

Surah 17. Al-Israa

Asad: We are fully aware of what they are listening for when they listen to thee:⁵⁷ for when they are secluded among themselves, lo! these wrongdoers say [unto one another], "If you were to follow [Muhammad, you would follow] only a man bewitched!"

Malik: We are quite aware what they really wish to hear when they listen to you, and what they say when they converse in private. These wrongdoers say to one another: "The man you follow is surely bewitched"

Pickthall: We are best aware of what they wish to hear when they give ear to thee and when they take secret counsel, when the evil doers say: Ye follow but a man bewitched.

Yusuf Ali: We know best why it is they listen when they listen to thee; and when they meet in private conference Behold the wicked say "Ye follow none other than a man bewitched!"²²³²

Transliteration: Nahnu aAlamu bima yastamiAAoona bihi ith yastamiAAoona ilayka wait hum najwa ith yaqoolu alithhalimoona in tattabiAAoona illa rajulan mashooran

Khattab:

We know best how they listen to your recitation and what they say privately—when the wrongdoers say, "You would only be following a bewitched man."

Author Comments

57 - I.e., to find fault with the message of the Qur'an.

2232 - See last note. That being so, the only motive for the ungodly to listen to Allah's Truth is to scoff at it instead of to be instructed by it. They may make a show of listening, but when they meet together in private, they show themselves in their true colours. Cf. ii. 14. They cannot help seeing that there is singular charm and attractiveness in Allah's Word, and that it consoles, helps, and elevates many people who receive it in the right spirit. So they pretend that they are superior to such people and laugh at them for listening to some one who is only under the influence of something which they call magic!

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