

Friday 1/3/2014

Surah Al-Baqarah Ayah 102 - 108:

AYAH 102:

In the last ayah we learned that they threw back the book of Allah. For them the book of Allah was an insignificant thing. So when the book of Allah becomes insignificant to someone, something else has to take its place in people's lives.

In this ayah we learn what became important for them was what the devils used to recite during the rule of Prophet Suleiman.

What did the devils recite? The Prophet explains in a hadith that

“in the past times the devils and jinns used to climb up to the skies. They used to listen to the angels as they discussed the future events coming up. The devils used to come back to earth and tell the people what they told them about what's coming in the future. The people would write down this information and they started to believe that the Jinns are the ones who know the future and what will happen. But Prophet Suleiman heard this and ordered that the books with this writing be buried under his chair and forbade the people from saying or discussing that Jinns possess knowledge of the future. But when Prophet Suleiman passed away and the generation which was with him passed away. The new generation was now there and at this time, a devil took the form of a man and came to them and said the books with this information are buried here. He stepped back and the people started to dig out the books. He stepped back because any devil who comes near the chair or tried to touch or move it, would be burned. He told the people, Suleiman who ruled over Jinns and men and bird and so on used to use these books for his powers because he knew magic through these books. After this, the devil left, the Bani Israel was now in possession of these books”

This is the reason that often there was magic practiced among the Jews.

So in the ayah Allah is saying that they left the book of Allah behind and adopted these books with magic, superstitions and used to recite these.

Even in our times, everyone wants to solve their problems easily and wish they had an easy way, like a magic wand, to make life better. The people thought Prophet Suleiman used to rule over such a huge kingdom and he must have used magic so we are going to use the same books to help us.

Why is Magic being referred to as Kufr /disbelief? Because anything that is done with the help of the devils is equivalent to disbelieve / kufr. There is Kufr that's why man gets to the level of a magician and practicing magic.

They (people in the past and now) used to say Suleiman used to practice magic (kufr). Allah says here Suleiman did not commit Kufr. He did not practice magic. Who did? The devils. They were the ones who committed kufr and practiced and taught people the magic, superstitions and so on.

There is a primary goal of Allah's book...guidance. Besides this, we get secondary benefits from it such as blessings, shifa, rahma. Once people leave the book and its main purpose, guidance, then what benefit can they get from it? They resort to using the book for things that have no meaning like spells, or wearing certain surah's on parts of the body tied up in cloth for shifa or for protection. Or things like "if you dissolve a paper in water which has certain ayahs written on it, and then drink the water it will give you children or shifa" these types of superstitions and false anecdotes are everywhere in our society even today. They have absolutely no meaning and they are completely useless to us. They used to use Allah's words to propagate their magic practices.

Allah then says the magic which was revealed to the two angels, Harut and Marut, in Babylon they did not reveal to anyone. They never revealed what they were given to any soul in fact they used to say "we are a trial so you won't commit kufr"

What does that mean?

At the time when this magic and superstitions were prevalent in the land, Allah sent down two angels to the people in the form of men. Allah wanted to check who will still learn this magic even though He has forbidden. Remember, Allah only tests us with that which is our weakness. He tests women with the temptation of showing off to see if we will reveal our zeenah, get dressed up, make up, jewelry and go out or not.

Their weakness was this magic so Allah tested them with this. So he sent down the two angels who knew magic. So when the people found out they knew the two men knew magic, they ran to them to learn. Even then the angels told them, we are here as a trial for you so you don't commit kufr, but the people didn't care.

In Ibn Kathir there is a story:

Aysha (RA) relates that after the Prophet's death, a woman comes to see him. When she found out that the Prophet (PBUH) has passed away, she became very distressed and started to cry. Aysha asked, what is the matter? What is troubling you? The woman says, "me and my husband there was always distrust. Once he left me somewhere and disappeared so one old lady heard this and told me if you do as I say, he will return on his own to you. The old woman brought two dogs, we both got on to each of them. We traveled to Babylon. There were two men there who were there. They were hanging and trapped in metal. They were the two angels Harut and Marut. The old lady told her, go and ask them to teach you magic. They told her "we are in a trial. Don't learn magic because it will lead you into Kufr." But the woman insisted on them

teaching her. So they said ok. Go to that hold in the ground and pee (urinate) inside of it. She went there but didn't feel like urinating in it so she came back and lied she did it. They asked her "what did you see?" she said "I saw nothing" so they said "you are lying, you did not urinate in it. Go and urinate in it if you want us to teach you"

So she went back and again couldn't bring herself to do it so she came back and lied again that she had done it. They asked her the same question "what did you see?" she responded "nothing" they said "you are lying again, you did not urinate. Your Iman is still intact, there is still time, turn back now & don't learn magic." But she insisted.

The third time they sent her back she forced herself to urinate. And she saw a man with his face covered riding a horse. He leaped out of the hole and disappeared straight into the sky.

When she returned she told Harut and Marut what she saw. They said "yes, now you are telling the truth and you did urinate. That was your Iman that left and went up to the skies. Now you can go and whatever you ask, it will happen"

So she left and started to test her new "powers" she asked for small things like putting a seed on the ground and wished it to grow and it did. So now she started to worry that she has lost her Iman.

She told Aysha, "I didn't use the magic for anything or to effect anyone. I came running to the Prophet because I am worried about my lost Iman. I came here to devote myself in service to the prophet in hopes of retaining my Iman"

So from this story we find out that magic ca not be practiced until and unless the Iman is taken away from a persons heart.

Only a Kafir can practice magic for this reason. They used to learn magic which would cause rifts and distance between a husband and wife. This is the worst type of magic. It will cause separation between couples, the home will become broken, kids will not get a normal home to grow up in with the love of both parents

Prophet said *"Iblis (saytan) sits on his thrown. Then he sends out his armies and his favorite devils are those who create separation, fights between husband and wife. When his other devils come back to him to tell him what they have done, he is not impressed but the one who has caused a husband and wife to fight, is the favorite of the devils for Iblis"*

People don't realize that they do this deed for Iblis even today. Examples:

When a family proposed to a girl and they get rejected. when that girl does get engaged to another boy from another family, people start talking bad about the girl so that the boys family will break off the relations.

Often the mother-in-laws or sisters of the man will get jealous that he is so fond of his new wife and that they have a great relationship, so they plot to cause problems between them so their son/brother will give them more attention and ignore his wife.

Talking badly and pointing out the faults of the husband to the wife or vice versa will eventually cause distance and eventually divorce between them. If we habitually highlight the faults of the spouses to the other spouse, it will have a devastating result.

This is all done to create separation between a husband and wife. This is Shaytan's favorite action because it breaks up homes & families.

Allah says remember, they cannot cause anyone harm with their magic unless and until Allah wills it to happen.

Its like when there is a new virus spreading in the community and everyone gets scared they will get sick. But everyone doesn't get sick, only a few who Allah chooses.

So the magic cannot harm anyone unless Allah allows it to happen.

When they did learn, they learned the thing which will cause damage to them, not benefit them in anyway. What harm can it do?

When people are trying to sell magic to others they promise everything. They promise that the magic will change your life for the better if you apply it and practice it.

We have this magic in this society today as well... Lotteries, get rich quick schemes, plastic surgeries, magic weight loss pills, so on. These things promise they will change our lives but they don't make us any better on the inside. They do nothing for our iman and health.

Allah says they have no power to harm or benefit anyone with their magic. Only Allah has the power to harm or benefit anyone.

Surah Taha ayah 69: Allah says "*Magician cant be powerful or successful no matter where he comes from*"

They used to learn that which was only harmful to them and could not benefit them in any way.

What is the harm in Magic? It promises such great results? They promise every matter will be resolved through it, so what harm can it have?

Allah says the first harm in it is that it destroys Iman. Learning it is a form of kufr. It is haram in the eyes of Allah.

Not all knowledge is beneficial. We should make dua that Allah save us from that type of knowledge.

Magic destroys the Akhirah because your Iman is weakened or destroyed.

Magic the deed which required that we get closer to the shayateen in order for the to help us.

The Devils will not help someone who is not their friend, confidant so when we agree to get help via magic, we are befriending the shayateen. We do something haram or bad and in exchange for it, shaytan agrees to use magic to help us.

Magic effects the body, mind or heart of the person who the magician is trying to curse. Like effecting the body, mind of the husband against the wife. Or putting ill feelings & distance between two brothers or friends or parents and children.

How is this distance attained? the person who is effected by the magic starts to get doubts regarding their wife, brother, friend. They start to dislike the physical appearance of the spouse in married couples. They start to question their intentions. Hate everything about that person.

What happens when the magician is cursing someone?

The magicians usually ask for the name and the mothers name of the one who is being cursed or ask for a piece of property of the person who you want them to curse. If that's not available, they ask about the paths that person takes and cursed the path so when they go on it, they will be effected. Or they use food and mix things in it and feed it to the person so they will be effected.

How do we keep ourselves safe from magic?

- The home has to be cleansed from any wrong traditions. Iman has to enter. Take down any pictures in the home so the angels of Rahmah can enter and inhabit the home.
- Certain types of belongings of the person cursed like amulets, or taveez or any jewelry given to them by someone suspected of cursing them should be burned.
- The house should be cleaned of any type of music, or related things.
- Allah's commands should not be questioned in the home. If someone in the home is committing a sin, they should stop.
- The person cursed and his family should be taught the correct aqeedah so their Iman is on the right path & relations with the devils is ended.
- You can ask questions of the cursed person to determine if they have been effected by magic. Like "do you feel your wife is very unattractive now whenever you look at her and you didn't used to feel that way?" do you have scary dreams or feel unrest during sleep?

There is one halal magic that you can use to make herself dearer to her husband & win his heart. The woman can win his heart by smiling at him when greeting him, dress up for him when he comes home, so he is not tempted to look around for beauty and companionship.

When we go out to parties, we get dressed up so well but when we are at home with our husbands, we wear smelly old clothes. He doesn't see her dressed up in the clothing and jewelry that he has bought for her.

If we do these things for the love our husband, we will also get ajar for it. If someone is full they won't feel hungry but if they are not getting food at home, they will go out looking for it.

Doing magic for any reason is haram. Even if you are using magic to combat magic which was done to you. It is done by getting help from the devils so how can this be a good thing?

Two hadith of the Prophet regarding Magic and fortune telling:

“Anyone who goes to a fortune teller and asks her for any information, their prayers will not be accepted for 40 days.”

“anyone who goes to a magician, or fortune teller and asks a question and then agrees with what they have said. That person has rejected what I have brought (and his prophethood & sharia he brought).”

Even going to these types of people is a form of Kufr. Asking them a question is worse and then agreeing or spreading what they said is even worse.

It is among of the 7 big sins to do magic or have magic done for you.

Prophet said: *“Whoever learned or used astrology has learned a form of magic.”*

Knowing your star and reading your horoscope and discussing it and acting upon it is a form of magic so it's Kufr.

What are the situations which make it easy for the devils to perform magic on someone. When someone is to be effected by magic, the devil sends a jinn to that person and when the jinn enters the body of that person, only then the magic can be performed.

So if that person is in the state of wudu or keeps doing dikr (rememberance) of Allah, the jinn/devil can't enter that person as long as he/she is doing remembrance or in wudu state.

At what times is it easier for the devils to enter the person?

1. When the person is feeling very angry
2. When the person is feeling very scared
3. In the state of ghaflat (meaning not doing dikr, or prayer at all)
4. When the person is blinded by his/her desires and wants and is running after them
5. Participating in lude acts. Either seeing them, hearing them, talking about them
6. Being lazy in our prayers. This is why we should still do dikr even when we are not praying during our periods
7. Attending and being a part of gatherings where unislamic things are going on

8. Stop yawning. Try your best to stop it specially during prayer

Prophet said *“anyone who is praying and a yawn comes to him, he should do his best to stop it because that is when shaytan enters that person (through the yawn)”*

So the closer a person is to Allah, the farthest he is from the shaytan and vice versa.

To be away from Allah is to be cursed itself. Why? Why is magic equivalent to kufr?

Because the magician in order to practice magic has to be close to shayateen. How do you get closer to the devils? By committing sins. When the lead shaytan is happy with the sins of the magician then he sends some jinns to him to help with magic. So the tradeoff is that the magician has to make the shaytan happy in order to get jinns for help in his craft.

How can you tell if someone is a magician?

1. He will ask your name and your mothers name
2. He will ask for a piece of your clothing
3. He will read some surah's aloud but will read some spells very softly so you don't hear
4. He will ask for an animal of a certain color (usually black) & ask to dispose of the animal in certain places
5. They will draw lines and write some symbol in them which are not understood by normal people
6. They read some spells that people don't understand
7. They say to stay away from other people or from a room with sunlight for a certain amount of time
8. Asking you to bury something
9. Asking you don't touch water for a certain time.
10. Give something that you are supposed to burn and inhale the smoke
11. They will mix unpure things (najasah) or blood in food to give to someone to eat
12. On paper or on a clay plate they will write some word and will say that pour water on it and have the person drink it

Anytime any of these things are going on in any place, you should be alerted and stay far away from that place.

The person who is a real alim and will help you will only use Quran and Sunnah as his tool. Nothing like these things.

The cure for Magic is not magic, it is Quran. The whole Quran is shifa. And there are a few ayahs which are specially used for shifa or to cure magic:

- Surah Fatiha
- Baqarah ayah 1 – 5, 102, 163-164, 255-ayatul kursi & two ayahs that follow it, 285-286

- Al Imran ayah 18-19
- Al Araaf ayah 54-56, 117-122
- Yunus 81-82
- Mominoon 115 – 118
- Safwaat 1 – 10
- AhQaaf 29 – 33
- Rahman 33 – 36
- Hashr 21 – 24
- Jinn 1 – 9
- The 4 Quls (kafiroon, Ikhlas, Falaq, Naas)

Reading these ayahs and listening to them is a cure for anyone afflicted by magic, fatiha, ayat ul Kursi, Surah Duhan, Surah Jinn, baiyannah – naas record them and listen to them at least 3 times a day.

- Eating ajwa dates preferably from Madinah. Prophet said *“the person who eats 7 ajwa dates in first thing in the morning, that day no poison or magic will harm him”*
- Person who stays in wudu
- Person who habitually prays in jamah
Propohet said *“those people who are three in number and still don’t perform prayer in jamah, shaytan takes over their thoughts”*
- Praying tahajjud prayer
- When using the bathroom, recite the dua before entering
- Reading the kalimah- *subhana kallahummah...* (at start of prayer before we read fatiha) in prayer
- Doing wudu and reading ayat ul kursi before sleeping
- After fajr reading the dua *“la ilaha illahu wah dahu la sharika lahu....”* 100 times
- Reading duas when leaving and entering the house
- Reading the daily duas morning and night
- Reading surah Baqarah (specially first and last ayahs) protects the place where it is read from the devils
- Staying clean and pure. As far from filth najasa as possible

Than Allah says remember that even they knew whoever buys this magic, he has nothing in the akhirah. They gave their lives for this & earned the hellfire.

Allah has given us things which benefit us and he sent us things which harm us so he can test how we will use them. These things are in front of us so its our exam to see if we will let ourselves fall into these forbidden things or not. Will we sell our soul to the devils?

If only they knew.

AYAH 103:

If they only believed and saved their akhirah. If they had refrained from this evil, they would have realized that the reward with Allah is much better than what they are promising.

We should always be aware that any deed should not take away my iman and akhirah from me.

AYAH 104:

Oh you who believe, don't say to the Messenger Ra'inah (it was a swear word in their language) and listen with attentiveness the first time. Don't talk in words which have double meanings. Here Allah is telling the believers not to use this word at all because the Jews used to use it and say "the muslims say it so that's why we are saying it to the prophet" The word itself Ra'inah is not a bad word but they (jews) used to use it in a manner which meant an insult to the prophet so Allah told the believers not to use it.

When we want to reform others, we should start with ourselves so Allah asked the believers to stop using it so the jews will also stop.

So don't even use a word which could be offensive to the Prophets Seerah. So we have to be very careful when we are talking of the Prophet and his seerah.

AYAH 105:

Allah is talking about those people of the book who committed Kufr, the ones to whom the Prophet gave the message and they rejected it and those mushrikeen who had the message delivered to them but they denied it they both want that no good come to the Muslims from their Lord. Weather it be prophethood, quran, or whatever comes from their lord.

They were jealous that why did the Arabs get the prophethood from among them?

So Allah is telling the Muslims they will never want any good to come to you. But Allah will benefit whomever he pleases. He needs not ask anyone or get anyone's permission. They can be jealous all they want but Allah will decide who is blessed and who is not.

When we feel jealous of anyone, or anything that someone else has, we should remind ourselves that Allah is the one who gives. So am I upset with Allah for blessing that person? Its Allah's will whomever he makes his friend, favorite and so on. We don't need to be jealous or be scared of other people's jealousy towards us because no one can cause harm unless Allah wills it.

If we learn to be content with Allah's blessings on others we are content with his Will.

The biggest rahmah from Allah to his creation is the ability to understand the deen. So we are chosen from millions to understand his book. He will choose others to understand even more than us. We should think of this chance to listen and learn as a privilege and be thankful and make dua that Allah keep us regular and help us to act upon what he has taught us.

AYAH 106:

They used to say “you say Quran is from Allah but so was the Taurat so why should we stop believing that?”

Allah is saying whenever he sends down the message and later a better message from the last one can be sent to the people in the form of new books or new prophets. Allah can cause the old message to be forgotten and then send down a better one for the people later on.

When Allah chooses to replace one command with another one later, the first command is weakened and the second one is stronger. Every prophethood has brought change in the commands of Allah.

Example: the command was that those who believe should give sadaqah before meeting or consulting the Prophet, but later, Allah lifted that condition upon the people. The first command was not erased but it was lifted as an obligation.

At first the parents were commanded to decide which of their relatives will get what amount of the inheritance. But later, Allah sent down commands in which He made the divisions of the wealth himself and commanded us to follow that.

There is a lot of wisdom in this. The Shariah was sent down step by step, slowly the old ways of doing things were stopped and gradually the new ways were introduced and implied.

Sometimes the situation of the time required certain ways of doing things, then the situation changes so the commands change also.

First it was said that being intoxicated (drunk) is not preferred state. Then it was said that when you are praying, do not drink or be in that state. Then the command that alcohol should be forbidden completely was sent down. Slowly, in three different steps, the alcohol was eliminated from the society, if it was done all of the sudden, it would have been very hard for the people to do.

There are three types of changes in Quran:

1. The talawat (text) and command both are changed. The talawat (text itself) is forgotten and command is changed.
2. The command is changed but the original text is still there.

3. The command is there but the text regarding it are gone.

AYAH 107:

Don't you know that the one who is the ruler , protector and guardian, over you is the one who knows best and there is a wisdom to when the commands were sent down.

No one is your friend like Allah and if you still choose to deny his commands, then you have no protector or helper.

AYAH 108:

Do you want to question the Prophet as the people questioned Musa at the time of the sacrifice of the cow? They questioned him because they did not want to believe, are you going to do the same?

We use the same questions that non-muslims ask of our deen and we take them to our scholars and take them as complaints of our deen. This is a sign of our doubts.

And anyone who trades Iman for Kufr because some questions take us to Kufr.

Why did Allah cause so many to starve? Why are so many dying if Allah is merciful?

These are questions which propagate doubt & disbelief. There should be an objective to asking questions like improving our practice of the deen or understanding of a command for our sake But there are some questions which have become nothing more than complaints, or questions about Allahs sovereignty, or the status of the Prophets is questioned.

Arguing too much, questioning everything without purpose can take you far from Iman.

We should be careful that our questions don't cause doubts in other people's hearts. We should only ask questions which effect my practice of the deen. If it doesn't have anything to do with our practice, it is not relevant to us. Patience is required for understanding those types of issues. You will reach a certain age in which those types of questions about the deen will be easier to understand for you. Patience is very important for attaining knowledge of the deen.