

Kamal el-Mekki

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**On Illusionary Magic
At Green Lane Masjid**

[Complete Transcript]

“There’s nothing haraam about that”

***“So, if you watch Dynamo, Criss Angel...
I can show you every one of their tricks, how they
do it, and every one of them has an explanation...”***

Transcribed by:
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Kamal el-Mekki on Illusionary Magic

(Transcribed from the YouTube Video conducted and produced by Green Lane Masjid (UK), which has since been removed.)

Green Lane Masjid Representative: OK... talking about jokes... uh, there's this black magic joke that you mentioned?

Kamal el-Mekki: Yea, I mean, I was warned that in Birmingham if I mentioned that I like magic, that there would be a riot and stuff. And I'll be blacklisted and all kind of things now. And it's very irritating because you try to explain to people when we say ma-, the word magic, in contemporary English, it doesn't mean sorcery, ya'nee, it doesn't mean sorcery and it doesn't mean jinn. When you say the word magic now, we use that to mean, to refer to sleight of hand, things like that, you pick a card, any card, something like that, and there's nothing haraam about that. You can argue that it's a waste of time, that's no problem, like TV, like... that's fine. But it's not haraam, ya'nee, it's just... sleight of hand, it's illusion, yeah?

So, if you watch Dynamo, Criss Angel, or... Oh! Muslims talk about, "I don't watch them cause they use jinn." And they don't use jinn. I can show you every one of their tricks, how they do it, and every one of them has an explanation, yeah?

So, but, and one talent show I was going to do some sleight of hand tricks, but someone already came up and objected, (deep mocking voice), "Oh, magic on stage!" So, khalaas.

So, we tell people that what's haraam is sorcery, yeah? So, if you go to a magician's show, they're just doing illusions on stage, there's nothing haraam about that.

Now, so what you're not allowed to go to – to a black magician, yeah? That's what's haraam. Now I don't mean a "black" magician (gesturing to his skin color), ya'nee, I mean... (laughs) a magician who uses jinn and stuff.

Green Lane Masjid Representative: Can we get an example, of something that's sleight of hand?

Kamal el-Mekki: Yea, absolutely, I brought something with me (reaches into pocket), watch this. This is a grape, yeah? (displays a grape). I'm going to make it disappear.

Green Lane Masjid Representative: Watch carefully, cameras...

Kamal el-Mekki: (Chews and swallows grape) It's gone! (Interviewer laughs out loud, crowd also) What do you think? Don't ask me to bring it back though! You'll have to wait. (everyone laughs)

Green Lane Masjid Representative: While we all sit here waiting, do we want so say the watermelon joke?

Kamal el-Mekki: No, no we don't.

Green Lane Masjid Representative: (laughing) Leave that for another day.

Kamal el-Mekki: Birmingham, Birmingham! You have to know where you are.

Green Lane Masjid Representative: (laughs) C'mon guys, we've got this reputation.

Kamal el-Mekki: Some things work in America, and they would not work in, uh, in the UK, you know? I learned that when I was in Leeds. Some sisters got offended and stuff. Sisters always want to get offended. I'm so glad there are no sisters at this conference, you know. (Interviewer laughs) No, I'm just kidding, I know they're somewhere else, yeah? Cause you know, uh, they just want to get offended, they want an apology and stuff. And these other speakers, they're sweet, wallaah, you know, aren't they? Look Muhammad Shareef is so sweet, Shaykh Ahsan Hanif they're sweet, Shaykh 'Abdul-Baari', yeah? I was, if a sister comes to me, she's like, "I'm offended and I want to leave." I'd be like, "The door is right there, so make a left, and leave. I can call you a cab if you don't have a ride," you know?

Source: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXN6zvwj4eA> (removed)