

Thus it becomes clear that this group among the People of the Book were not adhering to anything, because they did not believe in this Messenger (ﷺ). Hence their disbelief in him was tantamount to disbelief in their own scriptures, but they did not realise that.

It is a regular part of Allah's decree, which is based on divine wisdom, that if a person forsakes that which might have benefitted him, and he was able to benefit from it but did not, then he will be caused to deal with that which is harmful to him. The one who fails to worship Allah will end up worshipping idols; the one who fails to love, fear and put his hope in Allah will end up loving, fearing and putting his hope in something other than Allah; the one who fails to spend his wealth in obedience to Allah will spend it in obedience to the Shayṭān; the one who fails to show humility towards his Lord will end up being humiliated by other people; the one who fails to follow the truth will end up following falsehood.

Thus these Jews followed what the devils used to read (of the books of magic) during the reign of Sulaymān. These devils brought magic to people and claimed that Sulaymān used to use it and achieved great power by means of it, but they were lying. Sulaymān did not use magic; rather Allah declared him to be innocent of that, as He said: ﴿It was not Sulaymān who disbelieved﴾ by learning magic, for he did not learn it.

﴿rather the devils disbelieved﴾ by doing that, ﴿and taught men magic﴾ so as to misguide them, and out of their eagerness to tempt the sons of Adam.

Similarly, the Jews practised that magic that had come down to the two angels who lived at Babylon, in the land of Iraq. Magic was sent down to them as a test and a trial from Allah to His slaves. So (these two angels) taught them magic, ﴿But these two never taught anyone without [first]﴾ advising him and ﴿saying: We are but a trial; so do not disbelieve﴾ that is, do not learn magic, for it is disbelief. So they would tell him not to learn magic, and they would inform