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Fatwa no. 837

Q: A man got married to a woman who loved him very much; after a period of time, she started to hate him strongly with no clear reason. It was said that this must have been due to the work of magic, so some people told the husband to go to a witchdoctor who would remove the effect of magic. They told him that this would be considered a self-defense procedure to maintain his relationship with his wife and told him that necessities make prohibited matters permissible. But the husband did not accept this and regarded it as an act of Kufr (disbelief). Is it permissible for him to resort to witchcraft to undo the witchcraft that has been done to him or should he rather surrender to his fate and endure it? Is resorting to witchcraft in this case considered self-defense or Kufr?

A: It is not permissible for you to go to a magician to undo for you the witchcraft afflicting you by using witchcraft like it, based on the general meaning of the following Hadith of the Prophet (peace be upon him): **(Not of us (i.e. The Muslims): the one who sees omens or has omens seen for him; predicts the future or has the future predicted for him; performs witchcraft or has witchcraft performed for him.)** Narrated by Al-Tabarany on the authority of 'Imran ibn Husayn. Al-Munawwy said, the Isnad (chain of narrators) of this Hadith is good. Moreover, when the Prophet (peace be upon him) was asked about Al-Nushrah (undoing a spell by means of another spell), he (peace be upon him) said: **(It is from the work of Satan.)** Narrated by Imam Ahmad, and Abu Dawud with good Isnad. The word "Al-Nushrah" means treating witchcraft with witchcraft.

There are many lawful supplications and legitimate cures which stand as sufficient for removing the effect of witchcraft.

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Therefore, it is the duty of Muslims to treat themselves with the means that Allah has made permissible like Adhkar (invocations and remembrance of Allah), supplications, and lawful medication. They should also fear Allah, obey His Commands and avoid His prohibitions, as Allah says (what means): **(And whosoever fears Allâh and keeps his duty to Him, He will make a way for him to get out (from every difficulty).)** May Allah grant us success. May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions.

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