear about the topic of magic, because these two *surahs* are related to magic.

Slide 2-7:

I feel it's very important for all of us to face reality and understand the truth behind magic. There are essentially two types of magic. The first type is actually a magical trick, considered to be magic by naïve observers and the second type involves the activation of non-human powers.

When I say non-human entities, what comes to your mind? *Shaytaan*? What about *jinns*? These supernatural entities are not involved in the first type of magic, only human beings are. Naïve audiences think, "Oh my God he is a magician, he has some powers!"

They don't understand that he is employing some kind of trick that they are not aware of. The second type of magic however, does involve the powers of *jinns*.

Let us discuss the two types of magic:

The first type is that which does not involve *jinns* or the supernatural; this involves gadgets to deceive the audience. For example, when magicians do a trick, either their hands are very quick and they do the trick so fast that you can't see exactly what they did, or they have certain gadgets that they use. Have any of you been to The Forum and seen this small stall which sells very simple and basic gadgets to perform tricks? I actually encourage my son to go to him, because those gadgets are quite fascinating. There is nothing wrong in it.

Certain magicians are very good at optical illusions. They hypnotize you and when they do that, they can make you see things that are actually not there. Even in this, *jinn*s are not involved; this is still the first type of magic. Rather than using a gadget, they know how to hypnotize people and so, reality does not change, but our minds feel as if reality has changed. This is hypnosis.

For example, if I know how to hypnotize you guys, I could make you feel that there is a big white cat sitting here, when in reality, it's a big white board. I wouldn't have taken the help of *jinn*s, just science. There wouldn't be any tricky gadget that I had either, just my knowledge of hypnosis.

As far as permissibility is concerned, I think that hypnosis comes in the grey area, depending on why you are doing it and I don't think that controlling other people's minds is something that should be encouraged. However, if you are doing it for some good reason and the other person is aware of it, to cure his disease or any problem, then I don't see any problem in it.

A very good example of hypnosis is in the story in the Qur-an where these magicians had actually thrown ropes on the floor and these ropes looked like snakes to Moosa (as) and other people. This did not involve any *jinn* or any tricks. It was just hypnosis, so the eyes of the people and Moosa (as) actually saw them as snakes, whereas actually they were not snakes, they were just ropes on the ground.

Are we all clear about the first type of magic? Is there anything wrong in doing this kind of magic? No, as long as you are not harming or seriously scaring the other person, its fine.

Slides 8-11:

We all have a passion for the unknown and we also have a yearning for spooky tales. How many of you love watching horror movies? Do you believe that witches on brooms are real? It is because we don't understand the unseen e.g. *jinn*s, that we let our imagination run loose. Likewise, since we do not understand magic, we apply our wildest imagination to it and believe in the reality of a lot of things that actually don't exist. That is because we do not understand magic.

Slides 12-13:

And then there are these *fakeers*, who are very old men, claiming that they can perform magic and break the spells of magic. Naïve people, usually those who are not educated, go to these *fakeers* with different problems; from toothaches and headaches, to childlessness and not finding marriage partners. These *fakeers* have a standard line that they say to everyone; '*Bachey tum pai jadoo howa hai.*' (Boy, you are under a spell) and these naïve people say; '*baba kuch karein, please kuch karein.*' (Please do something). The *fakeers* ask for hefty sums of money and say; '*Mein tumhara jadu utar sakta hoon, merey qabu mei jinn hain*' (I have *jinn* in my power, I can help you in removing this spell) and they ask for fat amounts of money and this is how they get rich and you get ripped off.

Slide 14:

Unfortunately the ignorant masses prefer visiting these *fakeers* to cure a lot of their problems for which they should perhaps go to a doctor or simply pray to Allah (swt).

Slides 15-16:

The question now is; does magic truly exist?

Yes it does and the proof of that is that our beloved Prophet (saw) was afflicted with it. We know that from Surah An-Naas. There are also various *ahadeeth* that tell us that the Prophet (saw) was afflicted with magic. For instance this hadith:

"The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) was bewitched until he thought that he had relations with his wives, but he had not had relations with them." Sufyan said, "This is the worst form of magic when it reaches this stage." (Bukhari)

Slides 17-22:

Now let's talk about this second type of magic. This type of magic actually involves connecting with and having some kind of contact with *jinn*s. This is real magic, the mystery of magic that we will talk about today. *Jinn*s act on material objects while remaining in their invisible form. Have any of you seen a *jinn*?

We can't see *jinn*s, although they can take forms and turn into any kind of creature they want. They can turn into a man, animal, or any object that they want to, but you cannot see them in their original forms. The *jinn* that appear in horrible, rapidly changing forms in the presence of human beings are called '*ghool*' (plural *gheelan*).

The Prophet (pbuh) said, 'If the *gheelan* appear and transform themselves before you, call the *adhaan*' [Musnad Ahmad vol 3 p 305].

When we think about *jinn*, what kind of picture comes to our mind? We have this perception of *jinn*s being vicious looking creatures with two horns.

In reality, however, they are invisible; so are germs. Are we scared of germs? No, we can't see germs but are we scared of them? Why not? There are a lot of germs that go into our body and we fall sick because of them but we are not very scared of them because we know they are very tiny and we can see them under a microscope.

They look very harmless and so we think we can take preventive measures. The bottom-line is that we are not scared of germs. As far as *jinn*s are concerned however, we can't see them under microscopes and for all we know, they might be like tiny particles and about as dangerous as germs.

Furthermore, in some ways *jinn*s are like human beings; just as there are some good

human beings and certain evil human beings, *jinn*s are also good and bad <sup>1</sup> The good *jinn*s are obviously nothing to worry about.

There are a lot of people who claim to have seen *jinn*s in their original forms, but I personally suggest that you not get into the debate of whether somebody has seen one or not. Anyone can say that they have seen *jinn*, but where is their proof? Even if someone believes that he/she has had contact with *jinn* they are still not certain if they have actually seen one or not.

Do you know what a *séance* (pronounced “see-awnce”) is? It is a way in which people communicate with *jinn*s. There are certain people who can communicate with *jinn*. When people die, *jinn*s have information about that dead person and they come and give you that information. You thus know about a lot of things that other people around you might not know. This does happen, but it happens once in a blue moon. There are very few people who can actually connect with *jinn*s.

There is also something called levitation, in which they claim that a *jinn* (who is obviously invisible to us) lifts somebody up in the air There are people who do tricks in such a manner too and you actually believe that there is nothing underneath the person.

Most of them are actually performing a trick and deceiving you, there are very few people who might have the powers of levitation through *jinn*. These things are possible; we are not denying it but there are very few people who can actually contact them and usually those who do have control over them don’t advertise it, they are discreet about it.

Slides 23:

*Jinn*s are very powerful and they have the ability to do things like moving things from here to there. However, have any one of you seen anything moving from one place to another, flying in mid-air?

They come up with the weirdest of stories and then you start thinking that her aunt said that *jinn*s do exist, so you just put 2 and 2 together. We need to understand that there are very few people who have control over *jinn*s; very, very few people and in our life time perhaps we will never meet even one of them.

Slides 25-27:

Now the question is, “Why do *jinn* help us do magic?” The answer to this is that they want disbelief and sacrilege in return for their help. People who have this connection with *jinn* actually perform acts of sacrilege, which include burning the Holy Books or writing verses of them with human excretion. Why do they do these things? Because they have to prove to these evil *jinn*s who are followers of *Shaytaan*, that they are disobedient to Allah (swt).

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<sup>1</sup> The Jinns said: “There are among us (the Jinns) some that are righteous and some the contrary: we follow divergent paths. (Surah Al Jinn 72: Verse 11)

Slide 28:

They take sides with *Shaytaan*, who was a *jinn*. In return these *jinns* promise you worldly gains. Hence, the reason why people perform this kind of magic is because they want worldly gains and the reason why some *jinns* may give you certain information, is because they want to have you in their party of *Shayateen*<sup>2</sup>. They want you to be a part of *Shaytaan*'s team. This is the understanding between these people. They are evil. Evil men prove that they are disbelievers of Allah (swt). They don't care if they are thrown in the hell fire, because they only want worldly gain.

Slide 29:

It is important to understand that magic is not a power beyond Allah's (swt) Supreme Authority. These evil *jinns* are not more powerful than Allah (swt), so whatever happens by way of magic, is with the permission of Allah (swt) even though it is a wrong thing.

For example, when the Prophet (saw) was afflicted with magic, it was entirely with Allah's (swt) permission that it happened. Not because Allah (swt) was *na'oozubillah* helpless in front of them, but perhaps He wanted to test the Prophet (saw) even though he was a *nabi*. And Allah (swt) permitted these evil *jinns* or these evil people to afflict magic on our beloved Prophet (saw).

Slide 30-32:

Allah (swt) has not permitted magic, it is absolutely *haraam*. If anyone does so, he will be thrown into the hellfire; this is very clear in the *Hadith*:

"Avoid the seven great destructive sins." The companions enquired, "O Allah's Apostle! What are they?" He said, "To join others in worship along with Allah, to practice sorcery, unlawfully take a life, eat Riba (usury), eat the property of an orphan, run away from the battlefield and falsely accuse chaste women.." (Sahih Muslim).

It's not allowed. Having said that, just as it is not permitted to steal; you know it's a wrong thing, but if somebody wants to steal Allah (swt) does not stop him from doing so. Likewise, if somebody wants to commit the sin of magic, Allah (swt) will not stop him, He says go ahead and do it, but you will be thrown into the hell fire for it.

Slide 33:

So the magicians who actually learn this magic or who take the help of *jinn*, know very well that they have spoiled their *aakhirah*, no chance of them going into *jannah*, absolutely not; and with this understanding they take the help of *jinn* and get some worldly gains.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibn Taymiyah

Slides 34-36:

By the way, there is no distinction between black and white magic. Magic is magic; if *jinn*s are involved in this magic, then it is not allowed. Practicing any kind of real magic which involves *jinn*s is *haraam* in Islam. Unfortunately fiction has glamorized the great sin of magic.

Slides 37-38:

The western world has given magic an image of innocence, tying it up with mystery and wonder. For example, Jack and the bean stalk; Jack actually had magic beans. So where did the magic beans come from? If Jack had the power to use these magic beans, Jack must have done something very evil in his life to get these powers of magic beans if it's actually true.

Slide 39:

Or why and who gave this boy this goose which laid the golden eggs? This isn't something that just happens; he probably sold his soul to *shaytaan* and other evil *jinn*s.

Slide 40:

Contrast that with the innocent faces that they show on TV and in books. And then the elves, why did they go and help the shoemaker? There is only one reason why a non-human power will come and do favours for you, and that is that you sell your belief.

Slides 41-42:

Such books glorify the concept of magic; e.g. The Faraway Tree, Sleeping Beauty etc.; fairies coming and protecting you. Nobody can protect you except Allah (swt). The *jinn*s needed something in return and what was that? Your belief.

Slides 43-56:

The stories actually helped one to escape reality; Cinderella, where the fairy god-mother helps her. There aren't fairy god-mothers and elves, *jinn*s are the only creation that can actually help you to perform such deeds and they do it on only one condition; that you sell your soul to the devil.

They show such innocent faces in these fairy tales, so they have not's dream about it all the time. Aladin; what happened in that? There was a price for that lamp, Aladin looks very innocent in the story, but what price did he pay for it? Easy money is everyone's dream today, worldly gains and nothing else. And in order to have these worldly gains there are a lot of people who might get involved with magic.

The king and the witch both had powers in The Little Mermaid, didn't they? They were both either good or bad, but according to what we have just understood, if they were involved with magic they both were evil. And look at the innocent character of the king. Anything that takes you away from reality involves magic. Shrek, Harry

Potter, the orders for the fifth book were \$ 4 million!! Don't you all love Sabrina? She was a witch. If she actually had magical powers, then it means that she had sold her soul. Lord of the Rings and of course, Charmed; how can there be a good witch? Nobody would sell her soul in order to help people.

Slides 57-60:

So the media actually promotes magic big time. Remember that magic can never be innocent, anything that is magical is either not real or not innocent and this can so easily drive people to treachery, depression, domestic violence and suicide because it takes you away from reality.

The Qur-an's view about magic is very clear; Allah (swt) says in the Qur-an,

“Whoever purchases it will have no share of Paradise in the Hereafter.”  
[Al-Baqarah 2: Verse102]

What does that mean? It means that whoever acquires wealth from its teaching is going into the hell fire, whoever pays to learn this is going into the hell fire and whoever has knowledge of magic is going into the hell fire. It is so dangerous, so disastrous.

Slide 61-62

I know a lot of you are dying to ask' “But what is the harm in watching such movies and reading such books? We are not getting involved in magic when we read such books and watch such stories; we are fascinated by magic and people who have the powers of magic.” Are you thinking that?

Slides 63:

Well, there is a very logical reason. You aren't actually getting involved in magic when you are watching these movies and when you are reading these books, but it opens the door to a lot of sins which we cannot see right now.

Slide 64-68:

For example, we start becoming superstitious; start believing in the super natural or we might not be able to sleep at night because we are scared.

Astrology and fortune telling are also linked with magic and the devil finally succeeds in diluting our belief in Allah (swt). Unconsciously, a feeling develops, that perhaps there is something more powerful than Allah (swt) and that is the reason why we get scared too.

Slides 69-71:

Believing in omens and charms is *shirk*. “Oh where is my magic locket?” “Let me wear my good luck charm”, we forget that it is Allah (swt) who has the powers over everything.

And then we start believing in saints; we feel that these saints have all the answers to our problems and we start worshipping at graves because of that.

Slide 72:

This is also *shirk* and *shirk* is a major sin that Allah (swt) will never forgive unless we repent and seek forgiveness for it. A lot of negative consequences take place when we start believing in, or getting fascinated by magic.

Slides 77-79:

There are two extremes of people that we find in our society today; one of them is the kind who, when any misfortune takes place in their life, they think “*Oh yeh tu jadu hogaya!*” (Oh this is magic)

For example; when they see a donkey flying in the air, they will say that it is magic, whereas the reality is that he has been over loaded and nothing else. Yes, some of us are quite paranoid and the moment something goes wrong in our life, we say “*Oh yeh tu jadu hogaya.*” (Oh this is magic)

The other extreme is of those who totally deny the concept of magic. They say, “*yeh jadu wadu kuch nahi hota!*”(There is no such thing as magic). So you have to face reality; there is magic, but there are only a few people who have the power to do it.

Slide 80:

These people say that it only affects people who believe in it. That’s not true. Do you think it affected the Prophet (saw) because he believed in it and it won’t affect you because you close your eyes like an ostrich?

Slide 81:

Having said that, you must remember that **prevention is better than cure.**

Slides 82-84:

What is the prevention? The prevention is to recite *Suratul Ikhlas*, *Suratul Falaq* and *Suratun Naas* three times each and then blow in our hands and rub our hands on our body from head to toe. This needs to be done at night before sleeping<sup>3</sup>.

Slides 85-86:

It’s a good idea to do it after your *fajr* and *maghrib salah*. You will be completely protected from all kinds of evil around you if there is any. You don’t need to worry about where the evil is, just like when you want to protect yourself from some illness, you go and get yourself vaccinated; you don’t look for the germs.

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<sup>3</sup> Bukhari



Once you have done this, if you have faith and trust in Allah (swt), there is no reason to be scared. You can protect yourself further, by reciting *Surah Al Fatihah* and *Ayat Al Kursi*, or the last two verses of *Surah Al-Baqarah*<sup>4</sup>, as well as the morning and evening *du'as*. Then you will be completely protected from all evil powers if there are any, around you.

There is a *hadith* which I will read out and this *hadith* in itself gives a lot of strength and courage to a believer.

The Prophet (saw) said, "If people were to unite to do you some benefit they could benefit you only with what Allah has recorded for you. And if they were to unite to do you some injury they could injure you only with what Allah had recorded for you. The pens are drawn and pages are dry." [Tirmidhi]

Slide 87:

Allah (swt) has already decided our fate; he has decided what is going to happen to all of us. If there is anything that can change it, it is what? It is our *du'as*, seeking Allah's (swt) protection. That is the only thing that can change it. May Allah (swt) protect us all from the evil of falsehood.

The whole idea of doing this class was to understand that there is an extremely powerful weapon that Allah (swt) has given us and that is the *Muawa'dhatein* that I just told you about; *Surah An-Naas* and *Surah Al-Falaq*.

Questions by the students:

Is the Qur-an also for *jinns*?

Yes, the Qur-an is also for *jinns*. There is a *surah* in the Qur-an where we come to know that *jinnaat* also heard the Qur-an being recited and read it and they started believing in it and Allah (swt). (*Surah Al Jinn* 72: Verses 8-10) and they hear the Qur-an when we recite it. So if you want to do a *sadaqah e jaariyah*, if you want the *jinn* to become a *sadaqah e jaariyah* for you, get into the habit of reciting the Qur-an out loud.

If someone has indulged in magic, will they be forgiven?

Yes, if you have been involved in any kind of magic and if you do *taubah* (repent) and ask for forgiveness, Allah (swt) will *inshaAllah* forgive you, because He (swt) has said that if you do *taubah* (repent) He will forgive you as long as you make sure that you will make a sincere effort that you will not do that mistake again.

(Du'a for end of a gathering) *Subhana Rabbika Rabbul 'Izzati 'amma yasifun wa salaamun 'ala mursaleen, walhamdulillahi Rabbil 'aalameen*

(Parting salutation to students) *Assalamu 'alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh*

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<sup>4</sup> Bukhari

### References for Teacher

- [www.islamawareness.net/BlackMagic/magic.html](http://www.islamawareness.net/BlackMagic/magic.html) -
- [en.allexperts.com](http://en.allexperts.com) › Islam
- [www.helium.com/.../143120-why-does-islam-forbid-magic-and-sorcery](http://www.helium.com/.../143120-why-does-islam-forbid-magic-and-sorcery)