Fatwa No. 10544:

Q: What is the phenomenon of conjuration, that is, believing in the possibility of conjuring the spirit of a dead person through a medium? What is the attitude of Islam towards this phenomenon? Is it a true phenomenon? May you give us an answer supported by Ayahs (Qur'anic verses), Hadiths or narrations!

A: This phenomenon is a practice known of using a jinn (creatures created from fire) and conjuring it by means of supplications and charms practiced by a conjurer. It is a kind of charlatanry and witchcraft, which is legally forbidden because it often entails Shirk (associating others in worship with Allah), lying, pretension of knowing Ghayb (unseen), etc. Allah (may He be Exalted) says: (And Verily, there were men among mankind who took shelter with the males among the jinn, but they (jinn) increased them (mankind) in sin and transgression. He also says: ("O you assembly of jinns! Many did you mislead of men," and their Auliyâ' (friends and helpers, etc.) amongst men will say: "Our Lord! We benefited one from the other, but now we have reached our appointed term which You did appoint for us." He will say: "The Fire be your dwellingplace, you will dwell therein forever, except as Allâh may will. Certainly your Lord is AllWise, AllKnowing." (And thus We do make the Zâlimûn (polytheists and wrong-doers) Auliyâ' (supporters and helpers) of one another (in committing crimes), because of that which they used to earn.)

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Al-Bukhari related in his Sahihon the authority of Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: (When Allah decrees an order in the heaven, the angels flutter their wings indicating complete surrender to His saying, which sounds like chains being dragged on rock and the sound reaches them. (So much so that when fear is banished from their (angels') hearts, they (angels) say: "What is it that your Lord has said?" They say: "The truth. And He is the Most High, the Most Great.")Then the stealthy listeners (devils) hear this order, and these stealthy listeners are like this, one over the other." Sufyan (a sub-narrator) demonstrated that by holding his hand upright and separating the fingers. A stealthy listener hears a word which he conveys to that which is below him and the second conveys it to that which is below him until the last of them conveys it to a wizard or foreteller. Sometimes a flame (fire) may strike the devil before he can convey it, and sometimes he may convey it before the flame (fire) strikes him, whereupon the wizard adds to that word a hundred lies. The people will then say: 'Did not he (i.e. wizard) tell such-and-such a thing on such-and-such date?' Thus, that wizard is said to have told the truth because of the statement which has been heard from the heavens.)

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

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