# 178428 - Determining if a Person is Afflicted With Evil Eye

**the question**

I have a question about the evil eye. In my culture (I am originally from Morocco), the women treat the evil eye by this ceremony:
The sick person sits down (e.g. on a chair) while another person holds a glass of water above his head.
Another person (this can be the same one as the one holding the glass) lights a match and goes around the face of the sick person with it, meanwhile reciting surat al Fatihah. Note that the match doesn't touch the face of the sick person. After a few seconds, the match is thrown in the glass of water above the head of the sick person and a second match is lit.
This is done seven times.
When done, the person who is doing this takes the glass of water and touches all the matches in the glass. If the matches go to the bottom of the glass, it means that the sick person is afflicted by the evil eye. They usually count the matches on the bottom to estimate how sick the person is. The more matches on the bottom, the sicker he is.
After this ceremony, people assume that the sick person is cured. I think this is very untrustworthy, because I have never read anything about a glass and matches to treat the evil eye. Can you please tell me whether this has a basis in Islam or not?

**Detailed answer**

Praise be to Allah.

The method mentioned of finding out whether a person has been afflicted with the evil eye and treating it is an innovated method (bid'ah) and a reprehensible practice; it is not permissible to do it and it should be forbidden and warned against. It is more like witchcraft and devilish tricks than ruqyah (incantation) as prescribed in Islam or regular medical treatment.

Islam, praise be to Allah, did not omit anything that concerns people but it has discussed it and explained it clearly. But the shaytan (devil) still manages to mislead some people because of their ignorance of Islam and the ways of bid'ah (innovation) that they are following.

Ruqyah may be done by reciting al-Fatihah, and reciting al-Fatihah as a remedy for sickness is something that has been prescribed in sharee'ah (Islamic law), but not in this innovated fashion.

See the answer to question no. 21581 .

Believing that something is a means when Allah has not made it a means – either according to Islam or the laws of nature that He has decreed – is a kind of shirk (polytheism). An example of that is regarding something as a sign of healing or sickness, or of success or failure, when there is no shar'i (legal) or physical connection between the two.

Shaykh Ibn 'Uthaymeen (may Allah have mercy on him) said:

So long as there is no proof that a thing is a means (to an end) – either according to Islam or natural, physical laws – then it is a kind of minor shirk. That includes, for example, charms and amulets that are said to ward off the evil eye, and the like, because this is deciding that something is a means to an end when Allah has not created it to be such. Thus he is deciding about something being a means to an end, which is something that is only for Allah to decide. Hence this is like an act of shirk.

End quote from Majmoo' Fatawa Ibn 'Uthaymeen.

To sum up:

The method mentioned is an innovative and reprehensible method that is more akin to the tricks of the practitioners of witchcraft and charlatans.

For information on the symptoms of affliction with the evil eye please see the answer to question no. 125543.

For more information on ways of protecting oneself from the evil eye and treating one who has

been affected by it, please see the answer to question no. 20954.

And Allah knows best.