

StuyMSA 2010-2011
Meeting No.4, 11/04/11

Jinn and the Supernatural

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Tags: Shaitan, Iblis, angels, fortune-telling, dreams, possession, Halloween

Sources:

<http://www.islamreligion.com/articles/669/>

<http://www.islamreligion.com/articles/41/>

<http://www.islamreligion.com/articles/2782/>

Start

'Auzubillahi min ashaitan irajeem, Bismillah irrahman irraheem.

Alhamdulillah rabil 'alameen. Wasalaatu was salaamu 'ala ashrafil anbiya i wal mursaleen, wa la 'alihi wa sahbihi ajmaeen. Amma' baad.

Announcements

- Eid party soon inshAllah (maybe next week). Bring some kind of food!
- MIST meeting November 15
- Health Fair on Friday November 18
- Ask about MSA tutoring

Icebreaker

True or False Exercise

1. Another name for Shaitan is Iblis.
2. Shaitan guards Hell.
3. Shaitan is red, with horns, a tail, and hooves.
4. Jinn are magical creatures that grant your wishes.
5. Jinn are evil creatures that trick people and possess them.
6. Angels are made of light.
7. Angels have wings and halos and dress in white robes.
8. There are male and female angels.
9. Shaitan is a fallen angel. (Lucifer)
10. When good people die, they become angels.
11. When people die and they have unfinished business, they become ghosts.

Jinn

Like every other way, Islam also claims to explain a realm of the unseen. It is from this realm that Islam explains to us about the world of the Jinn. The Islamic explanation of the Jinn provides us with so many answers to modern day mysteries. Without the knowledge of this world, the Muslims would become like the non-Muslims and be running around looking for any old answer to come their way. So, who or what are the Jinn?

Al Jinn, Surah 72

72:1) Say, (O Prophet), it was revealed to me that a band of jinn attentively listened¹ to (the recitation of the Qur'an) and then (went back to their people) and said:

(72:2) "We have indeed heard a wonderful Qur'an which guides to the Right Way; so we have come to believe in it, and we will not associate aught with Our Lord in His Divinity"

Surah Al Jinn shows that Muhammad (pbuh) is a messenger to the Jinn as well as mankind.

Existence of Jinn

The Jinn were created before man. The Jinn are beings created with **free will**, living on earth in a world

parallel to mankind. The Arabic word Jinn is from the verb 'Janna' which means to hide or conceal. They are physically invisible from man as their description suggests. This invisibility is one of the reasons why some people have denied their existence. The origins of the Jinn can be traced from the Quran and the Sunnah. Allah says:

"Indeed We created man from dried clay of black smooth mud. And We created the Jinn before that from the smokeless flame of fire" (5:26-27)

Question: Mentally unstable person (couple of my relatives) though to be possessed by Jinn . . . how do we really know? Disease and not jinn?

Characteristics of Jinn

Because they were created from fire, their nature has generally been fiery and thus their relationship with man has been built upon this. **Like humans, they too are required to worship God and follow Islam.**

Their purpose in life is exactly the same as ours, as Allah says:

"I did not create the Jinn and mankind except to worship Me." (51:56)

Jinns can thus be Muslims or non-Muslims. However, due to their fiery nature the majority of them are non-Muslims. All these non-Muslim Jinns form a part of the army of the most famous Jinn, **Satan**. Consequently, these disbelieving Jinns are also called devils. Jinns also become Muslims, as they did in the time of the Prophet when a group of them were amazed by the recitation of the Quran. Allah orders the Prophet to tell the people of this event:

"Say (O' Muhammed): It has been revealed to me that a group of Jinn listened and said; 'Indeed we have heard a marvelous Quran. It guides unto righteousness so we have believed in it, and we will never make partners with our lord'." (72:1-2)

In many aspects of their world, the Jinn are very similar to us. They eat and drink, they marry, have children and they die. **The life span however, is far greater than ours.** Like us, **they will also be subject to a Final Reckoning by Allah.** They will be present with mankind on the Day of Judgment and will either go to Paradise or Hell.

Abilities

That which clearly distinguishes the Jinn from mankind, are their powers and abilities. God has given them these powers as a test for them. If they oppress others with them, then they will be held accountable.

- One of the powers of the Jinn, is that **they are able to take on any physical form they like.** Thus, they can appear as humans, animals trees and anything else. Thousands of people have sighted strange looking creatures all over the world - and it seems more plausible all the sightings of such creatures may have been Jinns parading in different forms.

Question: If they are invisible to us, then how do you see them in their different forms?

- The **ability to possess and take over the minds and bodies of other creatures** is also a power which the Jinn have utilized greatly over the centuries. This however, is something which has been prohibited to them as it is a great oppression to possess another being. Human possession is something which has always brought about great attention. But the true knowledge of this subject is rare. Over the last 3 decades the subject of possession has become very commercialized - Rather than educate people about Jinn possession, films such as **The Exorcist** just tended to scare the living daylight out of us! We know as Muslims, that Jinns possess people for many reasons. Sometimes it is because the Jinn or its family has been hurt accidentally. It could be because the Jinn has fallen in love with the person.

However, **most of the time possession occurs because the Jinn is simply malicious and wicked.** For this reason we have been commanded to recite the Quran frequently in our houses as the Prophet (pbuh) said:

"Indeed, Satan flees from the house in which Surah Al-Baqarah is recited." (Al-Tirmidhi)

How contrary this is to many modern-day exorcists. Many exorcists often invoke the names of others besides Allah to exorcise the Jinn. When the Jinn does leave, these people believe that their way was successful. However, this is a ploy of the Jinn, as it knows that if it obeys the exorcist, then it has succeeded in making him worship others besides Allah. The Jinn often returns when the exorcist leaves, as it knows that nothing except the words of Allah can stop it from oppressing others.

It is not only humans which are possessed, but also animals, trees and other objects. By doing this, the evil **Jinn hope to make people worship others besides Allah.** The possession of idols is one way to do this.

The Dwelling Places of Jinn

The jinn live on this earth where we do. They are mostly to be found in ruins and unclean places like bathrooms/toilets, dunghills, garbage dumps and graveyards. Hence the Prophet (pbuh) taught us to take precautions when entering such places, by reciting the du'as prescribed by Islam. One of these was reported by Anas ibn Maalik radhiallaahu`anhu, who said: "When the Messenger of Allaah sall Allaahu`alayhi wa sallam entered the toilet, he would say, 'Allaahumma innee a'oodhu bika min al-khubuthi wa'l-khabaa'ith (O Allaah, I seek refuge with You from the evil ones, male and female).'" (Reported by al-Bukhaari, 142; and Muslim, 375).

Fortune Telling

One of the most frequent activities associated with the Jinn, is fortune telling. Before the advent of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), fortune-tellers and soothsayers were wide spread. These people would use their associates from the Jinn to find out about the future. The Jinns would go to the lowest heaven and listen to the Angels conversing amongst themselves about events of the Future which they heard from Allah. The Jinns would then inform the fortune-tellers. This is why before the time of the Prophet (pbuh) many fortune-tellers were very accurate in their predictions. However, upon the Prophet's (pbuh) arrival the heavens were guarded intensely by the Angels, and any Jinn who tried to listen was attacked by meteors (shooting stars):

"And We have guarded it (the heavens) from every accursed devil, except one who is able to snatch a hearing and he is pursued by a brightly burning flame." (15:17-18)

The Prophet (pbuh) also said:

"They (the Jinn) would pass the information back down until it reaches the lips of a magician or fortune-teller. Sometimes a meteor would overtake them before they could pass it on. If they passed it on before being struck, they would add to it a hundred lies" (Saheeh Al-Bukhari).

Thus, it is clear from this as to how fortune-tellers get predictions of the future sometimes right. It is also evident as to why they get so many wrong.

Fortune-tellers also operate through the Qareen. **The Qareen is the Jinn companion which is assigned to every human being.** It is this Jinn which whispers to our base desires and constantly tries to divert us from righteousness. The Prophet (pbuh) said:

"Every one of you has been assigned a companion from the Jinn. The companions asked: Even you O' Messenger of God? And the Prophet replied: Even me, except that God has helped me against him and he has become a Muslim. Now he only tells me to do good" (Saheeh Muslim)

Because the Qareen is with a person all his life, it knows all that has happened to the person from the cradle to the grave. By making contact with the Qareen, the fortune-teller is thus able to make out that it is he who knows about the person. He looks in his crystal ball or the palm of a person and proceeds to amaze him with knowledge which no one else knows.

The severity of going to a fortune-teller is such that the Prophet said:

“The prayer of one who approaches a fortune-teller and asks him about anything, will not be accepted for forty days or nights” (Saheeh Muslim)

Good Jinn?

Every human has a partner jinn, but only that of the Prophet (pbuh) commands/commanded to do good. The Prophet (pbuh) said:

*“There is none amongst you with whom is not an attache from amongst the jinn (devil). They (the Companions) said: Allah’s Apostle (pbuh) with you too? Thereupon he said: Yes, but Allah helps me against him and so I am safe from his hand and **he does not command me but for good.**”* (Saheeh Muslim)

Protection from Jinn

Say *“audhu billah”* (I seek refuge in Allah) and other *dhikr* (remembrance of Allah) when the evil whisperer of Shaitaan comes upon you, such as

- when becoming angry,
- having confusing or disobedient thoughts
- when approached by arrogants who dispute the Truth of the ayats of Allah
- when about to recite Qur’an,
- or when in any situation that Quran and Sunnah teaches you is a result of the shaitaan.

Recitation of Surah Baqrah (Ayatul Kursi, and the last few ayats) to avoid jinn in the house

End quote on Jinn: *“Indeed he (Satan) and his tribe watch you from a position where you cannot see them.”* (7:27)

Remember that no one can help or harm you but Allah.

[Story time!]

Include in story time: Solomon (A) only Prophet who was able to communicate with the Jinn. He had an impressive army of jinn and animals. The jinn used to construct infrastructure for Sulaiman as a way of paying for their crimes. There’s a story of how when the Queen of Sheba came was coming to visit Solom, a strong Jinn, an Ifreet, brought her throne in the blink of an eye, and this was a distance from Yemen to Palestine. At the time of the Prophet’s (S) death, he was sitting quietly overseeing the Jinn work. No one noticed his death until insects ate away his wooden staff and he toppled over. This shows that Jinn don’t have the ability to foresee the future or see the unseen; if they did, they would have known that Soloman had died. The only way Jinn can appear to know the future is because they travel very fast. And “fortune tellers” gain information about people indirectly--their Qareen speak to the customer’s Qareen and relate the information back to them.

Angels

Relationship with God and Man

They are not divine or semi-divine, and they are not Allah’s associates running different districts of the universe. They are not objects to be worshipped or prayed to, as they do not deliver our prayers to Allah.

They all submit to Allah and carry out His commands. The best man, one who believes in Allah and acts accordingly, is raised in a status higher than that of angels.

Characteristics

Allah created angels from light. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said, *“The angels are created from light,”* (Saheeh Muslim) We have no knowledge of when the angels were created, however, we do know that it was before the creation of humankind. Quran explains that Allah told the angels of His intention to create a vicegerent on earth. (2:30)

Muslims know that **angels are beautiful creations**. In Quran 53:6 Allah describes the angels as *dhoo mirrah*, this is an Arabic term that renowned Islamic scholars define as, tall and beautiful in appearance. Quran (12:31) also describes Prophet Joseph as beautiful, like a noble angel.

Angels have wings, and can be very large. There is nothing in either the Quran, or the traditions of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) that indicate that angels are winged babies or have any form of gender (The use of the term *he* is for grammatical ease and in no way indicates that the angels are male.) We do know however, that angels are winged and some are extremely large. From the traditions of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) we know that the angel Jibrail’s great size filled *“the space between heaven and earth”* (Saheeh Muslim)

They are not divided into ‘good’ and ‘evil’ angels. Human beings do not become angels after death. Satan is not a “fallen” angel, but is one of the *jinn*, as mentioned before. Angels were created from light before human beings were created; we don’t know how they look except for the descriptions given to us - they are generally beautiful beings with wings.

They do not eat or drink. The angels do not get bored or tired of worshipping Allah:
“They celebrate His praises night and day, nor do they ever slacken.” (21:20)

Hierarchy

Angels form different cosmic hierarchies and orders in the sense that **they are of different size, status, and merit**. Those angels who were present at the first battle, the Battle of **Badr**, are known to be the “best” of the angels.

“Angel Jibrail came to the Prophet (pbuh) and asked, ‘How do you rate the people among you who were present at Badr?’ Muhammad, may Allah praise him, answered, ‘They are the best of the Muslims,’ or something similar. Jibrail then said: ‘So it is with the angels who were present at Badr.’” (Saheeh Al-Bukhari)

[The Battle of Badr was the first battle between the believers and the disbelievers.]

Also, the attendants of Allah’s Throne are among the greatest angels. Four angels carry the throne of Allah, and on the Day of Judgement their number will be increased to eight. They love the believers and beseech Allah to forgive them their sins. They carry the Throne of God, about whom the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said:

“I have been given permission to speak about one of the angels of God who carry the Throne. The distance between his ear-lobes and his shoulders is equivalent to a seven-hundred-year journey.” (Abu Daud)

Some Common Specific Angels

The name most familiar to Muslims and non-Muslims alike is **Jibrail** (Gabriel), who is referred to in both Jewish and Christian traditions as an archangel and messenger of God, and he holds great status in all

three monotheistic religions. Jibrail brought down the words of Allah– the Quran – to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). **Mikail** (Michael) is the angel responsible for rain, which nourishes the earth and thus our physical bodies, and **Israfil** is the angel who will blow the trumpet on the Day of Judgement and signal the beginning of eternal life after death.

We also know the names of several other angels. **Malik**, is the angel known as the gatekeeper of Hell.

Munkar and **Nakeer** are the angels responsible for questioning people in their graves.

In Quran we find the story of two angels named **Haroot** and **Maroot**, who were sent to Babylon to teach the people magic. The use of magic is forbidden in Islam but these angels were sent as a test for the people. Before revealing or teaching magic Haroot and Maroot clearly warned the inhabitants of Babylon that they were sent as a trial, and that the buyers of magic would have no share in the hereafter, i.e. they would go to hell. (2:102)

The Angel of Death, usually referred to as **Azrail**, is responsible for taking our souls. It is believed that those who have been faithful in this world will experience no pain, while others will suffer greatly.

There are angels responsible for guarding our lives, aka “guardian angels.” Each person is assigned two recording angels to their shoulders, **Kiramaan Katibeen**, who are responsible for recording everything that you say or do in this world. Not a single word is left unrecorded. Everything that is recorded, you will be held accountable for. However, as always, God’s mercy is evident. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said: *“Whoever intended to do a good deed, but did not do it, it is written for him as a complete good deed. If he actually performed the good deed then it is written as ten good deeds, or up to seven hundred times or more. If a person intended to do an evil deed, but did not do it, it is written as a good deed, while if he entertained the thought and acted on it, it is written as a single evil deed.”*

The Number of Angels

There are many angels, but only Allah knows the exact number. During his ascension to heaven, the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) visited a House of Worship known as ‘the much-frequented house’, or, in Arabic *al Bayt al-Mamoor*, aka the Kaaba.

Then I was taken up to ‘the Much-Frequented House’: every day seventy thousand angels visit it and leave, never returning to it again, another (group) coming after them.” (Saheeh Al-Bukhari)

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) has also informed us that on the Day of Judgement, hell will be brought forth and shown to the people. He said:

“Hell will be brought forth that day by means of seventy thousand ropes, each of which will be pulled by seventy thousand angels.” (Saheeh Al-Muslim)

19 Angels guarding Hell

Section on Halloween

Questions

- 1. What do you guys think about dressing up for Halloween?**
- 2. How many of you guys have gone trick or treating?**
- 3. What was your favorite Halloween costume when you were young?**

The Origin of Halloween

The ancient Celtic festival called Samhain is considered by most historians the predecessor of what is now Hallow’een. Samhain was the New Year’s day of the pagan Celts. It was also the Day of the Dead,

a time when it was believed that the souls of those who had died during the year were allowed access into the "land of the dead". Many traditional beliefs and customs associated with Samhain continue to be practiced today on October 31st. Most notable of these customs are the practice of leaving offerings of food and drink (now candy) to masked and costumed revelers, and the lighting of bonfires. Elements of this festival were incorporated into the Christian festival of All Hallows' Eve, or Hallow-Even, the night preceding All Saint's (Hallows') Day.

The Islamic Perspective

The reason many Muslims believe that we should refrain from Halloween is because we are advised not to follow the ways of the Kuffar, the disbelievers. It is forbidden in Islam to follow idol-worshippers, or those who worship devils. We obviously don't dress up on Halloween to worship the devil, but Muhammed (pbuh) sought to cleanse Muslims of superstitions and false practices [i.e. fortune telling], and has said that whoever imitates a nation/group of people, he is one of them. If Muslims choose to take part in such practices, it can be argued that they have weak iman, or faith, and have rejected the Prophet (pbuh)'s mission.

Vampires like Edward Cullen and everything else doesn't exist; sorry guys, no such thing as the tooth fairy.

Fear Bag: choose one spend appr. 5 minutes

End

*Subhanakallahumma wa bihamdik. Ash hadu Allah ilaha illa annt. Astaghfiruka wa atubu ilaik
Rabbana atina fid dunya hasanatan- wa fil akhirati hasantan- wa qina 'adhabannar.Rabbana zalamna
anfusuna wa illan taghfirlana wa tarhamna lana kunanna minal khasireen.Rabbana la tuzigh kulubana wa
idh hadaytana wa habblana milla dunka rahmatan innaka antal wahhab. Ameen*