



Fatwa No. 3384:

Q: Some Yemeni tribes believe that if an elderly lady who is stricken in years looks at any young man or woman, or even a child, be it a male or female, she will capture their soul, and if she wills, she can bring the dead back to life once again. Is this belief based on any evidence from the Book of Allah or the Sunnah of His Messenger (peace be upon him), or any of the Messenger's Sahabah (companions of the Prophet)? Moreover, a lady who is accused of the above will be cast out by her children or providers and will be left in the open under the scorching sun. There is a man who is said to find out if an elderly lady is really a "soul taker" or just a normal lady. Kindly answer our question. May Allah reward you!

A: We know no solid proof concerning the two kinds of men and women mentioned above

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from the sanctified Shari`ah; it is not permissible even to think of the existence of such things. Death and life are predestined by Allah (may He be Praised and Exalted), and no one save Allah knows the Ghayb (the Unseen), as Allah (may He be Praised) says, ﴿ Say: "None in the heavens and the earth knows the Ghaib (Unseen) except Allâh, nor can they perceive when they shall be resurrected." ﴾ Assuming that anything of the kind may happen, it should be nothing more than optically illusive magic that makes people see ghosts and bodies unlike what they really are. This is all prohibited by the Ijma` (consensus) of Muslim scholars, and it should not be acknowledged, but rather denied and warned against. This magic is a forbidden act that leads to disbelief and resembles the magic practiced by the magicians of the Pharaoh in the past.

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions!

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