114820 - He went to a fortune teller then he repented, but he found that what the fortune teller told him is coming true, day after day!

the question

One of my friend did a big mistake, he went to a furtune teller before starting his medical studies. After that he got knowledge and he repented sincerely towards Allah, and made Taubah for his sin. But the problem here is that whatever the Fortune teller informed him is coming true day by day. He want to remove his thinkings from this but unable to act such. He started offer praying. Whats the solution for such problems according to Islam. What you advice him about this.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Firstly:

It is not permissible to go to soothsayers and fortune tellers, because the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: “Whoever goes to a fortune-teller and asks him about something, his prayer will not be accepted for forty nights.” Narrated by Muslim (2230).

And he (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: “Whoever has intercourse with a menstruating woman or with a woman in her back passage, or goes to a fortune teller and believes what he says, has disbelieved in that which Allaah revealed to Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him).” Narrated by Abu Dawood (3904), al-Tirmidhi (3904) and Ibn Majaah (936); classed as saheeh by al-Albaani in Saheeh Ibn Maajah.

The kufr mentioned in the hadeeth is to be understood in the sense of minor or lesser kufr, according to many scholars, unless he believes that the witch or soothsayer has knowledge of the unseen or he believes his claims to have knowledge of the unseen.

For more information please see the answer to question no. 8291.

The one who has fallen into any of these matters must repent to Allaah, by regretting what he has done and resolving not to do it again.

Secondly:

As for what the fortune teller told him coming true day after day, this doesn't matter, and it does not affect the shar'i ruling in such cases at all. This may be due to one of two things:

1 – That the fortune teller used general words and phrases that reflect things that happen to all people, such as saying "you will go through some trials, then you will find relief" or "you will be blessed with some wealth" or "you will get married" and so on, and the person thinks that the fortune teller is telling the truth because of that.

2 – The fortune teller told him of something true that would happen in the future, then it happened as he said it would. This is something that the shaytaan snatched for him from the heavens, then passed it on to the fortune teller, who added lies and false things to it. If the incident that he spoke of happens, people believe everything he said. This is what the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) pointed out when he explained this matter. Al-Bukhaari (6213) and Muslim (2228) narrated that 'Aa'ishah (may Allaah be pleased with her) said: Some people asked the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) about soothsayers. The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said to them: "They are nothing." They said: O Messenger of Allaah, sometimes they tell us something that turns out to be true. The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: "That is a word from the jinn that the jinni snatches, and he cackles it into the ear of his familiar as a hen cackles, but they mix more than a hundred lies with it."

al-Bukhaari (4701) narrated from Abu Hurayrah (may Allaah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: "When Allaah decrees a matter in heaven, the angels beat their wings in submission to His words, making a sound like a chain striking a rock. When the fear is banished from their hearts, they say, What is it that your Lord has said? They say:

The truth, and He is the Most High, the Most Great. Then the one who is listening out hears that, and those who are listening out are standing one above the other" – Sufyaan [one of the narrators] demonstrated with his hand, holding it vertically with the fingers outspread. – "So he hears what is said and passes it on to the one below him, and that one passes it to the one who is below him, and so on until it reaches the lips of the soothsayer or fortune-teller. Maybe the meteor will hit him before he can pass anything on, or maybe he will pass it on before he is hit. He tells a hundred lies alongside it, but it will be said, Did he not tell us that on such and such a day, such and such would happen? So they believe him because of the one thing which was heard from heaven." i.e., he is believed because of the one true word that was heard from heaven and passed on to the fortune teller.

If we assume that the fortune teller told him something that did actually happen, such as if he told him about where a lost item was to be found, or some such, and this is what happened, if the questioner did not know it, then it is not "unseen" in absolute terms, rather it was "unseen" to the one who did not see it or know it. The fortune teller is able to see such things, either by himself or with the help of his helpers among the devils of mankind and the jinn, as is well known.

To sum up: So long as your friend has repented to Allaah, then he should not pay any attention to what the fortune-teller said or be afraid of what he said. Some of the things he mentioned may happen, or they may not. Usually they do not happen, because the ratio of truth – if the fortune teller receives information from the jinn – is no more than 1%.

For more information please see the answer to question no. 32863.

And Allaah knows best.