

سَاحِرٌ vs. سَحَّارٌ

In the Quran ALLAH tells us the story of Musa عليه السلام in different places. Sometimes the wording may be a little different according to the context the story is told in.

It is mentioned in the Quran that fir'aun sent people to gather magicians from all over the land to overpower Musa's عليه السلام supposed magic with their magic. Fir'aun sent people to gather these magicians for this task and ALLAH mentions the words

سَاحِرٌ and in another surah سَحَّارٌ.

سَحَّارٌ is the hyperbolized form of the word سَاحِرٌ which is a practitioner of magic.

Now, if it is the same story then why would ALLAH used the hyperbolized form of word in one surah and then use the regular form in another surah?

This requires us to examine the context the story is told in.

We will break down a comparison between the two Surah's, Surah Ash-Shu'araa and Surah Al-A'raaf below.

Firstly, it is simply put that the context in Surah Ash-Shu'araa has many more **زِيَادَات** [extra features] in the context. For example; emphatic devices, extra words in the description of the story etc. So, it is only fitting that ALLAH would use the hyperbolized form **سَحَّارٌ** instead of the normal form **سَاحِرٌ**.

Take a look at the two ayaat below to see the difference:

يَأْتُوكَ بِكُلِّ سَحَّارٍ عَلِيمٍ ﴿٣٧﴾

Sahih International

Who will bring you every learned, skilled magician."

[Surah Ash-Shu'araa Ayah 37]

يَأْتُوكَ بِكُلِّ سَاحِرٍ عَلِيمٍ ﴿١١٢﴾

Sahih International

Who will bring you every learned magician."

[Surah Al-A'raaf Ayah 112]

We can clearly see the difference in the patterns

between the two words **سَاحِرٌ** and **سَحَّارٌ**. Now, let's

look at the comparison between the two passages in each surah.

Comparison between Surah Ash-Shu'araa & Surah Al-A'raaf

سُورَةُ الشُّعَرَاءِ	سُورَةُ الْأَعْرَافِ
<p>قَالَ لِلْمَلَإِ حَوْلَهُ <u>(قول فرعون)</u></p> <p><i>Sahih International</i> [Pharaoh] said to the eminent ones around him</p>	<p>قال الملأ من قوم فرعون (قول الملأ)</p> <p><i>Sahih International</i> The eminent said among the people of Pharaoh, "Indeed, this is a learned magician</p>
<p>يريد أن يخرجكم من أرضكم</p> <p><u>بسحره</u></p> <p><i>Sahih International</i> He wants to drive you out of your land by his magic</p>	<p>يريد أن يخرجكم من أرضكم</p> <p><i>Sahih International</i> Who wants to expel you from your land [through magic]</p>
<p>و<u>ابعث</u> في المدائن حاشرين</p> <p><i>Sahih International</i> and send among the cities gatherers</p>	<p>وأرسل في المدائن حاشرين</p> <p><i>Sahih International</i> and send among the cities gatherers</p>
<p>يأتوك بكل <u>سَحَّارٍ</u> عليم</p> <p><i>Sahih International</i> Who will bring you every learned, skilled magician.</p>	<p>يأتوك بكل ساحر عليم</p> <p><i>Sahih International</i> Who will bring you every learned magician.</p>

<p>قالوا <u>لفرعون</u></p> <p><i>Sahih International</i> they said to Pharaoh</p>	<p>قالوا</p> <p><i>Sahih International</i> They said [The Magicians]</p>
<p>وإنكم <u>إذاً</u> لمن المقربين</p> <p><i>Sahih International</i> “and indeed, you will then be of those near [to me].”</p>	<p>وإنكم لمن المقربين</p> <p><i>Sahih International</i> and, [moreover], you will be among those made near [to me].</p>
<p><u>فألقي</u> السحرة ساجدين</p> <p><i>Sahih International</i> So the magicians fell down in prostration [to Allah].</p>	<p>وألقي السحرة ساجدين</p> <p><i>Sahih International</i> And the magicians fell down in prostration [to Allah].</p>
<p>فلسوف تعلمون</p> <p><i>Sahih International</i> but you are going to know.</p>	<p>فسوف تعلمون</p> <p><i>Sahih International</i> But you are going to know.</p>
<p>ولأصلب^نكم</p> <p><i>Sahih International</i> and I will surely crucify you all</p>	<p>ثم لأصلب^نكم</p> <p><i>Sahih International</i> then I will surely crucify you all.</p>
<p>لا <u>ضير</u> إنا إلى ربنا <u>لمنقلبون</u></p> <p><i>Sahih International</i> They said, "No harm. Indeed, to our Lord we will return.</p>	<p>إنا إلى ربنا منقلبون</p> <p><i>Sahih International</i> Indeed, to our Lord we will return.</p>

Doing a comparison between the two passages we can clearly see that the context the story is told in, in Surah Ash-Shu'araa is more intensified than the context in Surah Al-A'raaf.

There are more emphatic particles {لَ، إِنَّ} , more details, hyperbolized nouns {سَحَّار} in Surah Ash-Shu'araa. So, it is only fitting that looking at these two ayaat that ALLAH would chose a hyperbolized noun in one context and not choose it in the other context.

Take From

لَمَسَاتُ بَيَانِيَّةٌ لِلدُّكْتُورِ فَاضِلِ السَّامِرَائِيِّ

Abu Ezra

أَبُو عَزَيْرٍ