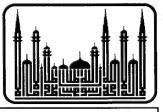


بِسْمِ اللهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ Perspectives



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Editorial

The news in the first ten days of September were dominated by the death and funeral of princess Diana, and to a lesser extent, by the death of Mother Teresa. Detailed reports were presented on the lives and accomplishments of the deceased. The extensive coverage of death and funerals should serve as a reminder to us of the reality of death. Specifically, the following facts are based on the Qur'an and the authentic sayings of the Prophet (PBUH):

- Death is a creation of Allah, and is not merely a negative state. It is a state in which life as we know it ceases, but existence does not cease.
- At the moment of death we see things, and appreciate facts we could neither see nor appreciate before.

لَّقَدْ كُنتَ فِي غَفْلَةٍ مِّنْ هَذَا فَكَشَفْنَا عَنكَ غِطآءَكَ فَبَصَرُكَ الْيَوْمَ حَدِيدٌ . عَنكَ غِطآءَكَ فَبَصَرُكَ الْيَوْمَ حَدِيدٌ . (سورة ق - آية ٢٢)

"(It will be said): You were heedless of this; now We have removed your veil, and sharp is your sight this day!"

(Qur'an 50:22)

- The dying person sees a replay of his/her entire life. Allah (SWT) and His angels will be closer to him/her than the family members that might be surrounding him/her.
- Death represents the end of all the free will that we possess in this life.
 The Prophet (PBUH) informed us

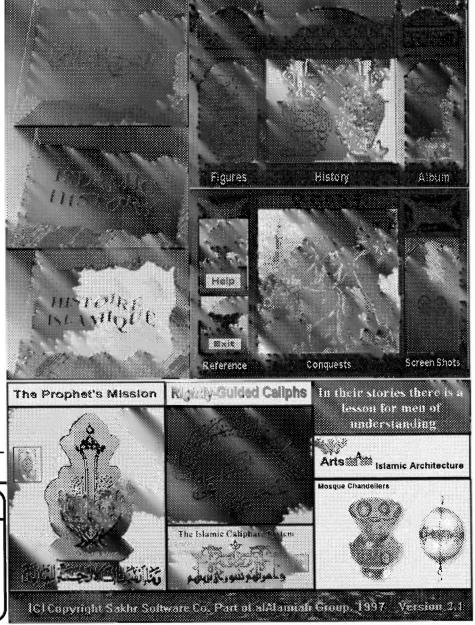
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New Multimedia Software on Islamic History

A new version of the Arabic Program Islamic History has been released by Sakhr Computer Company in Egypt. The new program is trilingual (Arabic, English, and French). It provides brief information about famous Muslim personalities, including the Prophet (PBUH) and the rightly guided Caliphs; the history of Islamic states; the major battles of Islam; and the famous cities in Muslim Countries. It has an album of maps, famous mosques, coins, and Islamic arts. The Program is on a CD-ROM, works on windows 3.1 and 95, and can be obtained from Digitek International Inc., 7631 Leesburg Pike, Suite B, Falls Church, VA 22043, Tel. (800) 33-SAKHR.



Reflections

Dr. Ahmed K. Noor

The World of Jinns



There is a great deal of confusion and misunderstanding about the jinn, even among the Muslims. In folklore stories and romances, like the Arabian nights, they become personified into fantastic forms. The other extreme is to think that jinns are figment of the ancient superstitions and myths, based on the wrong assumption that nothing exists in the universe except what we can see. Between the two extremes there are several other views advanced about the jinns, including savage and wild mountain and forest tribes and humans' own animal forces. In this article some facts are presented about the jinn, based on the Qur'an and the authentic traditions of the Prophet (PBUH).

The Nature of Jinn

To begin with, the Arabic word Jinn is mentioned in the Our'an 27 times. It is derived from the two Arabic words (verbs) یجنوا، جنی which mean to be covered or hidden. In the active voice the two verbs mean to cover, or to hide. This is why some Muslims believe that the jinns are hidden capacities or qualities in the humans. Others believe that they are spirits, or invisible and hidden forces. The entire Surah Al-Rahman (Qur'an: 55) and other verses of the Qur'an, make it abundantly clear that the humans and the jinns are two separate creations of Allah. Humans are created from sounding clay, like unto pottery; and the jinns are created from a clear flame of fire (see the top figure on page 3). The creation of jinns preceded that of humans as clearly stated in the following two verses:

وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنسَانَ مَن صَلْصَال مِّنْ حَمَاءٍ مَّسنُونِ ، وَالْجَآنَ خَلَقْنَاهُ مِن قَبْلُ مِن نَّارِ السَّمُومِ . (سورة الحجر - آية ٢٧،٢٦) بِسمِ اللهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ وَخَـلَـقَ الْـجَـآنَّ مِن مَّارِجٍ مِّن نَّارٍ. (سورة الرحمن - آية 10)

"And He created Jinns from fire free of smoke."

(Qur'an 55:15)

"We created the humans from sounding clay, from mud molded into shape; and the jinn race, We had created before, from the fire of a scorching wind." 15:26,27)

Perspectives

Jinns are part of the unseen worlds created by Allah (SWT). They are a concealed creation endowed with hidden capacities which human beings do not posses. Some of these capacities may be attributed to the more transparent nature of fire, as compared with clay. Because of the mysterious capacities of jinns, some people have formed exaggerated notions and concepts about them and their powers,



"And I (Allah) created not the jinns and the humans except they should worship Me (alone)" (Qur'an 51:56)

and have even worshipped them.

"Yet they make the jinns equals with Allah, though Allah did create the iinns." (Qur'an 6:100)

Righteous and Rebellious Jinn

Jinns, like humans, have a finite life and were given by Allah (SWT) the faculty of choice. They can choose between obedience and disobedience to Allah (SWT), faith and disbelief. So among the jinns are believers and unbelievers; righteous and rebellious.

وَأَنَّا مِنَّا الصَّالِحُونَ وَمِنَّا دُونَ ذَلِكَ كُنَّا طَرَآئِقَ قِدَدًا . (سورة الجن - آية ١١)

"There are among us (jinns) some that are righteous, and some the contrary: We follow divergent paths."

(Our'an 72:11)

The rebellious jinns include Iblis (Satan) and his associates. Iblis refused to bow to Adam, when he was commanded by Allah to do so. He was an arrogant racist. He thought that the jinns were better creation (race) than the humans.

قَالَ أَنَا خَيْرٌ مِّنْهُ خَلَقْتَنِى مِن نَّـارٍ وَخَلَقْتَهُ مِن طِينٍ . (سورة الأعراف - من آية ١٢)

He (Iblis) said: "I am better than he (Adam): You created me from fire, and him from clay." (Qur'an 7:12)

قَالَ ءَأُسْجُدُ لِهَ : خَلَقْتَ طِينًا . (سورة الإسراء - من آية ٦١)

He (Iblis) said "shall I prostrate to one whom You created from clay?"

(Our'an 17:61)

The story of Adam and Iblis is mentioned in seven different places in the Qur'an, and at every place it confirms that Iblis was already there at the creation of Adam. Even though Iblis was with the angels, he belongs to the jinn race.

وَإِذْ قُلْنَا لِلْمُلَآئِكَةِ اسْجُدُوا لِأَدْمَ فَسَجَدُوا إِلاَّ إِبْلِيسَ كَانَ مِنَ الْجِنَّ فَفَسَقَ عَنْ أَمْرِ رَبِّهِ .

(سورة الكهف - من آية ٥٠)

"Behold! We said to the angels. "Prostrate to Adam": they prostrated

Nature and Characteristics of Jinn

صفات الجنن

- Concealed creation of Allah entirely different species from humans.
- Created before the creation of human beings.
- Created from flame of fire, free of smoke
- They see human beings, but humans cannot see them in their normal form.
- Can be seen if they appear in another form (h u m a n, snake, black dog, or other animals).

Their way of life is similar to that of humans.

- · They have a finite life
- They received messengers from Allah, and they can choose between obedience and disobedience, faith and disbelief.
- There are righteous and rebellious *Jinn* (*Iblis-Shaitan* and his associates).
- They eat and drink.
- They have conjugal relations and procreate.

Possesesed by humans, including

- Ascending to the heavens (but cannot exceed a certain limit).
- Brute strength and speed.
- Witchcraft (or secret arts).

Three Types of Jinn ثلاثة أصناف من الجن

Have Wings and Fly through the Air.

لهم أجنحة يطيرون بها في الهواء Snakes and Dogs. حیات و کلاب

Travel about and Around their Place.

يحلون و يظعنون

الجن ثلاثة أصناف ، فصنف لهم أجنحة يطيرون بها في الهواء ، وصنف حيات وكلاب ، وصنف يحلون ويظعنون

(حديث شريف)

There are three types of jinn: one's who have wings and fly through the air; others in form of snakes and dogs; and the third type are bases in one place and travel about and around their own place. (Prophetic Wisdom)

except Iblis. He was one of the jinns and he broke the command of his Lord." (Qur'an 18:50)

The Prophet (PBUH) informed us about three types of *Jinn* (see the bottom figure on page 3)

Special Capacities and Powers Possessed by *Jinn*

Some special capacities and powers that the *jinns* possess which human beings do not, include

- a) ascending to the heavens, but they cannot exceed a certain limit;
- b) brute strength and speed;
- c) witchcraft (or secret arts).

Any Satan that tries to ascend beyond a certain limit to hear what goes on in the heavens will not be allowed to do so, and if he tries to eavesdrop, he will be driven away by meteorites.

وَلَقَدْ جَعَلْنَا فِي السَّمَآءِ بُرُوجًا وَزَيَّنَاهَا لِلنَّاظِرِينَ ، وَحَفِظْنَاهَا مِن كُلِّ شَيْطَانٍ للنَّاظِرِينَ ، وَحَفِظْنَاهَا مِن كُلِّ شَيْطَانٍ رَجِيمٍ . إلاَّ مَنِ اسْتَرَقَ السَّغَ فَأَتْبَعَهُ شَهَاكِ مُّبِينٌ .

"It is We who have set out the constellations in the heavens, and made them fair - seeming to (all) beholders; and (moreover) We have guarded them from every accursed Satan But any that gains a hearing by stealth, is pursued by a fiery comet, bright (to see)." (Qur'an 15:16-18)

The brute force and speed of *jinns* is referred to in the Qur'an in the story of a large powerful crafty *jinn-Ifrit* (عفریت) which Allah has given Suleiman (Solomon) the wisdom to tame. The *Ifrit* offered to bring the throne of the queen of Sab'a - Bilqis to Suleiman before he rises from his council.

Said an Ifrit of the jinns: "I will bring it (the throne of Bilqis) to you before you rise from your council."

(Qur'an 27:39)

Iblis and his associates have certain capacities derived from their creation, including the fact that they can see human beings, while human beings cannot see them.

"For he (Satan) and his tribe see you

from a position where you cannot see them." (Qur'an 7:27)

Although Satan in his normal form cannot be seen by human beings, if he appears in another form (human or animal) he can be seen by humans. This happened to the Prophet (PBUH) when he saw Satan in the form of a human in the mosque, and was about to tie him to a column there.

The fact that Satans excel over human beings in secret arts (witchcraft) and use it for harming the humans is mentioned in the Qur'an.

"But Satan disbelieved, teaching humans magic."

(Qur'an 2:102)

"And they learned what harmed them, not what profited them."

(Qur'an 2:102)

Seeking the help of the mysterious capabilities of the evil *jinns* in, for example, witchcraft is an act of *shirk* (associating partners with Allah), and can be destructive to the humans.

"True, there were persons among the human beings who took shelter with persons among the jinns, but they increased them in folly."

(Qur'an 72:6)

Limitations of Jinn

As for all powers given by Allah (SWT) to His creations, the special capacities and powers of the *jinns* have limitations. The only limitless power is that of Allah (SWT). Among the limitations of the *jinns* are: their inability to eavesdrop in heavens; their lack of knowledge about the absolute unseen and the fate of human beings; and their inability to insure the destructive effect of witchcraft.

These limitations are mentioned in several verses in the Qur'an; for example:

"But any who listens (from the jinns) now will find a flaming fire watching him in ambush."

(Qur'an 72:9)

"And we understand not whether ill is intended to those on earth or whether their Lord (really) intends to guide them to right conduct."

(Our'an 72:10)

"When he (Suleiman) fell down, the jinns saw plainly that if they had known the unseen, they would not have tarried in the humiliating chastisement (of their task)."

(Qur'an 34:14)

Although the jinns do not know the absolute unseen, their fast movement may allow them to know some of the relative unseen (the unseen that some humans know, but others - because of limitations of space and time - may not know).

As to the result of witchcraft, Allah (SWT) kept it for Himself. So, we can always seek refuge in Him from that evil.

"But they could not thus harm anyone (with witchcraft) except by Allah's permission." (Qur'an 2:102)

Temptations of Satan and his Associates

As Muslims we have to remember that the evil *jinns* (evil spirits) led by *Iblis* (Satan) are avowed enemies to all human beings. Their major function is to tempt us, and to inspire us with flowery discourses - by way of deception - to disobey Allah. They secretly whisper evil and then withdraw, to make their net the more subtle and alluring. They use all sorts of insidious way to sap our will, which was given to us by Allah (SWT) (see the figure at the bottom of this page). The Prophet

-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-

(PBUH) informed us that Satan circulated in the human body like blood.

If we do not remember Allah (SWT) much through prayers, recitation of Qur'an and *tasbeeh*, we become easy victims of Satan.

"If anyone withdraws himself/herself from remembrance of (Allah) Most Gracious, we appoint for him/her a Satan, to be an intimate companion to him/her." (Our'an 43:36)

Having as company Satans from among the *jinns* and humans, makes the individual's follies seem fair to him/her. He/she reaches the stage of not being

able to discern the right from the wrong, and the beneficial from the harmful. The result will be suffering in the present world, and punishment in the hereafter.

Protection from Satan

A number of verses of the Qur'an and authentic sayings of the Prophet (PBUH) provide us with means to protect ourselves from the temptation of satan and his associates.

 When an evil thought comes to our mind, we should immediately seek refuge with Allah, and make supplication to Him for protection.

وَإِمَّا يَنزَغَنَّكَ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ نَزْغٌ فَاسْتَعِدُ الشَّيْطَانِ نَزْغٌ فَاسْتَعِدُ اللَّهِ إِنَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ . إِنَّ اللَّهٰ فِينَ اتَّقَوْا إِذَا مَسَّهُمْ طَآئِفٌ مِّنَ الشَّيْطَانِ تَذَكَّرُوا فَإِذَا هُم مُبْصِرُونِ .

(سورة الأعراف- آيات ٢٠٠ ، ٢٠١)

Satanic Means of Temptation وسائل الشيطان في الإغواء

Incitement to evil (making one angry).

النزغ النخس، إدخال خاطر يثير

الغضب فى النفس (Qur'an 7:200 and 41:36) Prompting of
Satan (evil
suggestion,
including a plan to
do what displeases
Allah).

محاولة الشيطان بصوت خافت لتدبير فعل معصية (Our'an 23:97)

الهمز

Evil whisper (continuing process to exploit the weaknesses of humans to make them disobey Allah). الوسوسة

المحاولة الدائمة للشيطان من الجانب الضعيف للأنسان لإخراجه من طاعة الله

(Qur'an 7:20, 20:120, and 114:4 and 5)

Evil touch - leading to mental derangement and madness.

السمسس المسوس تكون حركاته غير منتظمة وغير منطقية

(Qur'an 2:275, 7:201, and 38:41)

These means are used to urge people to commit sinful deeds.

هذه الوسائل يستخدمها الشيطان لدفع الناس إلى المعصية

"And if an evil whisper comes to you from satan then seek refuge with Allah. Verily, He is All-Hearer, All-Knower. Verily, those who are pious, when an evil thought comes to them from satan, they remember (Allah), and (indeed) they see (all right)."

(Qur'an 7:200,201)

When feeling angry with another person and is tempted by Satan to insult or quarrel with him/her, seek refuge with Allah from Satan. According to the Prophet (PBUH), this will cool you down.

وَقَل رَّبٌ أَعُودُ بِكَ مِن هَمَزَاتِ الشَّيَاطِين . وَأَعُودُ بِكَ رَبِّ أَن يَخْضُرُ ون .

(سورة المؤمنون - آيات ٩٨، ٩٧)

And say: "My Lord! I seek refuge with You from the suggestions ofe Satans. And I seek refuge with You, My Lord! lest they may attend (or come near) me." (Qur'an 23:97,98)

Reciting the last two surahs of the Qur'an (Qur'an 113 and 114). They have been designated by a common name Mu'awwathatain the two surahs in which | المعوذتين refuge with Allah has been sought).

(قل هو الله أحد) والمعوذتين حين تمسى ، وحين تصبح ، ثلاث مرات ، تكفيك من كل شيء .

(حدیث شریف)

Reciting (Say: He is Allah, the one) and Al-Mu'awwathatain three times in the morning and evening will protect you from everything. (Prophetic Wisdom)

- Repeating the supplication taught to us by the Prophet as a protection from Satan (see next column).
- Reciting the Surah entitled Al-Bagara (the cow) (Qur'an 2) in our homes.

إقرؤوا سورة البقرة في بيوتكم ، فإن الشيطان لا يدخل بيتا يقرأ فيه سورة (حدیث شریف)

Recite the surah entitled Al-Bagara in

your homes; Satan does not enter the home in which this surah is recited.

(Prophetic Wisdom)

It is also important to remember that, by sincerely worshipping Allah, Satan will have no power on us:

إِنَّ عِبَادِي لَيْسَ لَكَ عَلَيْمٍ سُلْطًانٌ (سورة الحجر - من آية ٤٢)

"For over my servants no authority shall you have." (Qur'an 15:42)

I pray to Almighty Allah to grant us guidance and make us among His righteous servants, on whom Satan has neither power nor influence. Ameen \Box

Protection from Satan

الحرز من الشيطان من قال (لا إلىه إلا الله وحده لا شريك له ، له الملك وله الحمد وهو على كل شيء قدير) في يوم مائة مرة كانت له عدل عشر رقاب و كتبت له مائة حسنة ومحيت عنه مائة سيئة وكانت له حرزا من الشيطان يومه ذلك حتى يمسى ولم يأت أحد أفضل مما جاء به إلا أحد عمل أكثر من ذلك . (حديث شريف)

Anyone who says these words: "There is no god but Allah, the One, having no partner with Him, Sovereignty belongs to Him and all the praise is due to Him, and He is Potent over everything" one hundred times every day gets a reward equivalent to emancipating ten slaves, hundred virtues are recorded to his credit, and hundred sins are blotted out from his scroll, and he/she is protected from Satan on that day till evening and no one brings anything more excellent than this, except one who has done more than this (i.e. one who says these words more than one hundred times and does more good deeds). 📮

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Continued from page 1 **Editorial**

> that when a person dies all his/her deeds are cut off, except for three (which he/she continues to get rewards for them): Continuing charity (established before his/her death); useful knowledge (transmitted to others before his/her death); or a pious child that prays for the deceased parent.

إذا مات الإنسان إنقطع عمله إلا من ثلاث ، صدقه جارية ، أو علم ينتفع به ، أو ولد صالح يدعو له .

(حدىث شرىف)

After a transition period in the grave (referred to in the Qur'an as barzakh), in which the spirit and the body are separated from one another, we will return to Allah for judgment

كُــلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَآئِقَــةُ الْمَوْتِ ثُمَّ إِلَيْنَـــا . . (سورة العنكيوت - آية ٥٧)

"Every soul shall have a taste of death: in the end to Us shall you be brought back." (Our'an 29:57)

Shouldn't we take the extensive news coverage of death as a reminder to us about standing before Allah alone on the day of judgment, and about the eternal life that will follow? shouldn't we devote the resources and talents, which Allah endowed us with, to what pleases Him and is most beneficial to us on the day of judgment? Shouldn't we follow the recommendations of the Prophet

كن في الدنيا كأنك غريب ، أو عاد

Go through this worldly life as if you were a stranger, or a wayfarer.

أكثروا ذكر هازم اللذات : الموت .

Remember frequently the conqueror of all pleasures: Death.

I pray to Almighty Allah to give us the guidance to benefit from His reminders. Ameen 📭

