



Fatwa no. (2948):

Q: Is it permissible for a fortuneteller or a soothsayer to lead people in congregational Salah (Prayer)? What is the ruling on offering Salah behind an immoral fortuneteller who claims knowledge of Ghayb (the Unseen)? There is a group of scholars in South Africa who are fortunetellers who deceive millions of ignorant Muslims and take their money by means of sorcery, soothsaying, writing talismans and using the Jinn (creatures created from fire). Some Indians and Pakistanis have some strands of hair which they claim belong to the Prophet (peace be upon him) and they use to deceive

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the people. They sell this hair in the district of Lance for 30 or 100 pounds. Is this permissible? We denounce this practice, so please advise.

A: A fortuneteller or a soothsayer who claims knowledge of the Ghayb through divining, calling upon the Jinn, and the like is considered a Kafir (disbeliever), as Allah stated, ﴿ Say: "None in the heavens and the earth knows the Ghaib (Unseen) except Allāh" ﴾ (Surah Al-Naml, 27: 65). Allah also stated, ﴿ (He Alone is) the All-Knower of the Ghaib (Unseen), and He reveals to none His Ghaib (Unseen). ﴾ Except to a Messenger (from mankind) whom He has chosen (He informs him of unseen as much as He likes), and then He makes a band of watching guards (angels) to march before him and behind him. ﴾ (Surah Al-Jinn, 72: 26-27). He also stated, ﴿ Verily Allāh, with Him (Alone) is the knowledge of the Hour, He sends down the rain, and knows that which is in the wombs. No person knows what he will earn tomorrow, and no person knows in what land he will die. Verily, Allāh is All-Knower, Well-Acquainted (with things). ﴾ (Surah Luqman, 31-34).

The Prophet (peace be upon him) confirmed this when he stated, ﴿ Whoever visits a diviner and consults him regarding any matter, his Salah extending to forty nights will not be accepted. ﴾ Narrated by Muslim in his Sahih (authentic) Book of Hadith. He (peace be upon him) also stated, ﴿ Whoever visits a diviner and believes in what he says, he has disbelieved in what was revealed to Muhammad (peace be upon him). ﴾ Narrated by Abu Dawud. He (peace be upon him) also stated, ﴿ Whoever visits a diviner or a soothsayer

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and believes in what he says, he has disbelieved in what was revealed to Muhammad (peace be upon him). ﴾ Narrated by the four Compilers of Hadith and Al-Hakim. He said, "It is Sahih (authentic) according to their conditions." He (peace be upon him) also stated, ﴿ "Whoever sees omens or has omens seen for him; predicts the future or has the future predicted for him; performs sorcery or has sorcery performed for him is not one of us (i.e. the Muslims). Whoever goes to a soothsayer and believes what he says, he disbelieves in what has been revealed to Muhammad (peace be upon him)." ﴾ Narrated by Al-Bazzar with a good Isnad (chain of narration).

Thus, it is impermissible for those who are aware of this to offer Salah behind such people; their Salah behind them is invalid.

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

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