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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*In the Name of Allaah,  
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.*

﴿وَنُنزِّلُ مِنَ الْقُرْآنِ مَا هُوَ شِفَاءٌ وَرَحْمَةٌ لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَلَا يَزِيدُ الظَّالِمِينَ إِلَّا خَسَارًا﴾

*"And We send down of the Qur'aan that which is a healing and a mercy to those who believe (in Islamic Monotheism and act on it), and it increases the Zaalimoon (polytheists and wrongdoers) nothing but loss." (Al-Isra' 17:82)*

The Messenger of Allaah ﷺ said:

«إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمْ يُنَزِّلْ دَاءً إِلَّا أَنْزَلَ لَهُ شِفَاءً، عِلْمَهُ مَنْ عِلِمَهُ وَجَهْلَهُ مَنْ جَهْلَهُ»

*"Allaah does not send down any disease but He also sends down a cure for it; those who know it know it, and those who do not know it do not know it."*<sup>[1]</sup>

And the Messenger of Allaah ﷺ said:

«مَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ مِنْ دَاءٍ إِلَّا أَنْزَلَ لَهُ شِفَاءً»

*"Allaah does not send down any disease but He also sends down a cure for it."*<sup>[2]</sup>

<sup>[1]</sup> *Musnad Al-Imam Ahmad, 4/278.*

<sup>[2]</sup> *Al-Saheehayn.*

### What the witch does in society

The witch strives to spread all kinds of harm and corruption in society, and he enjoys that. He does not hesitate or refrain from harming any creature or committing the worst of immoral actions. Things that witches do include destroying crops and livestock, starting fires, damaging trade goods, causing division between man and wife, causing infertility in married couples, producing creams that reduce or kill off sexual desire, causing miscarriages, making people insane, confused or unable to concentrate, making powders that instill love or hate, casting spells to break off engagements, and making the husband impotent before he gets married.

The witch then continues to act like a germ, eating away at the bones of society until it becomes weak. If this germ is not killed off, the whole body will be affected by weakness. Hence Islam took a firm stance against witchcraft and witches. According to the most correct scholarly opinion, witches are to be killed, and it is permissible to shed their blood without asking them to repent first.

Allaah says:

﴿وَمَا كَفَرَ سُلَيْمَانُ وَلَئِنَّ الشَّيَاطِينَ كَفَرُوا يُعَلِّمُونَ النَّاسَ  
السِّحْرَ وَمَا أُنزِلَ عَلَى الْمَلَكَيْنِ بِبَابِلَ هُنُوتَ وَمُرُوتَ وَمَا يَعْلَمَانِ مِنْ  
أَحَدٍ حَقًّا يَقُولَانِ إِنَّمَا نَحْنُ فِتْنَةٌ فَلَا تَكْفُرْ﴾

“Sulaymaan did not disbelieve, but the Shayaateen (devils) disbelieved, teaching men magic and such things that came down at Babylon to the two angels, Haaroot and Maaroot, but neither of these two

(angels) taught anyone (such things) till they had said, 'We are for trial, so disbelieve not (by learning this magic from us).'"

(Al-Baqarah 2:102)

If it is asked: why do you say that the witch is not to be asked to repent when the apostate is to be asked to do so? The answer is that according to the *Maaliki*, the witch is like the heretic (*Zindeeq*), and the heretic is not asked to repent.

Executing witches is the way of the Rightly-Guided Caliph 'Umar ibn Al-Khattab ؓ. In *Sunan Abi Dawood* it is narrated that Bajaalah ibn 'Abdah said: I was a scribe for Juz' ibn Mu'aawiyah, the paternal uncle of Al-Ahnaf ibn Qays. There came to us a letter from 'Umar, one year before his death, in which it said: "Kill every witch."<sup>[1]</sup> And its *Isnaad* is *Saheeh*.<sup>[2]</sup>

There is a *Saheeh* report about killing witches. It was narrated from the Mother of the Believers Hafsah ؓ, and in *Muwatta' Al-Imam Maalik* from 'Abdul-Rahmaan ibn Sa'd ibn Zaraqah, that he heard that Hafsah, the wife of the Prophet ﷺ, killed a slave woman who had bewitched her, and who had a written contract of manumission; she ordered that she be put to death.<sup>[3]</sup>

Execution of witches is also the view of many of the *Sahaabah*, such as 'Umar ibn Al-Khattab, 'Uthmaan ibn 'Affaan, Ibn 'Umar, the Mother of the Believers Hafsah

[1] *Sunan Abi Dawood*, 3/228, *Hadeeth* no. 3043.

[2] *Musnad Al-Imam Ahmad*, 1/190, 192; *Al-Bayhaqi*, 8/136; *Al-Muhalla* by Ibn Hazm, 11/397.

[3] *Muwatta'*, p. 543.