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Research Article

Genealogy Magic in the Perspective of Mufassir Indonesia (QS. Al Baqarah (2): 102 Analysis Study)

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Abstract. The history of magic is closely related to the civilization of Prophet Solomon, as well as the two figures named harut and marut. As narrated in the Qur'an, in surah al-Baqarah verse 102. Many scholars and mufassir poured their knowledge to study this verse so as to produce various views on it. Magic is considered a mistake and forbidden thing, as in Islam itself magic is a form of shirk, brings evil, and invites the wrath of Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala. However, how can things that are so forbidden and considered wrong, can actually spread widely to various parts of the world. This paper tries to understand the history of magic and various worldviews on magic, to its practice that still exists in modern society. This research is descriptive qualitative research that seeks to describe magical phenomena ranging from their history to their influence on different civilizations. As a result of this

research, Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala refuted the accusations against Prophet Solomon for the use of magic through his word, surah al-Baqarah verse 102. While various interpretations of who the real figure of harut and marut is. Behind all that, magic requires something as a payment to achieve its goals, ranging from animals to even human lives. Viewed from any side, magic is present as a test. If used, the practice is only to satisfy man's pseudo-desires and bring destruction to man himself.

Keywords: Nation; Ancient; Human; Modern; Magic.

INTRODUCTION

Magic is an act that involves a curse. People use magic to collaborate with demons and spirits to hurt, injure, and even take the lives of those they target. Magic is often used to find soulmates, determine your fate, and more. In fact, nowadays many people use magic for crimes such as deceiving people and black magic called *Pelet*, so people need to be careful with magic (Hasan, 2020). Magic is also often used to turn or damage a person's heart and change his body until a person can divorce from his partner, contract a disease, and so on (Shahnaz & Zia, 2020). And magic can have consequences on the body, heart or mind of a person affected by magic (AYDAR, 2022). Before committing a heinous deed, sorcerers or shamans and demons make a covenant that the shaman will commit the act of kufr. Both overtly and secretly. If the genie rebels, the witch will approach the leader of their group then use the leader and ask for his help, not to Allah *Subhanahu wa Ta'ala*¹. The main purpose of a person practicing witchcraft is to gain the inner power to produce extraordinary things, amaze, or make something obedient to his instructions by force (Sule, 2023). The phenomenon of magic that disrupts esoteric structures and all its other premises in a number of lifetimes, has long been known in various parts of the world².

When shamans make contracts with Satan, those with spiritual, occult, etc. books make offerings to Satan through things Satan likes, such as emptiness, faith, polytheism, and sacrifice³. All kinds of spells and amulets fall into the category of occult science, whether they come from kyai or shamans (Fadli, 2023). Every Muslim should understand that any form of witchcraft is a sin that leads to disbelief⁴. In view of Islamic law, witchcraft is considered one of the great and dangerous sins. Therefore, it is rated as *al-itsmu al-kabair* (The greatest great sin of all major sins) because according to the Prophet SAW, witchcraft is equivalent to disturbing God (Shirk) and evil disobeys both parents⁵. Magic comes from Arabic, the mashdar form of fi'il *sahara*. Linguistically, magic has several meanings, including; *Saharahu* means to give one's heart, to incite one's heart, to make one infatuated. Magic also means cheating, such as deceiving deception so that one seems to see something, when in fact it does not exist. Another meaning of magic is to turn away from something, such as the word of God, (QS. Al-Mukminun: 89):

¹ IAIN Syarif Hidayatullah, *Ensiklopedi Islam Indonesia* (Jakarta: Djambatan, 1992), 856.

² Hurmain, *Dukun Black Magic Di Pasir Pangairian* (Pekanbaru, 1989), 13.

³ Muhammad Arifin Ilham, *Panduan Zikir Dan Do'a* (Jakarta: Bestar, 2007).

⁴ Imran Al-Idrusy, *Mengenal Langkah-Langkah Setan* (Surabaya: Putra Pelajar, 2001), 45-49.

⁵ Al-Athar Abdul Kholiq, *Menolak Dan Membentengi Diri Dari Sihir* (Bandung: Pustaka Hidayah, 1996), 12.

سَيَقُولُونَ لِلَّهِ قُلْ فَأَنَّى تُسْحَرُونَ

Meaning: *They will answer: "Belongs to God (Allah)". Say: "(Then in what way) were you deceived?"*

The word magic is also taken from the word (*sahar*), which means the end of night time and before the rising of dawn. Because at that moment it meets between dark and light, so that something becomes unclear or not completely clear. From this word is also drawn the term *sahur*, which means: *food and drink eaten at the end of the night before dawn*. Another meaning of magic is "madness", because magic can drive a person crazy. Magic is also a word and conversation that causes wonder and question marks, such as the words of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) "*Truly among the talks is magic (riveting)*" (H.R. Bukhari). In addition, magic also means to eliminate, as it is said: *he has done magic to him, when he removes from a person the feeling of anger into a feeling of affection*⁶⁷. The scholars have ascertained that fear is the most important and greatest level of religion, along with the set of various services that are servant to Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala. Then what happens to those who convert to worship other than Allah, according to the book al-Habib, the words of the Prophet (PBUH):

"Yahya bin Sa'id from 'Auf said, we told from Abi Hurairah and Hasan from the Prophet (PBUH) said: **Whoever goes to a shaman or fortune teller has indeed denied what was revealed to Muhammad (PBUH)**"⁸. [H.R. Ahlussunan the four and was appointed by Al-Hakim in accordance with the requirements of Bukhari-Muslim].

The above hadith is a strong threat to those who go to sorcerers and psychics, so for those who tell others to go there or spread it to others, the sin is undoubtedly greater⁹. Jumhur ulama argues that magic is indeed real. The basis is the verses of the Qur'an, one of which is in (QS. Al-A'raf: 116) which reads:

قَالَ الْقَوْمُ فَلَمَّا أَلْقَوْا سَحَرُوا أَعْيُنَ النَّاسِ وَاسْتَرْهَبُوهُمْ وَجَاءُوا بِسِحْرٍ عَظِيمٍ

Meaning: Moses replied: "Throw it (first)!" So, when they threw, they juggled the eyes of the people, and made the people afraid, and they brought great magic.

Most magical practices are done with the help of spirits (Satan). Therefore, it is necessary to clearly state the effects and dangers of this magic. Magic actually has no positive or negative effect unless Allah wills it because nothing happens in the universe except with His permission (Nirwana AN et al., 2023). Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala bestows the skill to use spells for trials, and He also has the power to cancel

⁶ Ibnu al-Manzhar, Lisan Al-'Arab, vol. 4 (Beirut: Dâr al Shâdir, n.d.), 350.

⁷ Ashfahani, Al-Mufradât Fi Ghâribi al-Qurân (Beirut: Dâr al Ma'ârifah, n.d.), 225.

⁸ Imam Ahmad bin Muhammad bin Hambal, Musnad Ahmad, ed. Fathurrahman Abdul Hamid, Ahmad Khotib, and Ahmad Rasyid Wahab, Terjemahan Indonesia, vol. 19 (Jakarta: Pustaka Azzam, 2007), 214.

⁹ Al-Muqbil, Membongkar Sihir Dan Perdukunan (Jakarta: Pustaka At-Tazkia, 2010), 23.

them if anyone asks for them willingly or if he can pass the test¹⁰. Psychics or shamans usually claim to know something unseen, even though Allah *Subhanahu wa Ta'ala* explains that only He knows it. And Allah *Subhanahu wa Ta'ala* only tells the occult knowledge to the Apostles whom He preaches, as Allah *Subhanahu wa Ta'ala* says in (QS. Al-Jin: 26-27) as follows:

عَلِمَ الْغَيْبِ فَلَا يُظْهِرُ عَلَىٰ غَيْبِهِ أَحَدًا ﴿٣٦﴾ إِلَّا مَن ارْتَضَىٰ مِن رَّسُولٍ فَإِنَّهُ يَسْلُكُ مِن بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ
وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِ رَصَدًا ﴿٣٧﴾

Meaning: (He is God) Who knows the unseen, so He does not show anyone about the unseen. (26) Except for the apostle whom he had praised, he had guards (angels) in front of him and behind him. (27)

Magic is an important chapter that must be considered by scholars using discussion, deepening, and writing. Because magic is a problem that occurs and arises in society. Witches work day and night to corrupt and inflict mischief in order to obtain some material rewards from the mentally weak and criminals who envy their Muslim brethren. They were happy and satisfied to see their brothers suffering and tormented by the magic they sent¹¹. When observed, there are several civilizations and countries that also have policies related to magic. This can be seen that there are laws in place to restrict the practice of witchcraft. For example, the law written in the *Visigoth Code*. In this *Code*, the practice of witchcraft is stated as an offence, deviant teaching and punishment for such offences is bound, beheaded, and burned (Nirwana AN et al., 2023). However, *the Visigoth Code* is only used in offenses related to Christian religious offenses because the practice of witchcraft is not included as a major offense based on the Civil Law [Susan C. Karant-nunn and Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks, 2003]. In an archipelago such as Malaysia, practitioners of magic are known as *bomoh*, *pawang*, *tok batin*, *shaman* and others. In contrast to mental practitioners or extraordinary techniques in western countries such as in Africa. Have titles including *sangoma*, *witchdoctor*, *sorcerer*, *toa mali*, *jhakri* and so on [Amran Kasimin 2009].

People generally know magic comes from witches or shamans. The fact is that magic has a long history behind it. Where exactly does this magic come from and how can magic, something that is labeled as a mistake and forbidden, can actually spread widely to various countries (Robiansyah et al., 2022). Knowing magic can add insight and broaden people's perspectives in responding to magic. Starting from the history of magic then how influential magic is in various countries or civilizations (Saiin & Karuok, 2022). Magic is considered a mistake or labeled forbidden because, this science not only contains something that is beyond human limits or supernatural things but this science can also influence and even mislead humans, especially in terms of belief.

¹⁰ M. Quraisy Shihab, *Al-Lubab Makna, Tujuan, Dan Pelajaran Dari Surah-Surah al-Qur'an* (Tangerang: Lentera Hati, 2012), 31.

¹¹ Aunur Rafiq Shaleh Tamhid, *Sihir Dan Cara Pengobatannya Secara Islami, Terjemahan*, vol. 1 (Jakarta: Robbani Press, 1995), 17.

Literature Review

Indeed, research on magic is not small, especially among social science activists in institutions and universities that have a lot to do with the study of these sciences. However, there are still few authors who find studies on magic that focus on the history of magic itself. Therefore, the author wants to see how the study of the history of magic when viewed in the perspective of the interpretation of Indonesian scholars and how the form of magic spread in various parts of the world. Related to this, the author found several written works on the theme of magic and its history which in general are closely related to the research that the author did, these scientific works include:

There are research journals that discuss magic, precisely focusing on the history of magic itself. Journal entitled *Sejarah Amalan Sihir Di Zaman Para Nabi Menurut Sumber Tafsir dan Hadith* written by Aizan Hj. Ali @ Mat Zin and Mohd Yakub @ Zulkifli Hj. Mohd Yusoff. This journal focuses more on the study of the history of magic and its spread in the time of the prophets. It covers the source of the origin of magic which is then continued with the division of magic according to its era starting from magic in the time of the prophet Solomon (AS), magic in the time of the prophet Moses (AS), closed with a description of magic in the time of the prophet Muhammad (PBUH). In their decipherment, they use verses and also hadiths related to magic as the basis. So, this journal provides an introduction for the author about the History of magic that has been known since ancient times.¹²

And another one there is a book that explains not only about magic and its history but also contains about the treatment or prevention of the effects of magic, magic methods, magic laws, to the things that encourage a person as well as the conditions for a person to perform magic (Rohman et al., 2023). This book was written by Dr. Muhammad Solomon Al-Asyqar with the title *Candu Mistik Menyingkap Rahasia Sihir & Perdukunan*. As mentioned earlier, this book discusses a lot of things related to magic, not forgetting that there are also interpretations of some magic verses. He not only used these verses as a basis in his studies, but also used several hadiths in his studies of magic. The author also sees this as a very rich resource in conducting research on the History of magic and also its spread in modern times.¹³

Those are the two works that the author found to be a great basis in writing this study. The author finds that there are still few studies on magic that focus on deepening its history. Therefore, the author tries to conduct a new study that is different from previous research on magic, focusing on the history or origin of magic. Through the thoughts of famous mufassir from Nusantara or Indonesia.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research is qualitative research that seeks to describe magical phenomena that are widespread not only in the archipelago but also in various parts of the world. To observe the phenomenon, the method used is a qualitative case study method

¹² Aizan Hj. Ali @ Mat Zin and Mohd Yakub @ Zulkifli Hj Mohd Yusoff, *Sejarah Amalan Sihir Di Zaman Para Nabi Menurut Sumber Tafsir Dan Hadith*, Jurnal Usuluddin, 2003.

¹³ M. S. Al-Asyqar, *Candu Mistik Menyingkap Rahasia Sihir Dan Perdukunan* (Darul Falah, 2022), <https://books.google.co.id/books?id=JK9-EAAAQBAJ>.

using library data sources, data collection from documents or various scientific books from libraries and online sources (Zahle, 2021) (Liu, 2022). The collected data is then analyzed and interpreted to produce descriptive conclusions in the form of a picture of magical phenomena ranging from their history to their effects on different civilizations or countries. This research was also conducted using descriptive methods (Nigar, 2020).

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

Verse That Become the Foundation of Magic Things

وَاتَّبَعُوا مَا تَتْلُوا الشَّيْطِينُ عَلَىٰ مُلْكِ سُلَيْمَانَ وَمَا كَفَرَ سُلَيْمَانُ وَلَٰكِنَّ الشَّيْطِينَ كَفَرُوا يُعَلِّمُونَ النَّاسَ السِّحْرَ وَمَا أُنزِلَ عَلَى الْمَلَكَيْنِ بِبَابِلَ هَارُوتَ وَمَارُوتَ وَمَا يُعَلِّمَانِ مِنْ أَحَدٍ حَتَّىٰ يَقُولَا إِنَّمَا نَحْنُ فِتْنَةٌ فَلَا تَكْفُرْ فَيَتَعَلَّمُونَ مِنْهُمَا مَا يُفَرِّقُونَ بِهِ بَيْنَ الْمَرْءِ وَزَوْجِهِ وَمَا هُمْ بِضَارِّينَ بِهِ مِنْ أَحَدٍ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَيَتَعَلَّمُونَ مَا يَضُرُّهُمْ وَلَا يَنْفَعُهُمْ وَلَقَدْ عَلِمُوا لَمَنِ اشْتَرَاهُ مَا لَهُ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنْ خَلْقٍ وَلَبِئْسَ مَا شَرَوْا بِهِ أَنفُسَهُمْ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ وَلَوْ أَنَّهُمْ ءَامَنُوا وَآتَقَوْا لَمَثُوبَةَ اللَّهِ خَيْرٌ لَّو كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ

Meaning: [102] And they followed what the demons read during the time of Solomon's kingdom (and they said that Solomon did magic), whereas Solomon did not disbelieve (did not do magic), only the demons were disbelievers (worked magic). They taught magic to men and what was revealed to two angels in the land of Babil, Harut and Marut, neither of whom taught (anything) to anyone before saying: "Verily we are only temptations (for you), therefore do not disbelieve". So, they learned from the two angels what by magic they could divorce between a man and his wife. And they (sorcerers) do not give mudharat with their magic to anyone, except with the permission of Allah. And they learn something that does not give mudharat to him and does not benefit. For the sake of this, they have come to believe that whoever exchanges it (the book of Allah) for magic is not for him profit in the hereafter, and it is very evil that they sell themselves with magic, if they know. [103] Indeed, if they have faith and piety, (they will surely be rewarded), and indeed the reward from Allah's side is better, if they know. [QS. al-Baqarah: 102-103].

Because this verse came down to tell us that Allah has revealed to the children of Israil, a blessed law, namely the Torah. Then they left and threw it away, which then became preoccupied with magic dedicated to demons. When the Shari'a came to them, which Allah revealed to His last apostle, they still remained in their error in following magic and turning away from God's revelation. They thought that the Prophet of Allah, Solomon (as) had subdued jinns, humans, birds, and wind with magic (Parwanto & Engku Alwi, 2023). Then Allah sent down these verses as a reproach on them and explained their disbelief and heresy, in order to free the

Prophet Solomon, from what the heretics accused them of¹⁴. Ibn Al-Jauzi (may Allah have mercy on him) said, about the reason for the descent of this verse there are two opinions:

- a) The Jews did not ask the Prophet PBUH about anything from the Torah, unless he answered them. So, they asked him about magic and they attacked him with him. So, this verse comes down. This is said by Abu al-Aliyah.
- b) When Solomon is mentioned in the Qur'an, the Jews of Medina then say, "Do you not wonder at Muhammad who claimed that the son of David (Solomon) was a prophet? By Allah, he is nothing but a wizard." So came down this verse. In the opinion of Ibnu Ishaq¹⁵.

Apart from containing a discussion of the Prophet Solomon (AS) and its correlation with magic, there are various interpretations related to the phrases Harut and Marut mentioned in the verse above, including:

1. Sheikh Nawawi in the Book of *Marah Labid*

Sheikh Muhammad bin Umar Nawawi al-Bantani al-Jawi is an international scholar from Indonesia, whose real name is Muhammad Nawawi. In his book of tafsir (*Marah Labid*), Sheikh Nawawi expresses his interpretation into two points. First, secondly Angel is meant from the word *وما انزل على الملكين* (waw) is the A'tof to *اسحر*. Therefore, it was Satan who taught mankind the miracles (magic) inspired by Allah SWT to two angels, Harut and Marut (Saprudin et al., 2023). The point is that angels actually give witchcraft to humans, but it is Satan who misleads humans in the practice of witchcraft and misuses the knowledge taught by the two angels¹⁶.

Secondly, Sheikh Nawawi quoted the Abu-Muslim explanation in which Allah Almighty sent magic to both Angels Harut and Marut to teach magic to give trials to humans. Whether man will follow him or not, the same is the case with the trials of the ancients on the Thaluts who were tested to drink water from the River, Q.S. al-Baqarah ayat 249. Similarly, Allah Almighty sent down the two Angels to teach people about witchcraft not to be used as heretics, because of the descent of Harut-Marut to earth so that humans could distinguish between witchcraft and miracles. Note that many types of magic can create miracles and anomalies just as well as miracles. These strange things could cause sorcerers to claim to be prophets. The role of these two angels is revealed to fight against a wizard who is adept at creating miracles through his magic¹⁷.

In his Tafsir (*Marah Labid*), related to Q.S al-Baqarah verse 102, Imam Nawawi does not confirm that Harut and Marut are generally two angels commanded by Allah to descend to earth, nor does he confirm whether they are both in human form. Therefore, the story of the two is sourced from the earlier scholars of the book *Israiliyat*. Imam Nawawi only discussed witchcraft in his Tafsir (*Marah Labid*), and

¹⁴ Ibid., 202.

¹⁵ Ibnu al-Jauzi, *Zad Al-Masir Fi Ilm al-Tafsir*, vol. 1 (Beirut: Dar al-Kutub al-Ilmiyah, 2009), 120.

¹⁶ Tomi Hitami, *Kisah Harut Dan Marut Dalam Al-Qur'an* (Telaah Penafsiran Syekh Nawawi Al-Bantani Atas Qur'an Surat Al-Baqarah Ayat 102 Dalam Tafsir *Marah Labid*) (Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin, 2021), 123.

¹⁷ Ibid., 124.

Imam Nawawi concluded that the laws of witchcraft were applicable at the time of Prophet Solomon, and the study and practice of witchcraft was forbidden (Achmad Zubairin, 2022) (Fikriyati & Fawaid, 2022). However, during the time of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) witchcraft was not forbidden. That is, witchcraft such as *Santet*, *Guna Guna*, and *Pellets* are also studied as advice to protect themselves from the influence of magic.

2. M. Musthafa in Tafsir al-Maraghi

According to Muhammad Mustofa's Tafsir al-Maraghi, some Jewish scholars and scholars followed in the footsteps of those who set aside the Torah. It is as if the Jews do not know the real problem, when they do. However, they prefer to follow the magical practices taught by Satan in the time of the Prophet Solomon. They did, even though it was a real big loss for them. They suspect that it was the prophet Solomon who collected the magic books of experts in the field. The book was later buried under the royal seat. But this book was dug up until it was discovered by people who knew it. After that it was taught to many people for generations. Even though stories like this are only made up to satisfy their desires (Wan Ahmad et al., 2017). This matter was then handed over to the Prophet Solomon in order to gain the trust of the people. However, it was all just a trick and they were actually the ones practicing magic¹⁸.

3. M. Quraish Shihab in Tafsir al-Misbah

Tafsir Al-Misbah explains that the Jews made a movement to disrupt the religion introduced by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in order to weaken the position of the Prophet. They sought the help of demons and spirits to perform magic, spells, and occult sciences, which were attributed to the prophet Solomon. They suspect the kingdom of the prophet Solomon was built on that foundation. Their lies were used to deceive Muslims, causing some of them to become infidels and reject the accusations (Zulhamdi, 2020). There are two groups of people in their attitude towards magic. The first group studied witchcraft with good intentions (Shihab, 2000). That is, to withstand the damage caused by that magic. The second group studied magic with malicious intent. Separating a man and a woman from their friends, dissolving their marriages, giving rise to strife and enmity between men¹⁹.

According to Quraish Shihab, one who learns from Harut and Marut about the magic of separating men and women will not harm man unless Allah wills it. Allah gives possibilities to those who practice magic and witchcraft, and God also commands people to seek refuge from magic and witchcraft. If so, then everything is according to His will. It is He who gives the ability to bewitch as a test, and also the one who cancels it if someone sincerely asks for it or if they manage to pass the exam. Learning or practicing witchcraft hopes that what they learn is useful. In fact, they learn things that will harm them, not benefit them. This sentence conveys the meaning that neither party can benefit from magic. Indeed, they know that those who exchange (the Book of Allah) for witchcraft will not benefit in the Hereafter, and it is

¹⁸ Mariati Lubis, *Sihir Dalam Q.S Al-Baqarah: 102 Menurut Tafsir Al-Maraghi Dan Tafsir Al-Misbah* (Institut Agama Islam Negeri Padangsidempuan, 2019), 40.

¹⁹ Ibid., 51.

very bad for them to sell themselves with witchcraft, they are threatened with grievous torture.

4. Mahmud Yunus in Tafsir Quran Karim

Mahmud Yunus has defined *sihr* (magic) in several senses: Deceiving people's eyes and imagining something that is not the truth; Beautiful, sweet words captivated the hearts of his listeners; Ask Satan for help and serve him by worshiping and spells to corrupt others (Syarifah, 2020). It is said that there is magic that is not haram. For example, something that uses tricks to perform an action, as performed by a magician. Magic also refers to the beautiful and sweet expression that fascinates and captivates the heart of the person who hears it. And if the expression has the purpose of accepting the truth, then it is lawful. But on the contrary, the expression will be haram if it has bad purposes such as slander, pitting, and so on. In addition, witchcraft is haram if it means that there are rituals that ask for demonic help, serve through prayers and spells, and lure others such as shamans. Therefore, this kind of magic is haram and even those who practice it are considered as infidels because they have associated Allah²⁰.

There are also some opinions of scholars regarding Q.S al-Baqarah verse 102. Among them, Imam Ibn Jarir (2001: 2/331) narrated athar from Ibn 'Abbas in relation to the interpretation of the statement of Allah SWT which means, "*and what is sent down to two angels, Harut and Marut, in the land of Babel (Babylon)... (Q.S. al-Baqarah, 2:102)*" until the end of the verse that Ibn 'Abbas states that Allah Almighty did not actually send down magic. The same statement was issued by al-Rabi'ibn Anas.

Lafaz *malakaini* is meant to be the Angel Gabriel (Jibril) and the Angel Michael (Mikail) AS, because the Jewish sorcerers according to rumors among them believe that Allah Almighty sent down witchcraft through the oral of Gabriel and Michael, and then conveyed it to the Prophet Solomon (AS) bin David (Syafuruddin, 2014). So, Allah Almighty denied the accusations they spread, and told the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) that Gabriel and Michael never once passed down witchcraft. And Allah Almighty cleared Prophet Solomon (AS) on charges that he practiced the witchcraft they spread. At the same time, Allah Almighty told the Jews that magic was an act of Satan. It was Satan who taught it to the people of Babylon. The people who taught them magic were two men, one named Harut, while the other was Marut. Based on this *Takwil*, Harut and Marut are human names. And the objection to what they accused of against the angels, was Gabriel and Michael.²¹

Imam Ibn al-Kathir (1999: 1/352) also said, most Salaf scholars argue that Harut and Marut are two angels from heaven, and they were sent down to earth, then what happened to both of them. Based on this understanding, it means that from the combination of this opinion with the postulate that the angels are preserved from

²⁰ Naufal Tsaqif Robbani and Andri Nirwana AN, *Perkembangan Penafsiran Harut Dan Marut Dalam Kajian Tafsir Indonesia Periode 1900 - 2000*, ed. Alfiyatul Azizah (Kota Batu: PT. Azed Berkah Makmur, 2023), 80.

²¹ Kamarul Azmi Jasmi, *Bani Israil Dan Ilmu Sihir Serta Kisah Harut Dan Marut: Surah al-Baqarah (2: 99-103)*, 11 March 2019, 19.

error, it can be concluded that the events experienced by these two angels since the time of azali are known to the science of Allah SWT. Thus, this event was a specificity for both of them. There is no contradiction in both of them, as known by Allah SWT's knowledge on the matter of the Devil in the evidence of the previous interpretation.²². Nor does it contradict the notion that demons were originally a class of angels, as mentioned by His Word:

And (remember) when we said to the angel: "Submit (pay homage) to the prophet Adam". Then they bow down to salute but Satan; He was reluctant. (QS. al-Baqarah 2:34).

History of Magic and Its Transmission

Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala in his word (QS. Adz-Dzariyat: 52), says:

Thus, not an apostle came to those who were before them, but they said: "He is a sorcerer or a madman."

The Nash of the Qur'an generally indicates that all devotees accuse their apostles of tyrannical accusations, i.e. accusing them of being witches or insane. This shows that all people know magic. The first apostle was Noah (AS). and according to the Qur'anic postulates, there is no doubt that his people also accused him of such dirty words.

Ibn Hajar Al-Asqalani *Rahimahullah* in his book *Fath Al-Baari*, he said, "Magic existed in Noah's time because Allah told Noah that they accused him of being a witch; and the story of Harut and Marut takes place before Noah, as described by Ibnu Ishaq and others. However, what Ibnu Ishaq said that the story of Harut and Marut occurred before the time of Noah, is still a possibility. There are no axioms from the Qur'an and Sunnah that we can use to postulate with it that limit the time in which this story occurs²³. Magic continues to develop in its implementation and teaching, which then causes magic to undergo transmission to various parts of the world:

1) The magic of the Babylonian Nation

One of the earliest (Ancient) peoples who studied magic and lost its way was the Babylonians. As Allah Subhanahu wa ta'ala said:

And they followed what the demons read during Solomon's kingdom (and they said that Solomon was doing magic), whereas Solomon was not infidel (did not do magic), only the demons were disbelievers (worked magic). They taught magic to men and what was revealed to two angels in the land of Babil, Harut and Marut... [al-Baqarah: 102]

The Babil shown by the Qur'anic nash is a city in the Irak on the banks of the Tigris River, remnants of the country's history still exist today. It was the largest city of its time, its vast territory, many sciences, and arts. Among the sciences and arts, it is witchcraft and *falak*. Herodotus, a historian of his time has explained with good explanation, which indicates his majesty and splendor. The inhabitants of Babil were the Kildans of Nabt and Suryani²⁴.

²² Ibid., 22.

²³ Al-Asyqar, *Candu Mistik Menyingkap Rahasia Sihir Dan Perdukunan*, 2.

²⁴ Yaqut al-Hamawi, *Mu'jam Al-Buldan*, IX, vol. I (Beirut: Dar Shadir, 2015), 309.

The spread of magic of the people of Babil and his knowledge is famous among scientists who are strengthened by the nash of the Qur'an. Ibn Khaldun said, "As for the existence of magic on the inhabitants of Babylon, they were mostly Kildans from Nabt and Suryani". The Qur'an explains it and narrates it in many hadiths. Magic experienced its heyday in Babil and Egypt at the time of Moses (AS) Lifted to be a messenger²⁵. The author of the book *Dairatu Ma'arif Al-Qarni Al-Isyirin*, commented on the expertise of the people of Babil in magic, saying, "The inhabitants of Babil and they were the Kildans of Nabt and Suryani, considered to be the cleverest people in matters of magic and divination. Communicating (worshipping) the spirits and removing them from the body is among the main skills they possess"²⁶.

Asyur Banibal (the Assyrian king who reigned from 668 to 626 BC) collected in his library many religious and magic texts. The texts collected a wide variety of offerings that spread in ancient cities, most of which were written in Sumerian²⁷. Scholars have grouped the writings of the Babilits and their magic texts into three main themes:

- **First**, texts on divination. It is explained that the stars are gods who influence people's lives, deeds, and activities.
- **Second**, special inscriptions were used as a means of shamanism and obtaining news about the supernatural realm.
- **Third**, spells are used to resist the evil of black magic and avoid evil spirits attached to the body, causing the culprit to experience danger and pain. There is a belief that the causes of pain are generally demons and evil spirits. Therefore, in order to heal a person of his pain he must expel this evil spirit from his body²⁸.

2) The Magic of the Persian Nation

Al-Jashshash explains that the Persians originally adhered to the teachings of monotheism. When some of their kings ruled the city of Babylon, they adopted the religion of the witches and became their religion until the Magi religion was formed²⁹. Historians explain that Rustum, the great Persian commander-in-chief was a fortune teller by looking at the stars. He was convinced that the stars depicted the emergence of the Muslims and their victory. This was one of the factors that caused him to postpone meetings with Muslim soldiers in the Qadisid War for a long time by four months³⁰.

3) The Magic of the Egyptian Nation

The ancient Egyptians divided the human body into several members. They were convinced that every part of the human body was influenced by certain gods.

²⁵ Ibnu Khaldun, *Al-Muqadimah*, II (Beirut: Maktabatul Madrasah wa Darul Kitab Al-Lubnani, 1979), 927.

²⁶ Muhammad Farid Wajdi, *Dairatu Ma'arif Al-Qarni Al-Isyirin*, II (Beirut: Darul Ma'rifah li Ath-Thiba'ah wa An-Nasyr, 1971), 65.

²⁷ Ahmad Syantanawi, *Funun As-Sihr* (Kairo: Darul Ma'rifah, 1957), 10.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, 13.

²⁹ Abu Bakar Ahmad al-Razi Al-Jassas, *Ahkaamu Al-Qur'an* (Beirut: Dar al-Fikr, 1993), 44.

³⁰ Ibnu Katsir, *Al-Bidayah Wa An-Nihayah*, II (Beirut: Maktabah al-Ma'arif, 1974), 38.

They write a schedule of the Beatitudes and the days of the Passions according to the Shari'a they believe in. They said, "No sailing on the Nile on the nineteenth of the month of Hatur (November 10 – December 9)." They also believe that children born in the month of Babah (October 11 – November 9) should be killed³¹. Among the Egyptian kings who ruled at the end of their period was King Nictanibas. He was a sorcerer whose powers continued until 385 BC³².

The Egyptians used Al-Jabraic calculations, astrology, formulas, and difficult words that they used constantly when they wanted to perform magic. Egyptian witches have reached high positions with the magic they mastered. It is evident that people from other nations such as Greeks, Romans, and other inhabitants of the ancient world saw that Egyptian magic was the greatest and most powerful magic compared to other eastern countries. The witches of other lands adjacent to Egypt tried with all their might to follow the magic methods of the Egyptian witches and resemble them in all their deeds³³.

4) Greek Magic

Magic had a wide place according to the Greeks, like the rest of the people. For example, their beliefs in matters of numbers, will, magic, the influence of evil spirits, and so on³⁴. Although this opinion was refuted by scientists who studied ancient Greek and Roman relics at the beginning of the Enlightenment (*Renaissance*). This opinion could not withstand new criticisms of the Greek sciences and their philosophy. It is not difficult for researchers to look for the influence of magic in Greek religion and in the history of Greek literature which is full of formulas, *kinayahs*, and Greek tales filled with amazing magic.

In common Greek writings also describe strange miracles and shamanism. People who are known to have wisdom and philosophy like Plato are inseparable from this witchcraft, people who are experts in literature such as Archimedes sometimes explain about the spells, prayers, and magic that give birth to love, hatred, and other magical behaviors. It cannot be said that the Greeks performed less magic than other ancient peoples. In fact, magic was one of the important elements in Greek civilization.

5) The Magic of the Jewish Nation

Every Shari'a revealed by Allah *Subhanahu wa Ta'ala* denies the existence of magic and orders to fight witches. So, it is because magic is contrary to the legitimacy sent down by Allah. Allah calls all men to have faith in Him, worship Him alone, not to associate Him, to rely on Him, to serve Him and not to anything else. Whereas magic itself worships or is servant to other than God; Their hearts and faces face demons, stars, the sun, the moon, and humans. In the Torah it was commanded to the Israelites to kill witches. In the Torah it says, "Do not let the witch live." [*Perjalanan Keluar*, 24th Juz, 18th Alinea].

³¹ Wajdi, *Dairatu Ma'arif Al-Qarni Al-Isyirin*, 64.

³² Muhammad Ja'far, *As-Sihr* (Kairo: Maktabah Anglo Al-Mishriyah, 1985), 15.

³³ Syantanawi, *Funun As-Sihr*, 25.

³⁴ Wajdi, *Dairatu Ma'arif Al-Qarni Al-Isyirin*, 65.

People who study Jewish history will know that the Jewish people have lost their way in life. Many people among them are learning magic and practicing it. Not only was it done by laymen, but also their scholars and thinkers (Talmud) as well. Khakham Syanina said, "Indeed, the influence of fortune telling a person is to make him an intelligent person and his influence makes him rich. The Israelites were under the influence of the prophecy." [*Talmud*, 47].

The attachment of the Jews to magic reached its peak until they abandoned the revealed Shari'a, violated it and relied on magic in all matters of their lives. The Qur'an explains the close relationship of the Jews with magic. They have thrown *Kitabullah* behind their backs and tracked what the demons in Solomon's kingdom did. It is what they follow, which is the magic that the demons teach. The Jews assumed that the prophet Solomon (AS) was a wizard and because of that magic jinns, demons, birds, and wind submitted to him. Allah *Subhanahu wa Ta'ala* straightens everything out in His word:

"And having come to them an Apostle from the side of God who confirmed what (the book) had on them, some of the people who were given the book (Torah) threw the book of Allah behind (his back), as if they did not know (that it was the book of God). And they followed what the demons read during the time of Solomon (and they said that Solomon worked magic), whereas Solomon was not infidel (did not do magic), only the demons were disbelievers (worked magic) ..." [al-Baqarah: 101-102].

Those who meditate on the nash-nash of the Qur'an know and are convinced that what was given to Solomon was a gift of Allah. Solomon was a prophet and king, not a magician. However, there are those who accuse him with far-fetched accusations. The accusation that Solomon was a wizard is no less than the Jewish accusation against him that he worshipped images as mentioned in the amended Torah [*Perjalanan Raja Pertama*, 11th title, Paragraphs 4-9]. In the history books, humans explain a lot about magic where humans worship demons so that between them and their God there is a barrier. Then they sent the books to Solomon, when it was clear that he was free of the charge.

6) Magic in the view of Islam

In the days before the advent of Islam, viewed from a historical perspective the birthplace of Islam was the Arabs, many reports show that the Arabs had known magic known to other peoples and they learned it as other people learned it. The magic was learned to guard their spirits, treasures, and country. Arab history, however, says that the Arabs were not as concerned in matters of magic as the Assyria, Suryania, Egyptians, and Greeks. Their attention focused more on shamanism and divination³⁵.

However, when Islam came, it clearly declared war with witches, shamans, and fortune tellers. The Prophet (PBUH) considered witches as one of the seven great evils. A shahih hadith narrated by Al-Bukhari from Abu Hurairah *Radhiyallahu Anhu* explains:

³⁵ Al-Asyqar, *Candu Mistik Menyingkap Rahasia Sihir Dan Perdukunan*, 25.

“The Prophet said, ‘Stay away from seven things that can destroy you, that is, cause you to go to hell or be cursed by Allah.’ The Companions asked, ‘What are the seven things, O Messenger of Allah?’ The Prophet said, ‘shudder Allah, i.e. curse Him, perform acts of witchcraft, kill people who are forbidden by Allah but with righteous ones, eat usury treasures, eat orphans’ property, run away from the battlefield, and slander good women who are allowed to marry, and guard their muruah (honor), as well as women who do not think of doing evil deeds, and women who do not believe in Allah and His Messenger with slander commit adultery.” (H.R. al-Bukhari).

These sins are called destructive because they can destroy and corrupt the perpetrator. Most scholars consider magic to be disbelief, using the postulate of al-Baqarah verse 102. Therefore, magic is not respected in Islamic countries. The straight Muslims, on the other hand, saw magic with low eyesight and contempt. However, the Islamic world in the course of its history, cannot be separated from magic and witches. However, the Muslims saw them with such angry visions that the swords of the rulers slashed their necks and the oral scholars explained their corruption, lies and heresy³⁶.

7) Magic in Europe

The beginning of the spread of magic in Europe began when they occupied Spain under the rule of the Muslims, where the Jews found security under the rule of just Islam. However, the kindness of Muslims was used by them as an opportunity to spread their "poison" in various parts of Europe. These witches had a high position in front of the ruler so that everyone from the king to the layman was interested in studying and exploring it. It is not surprising that the malice, rivalry, and race in power, love of power, possessions, greed, martyrdom, revenge, deceit, and so on upon which these countries stand, All of them need witches to realize their goals, therefore, every ruler, king and queen has a special witch who serves them and realizes their goals³⁷.

Magic spread in Asia through the hands of the Jews. The magic there is still what it used to be, when magic was studied by people in all corners of the city and country. In fact, the Jews created a special association called Qablaniyah. The association is the same or similar to religious schools and philosophies that rely on the Talmud (Jewish Leaders). In the fourteenth century, Qablaniyah spread in Europe which, in Germany, continued to spread to France as far as Italy. The Jewish association founded the Qoblaniyah school in 1533 A.D. it was the first black magic school which was closed in 1572 A.D. this did not stop the development and spread of the teaching. With the formation of associations in which many black magic was taught, and until now the science still exists. Among them was Al-Manusi who studied poems similar to those learned by Qoblaniyah.

³⁶ Ibid., 30.

³⁷ Ja'far, *As-Sihr*, 31.

8) Magic in the American State

When the Spaniards conquered America, they found that witches had a high position and they saw that witches meditated, fasted and practiced *Riyadhah nafsiyah* (mental exercise), assuming that these activities could bring them to the spirit and master the aura of nature. They also argue that witches in North America have extensive abilities and knowledge of plants. They use these plants to treat various diseases and they assume that they can witchcraft a person remotely through an intermediary (image or statue) of that person until the witchcraft reaches the original person through that medium so as to harm or benefit him as the witch wants³⁸.

9) Magic in the State of India

In this country religion and witchcraft mixed with each other, not only to guard against demons who tempt lust, but also to rule over the gods with *riyadhah*, semedi, sacrifice, and so on. When Buddhism, that is, the religion brought by Brahmins, came in, it could not remove the influence of magic, but rather strengthened it. Magic is still considered a big thing in Tibet and China³⁹. In the Vedas which are the holy books of the Hindus numbering four, one of them is the book of Andraveda in which it contains a special discussion of spells and magic.

Brahmins who assume that the pious emerged from their class and their deity (Brahma), do not oppose and deny the existence of this magic. In ancient Indian medical books, it includes medical science that has been mixed with magic in every study. Both in the discussion of symptoms, diseases, treatment and healing [Wal Diwarnt, Print III].

10) Magic in Modern Times

Times continue to change, Science continues to develop, technology created by humans also continues to progress. However, these things did not stop the spread or influence of magic in society. Developed countries such as France, America, and Germany have not a few cases related to the practice of magic and its spread, in the 19th century to the 20th century. The government is not silent and tries to overcome the witchcraft that occurs, it is a challenge for them in an effort to overcome it because some of their people still adhere, teach, and practice the teachings of magic. People who adhere to and influence this teaching not only come from local people but also come from immigrants, one of which is from the African continent. Not a few of them commit fraud by claiming to be able to do or know supernatural things which then hide themselves to eliminate their traces when they succeed in deceiving humans and extracting their property.

In Haiti and Brazil, there is also a spread of magic known as *voodoo*, a kind of black magic in which witches serve evil spirits to realize their evil goals. People who perform this ceremony or ritual gather in a dancing feast, they assume that the spirits possess the body of a woman, so the woman must dance, the dance is part of magic that actually makes demons laugh at human stupidity (Rozy et al., 2023) (Adiansyah &

³⁸ Wajdi, *Dairatu Ma'arif Al-Qarni Al-Isyirin*, 64.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, 65.

Yahya, 2022). When finished dancing, the spirit asked for wine or alcohol and asked to be moved to a chair to sleep, then the spirit finally left the woman's body [*Jaridah Al-Anba' Al-Kuwaitiyah*, 22 June 1988].

This has not escaped any Arab or other Islamic country, although the problem is not as bad as that in France or America. Because witches do not find a comfortable place in Islamic countries, where their own religion Islam forbids witchcraft and considers it one of the great disasters. One example is in Kuwait where the subject of magic is often a topic discussed in print media in the country, such as *Al-Qabas* Newspaper and *As-Siyasah* Newspaper in the 20th century.

CONCLUSION

The true birth of magic or rather the reason God sent magic to the earth through the events of Harut and Marut was solely to give a test to mankind through the knowledge of magic. This is supported by the fact that in the Qur'an Allah never once favored or encouraged humans to practice witchcraft. On the contrary, Allah is very angry with those who practice the teachings of magic, while the verse of Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala also corrects misunderstandings or refutes human accusations that say that Prophet Solomon (AS) is a wizard. Indeed, all the greatness possessed by the Prophet Solomon was solely a gift and the pleasure of Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala. And in one of His words, it has also been affirmed that Witches are only deeds done by Satan.

Although it has been explained in various scriptures of the divine religion that are still pure and preserved in authenticity, that magic is forbidden, brings destruction, and will invite God's wrath. It was ignored by ancient nations who contributed greatly to the world of magic, one of which was the Jews and actually developed and expanded this teaching to various parts of the world. Starting from Asia and even to European countries. At first, through small associations to have a high position, namely being appointed as a companion to the leader of the state.

In the age of technology, the development of magic continues even in the shadows. Not a few of the people of developing countries and even developed countries still believe and even practice magic to fulfill their desires as humans. Not only that, witchcraft is also used as a cover for fraud by some groups of society, to reap profits by deceiving others. In Islamic countries, it is actually also not spared from this one science. Even so, its influence is not as bad and wide as other countries. Because in Islam, magic is forbidden and is one of the great threats or disasters. Therefore, witches do not get a comfortable or special place in the Islamic country.

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